**St. Mark’s Episcopal Church**

**Annual Report**

**The Rev. Paul Gaston (Jan – April)**

**The Rev. Dustin Berg (Jan – Dec)**

****

**for the year**

**2011**

**Annual Meeting Agenda for meeting January 22, 2012:**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Reading of the Minutes of previous Annual Meeting
5. Appointment of Tellers
6. Report of the Nominating Committee
7. Opening of Polls
8. Rector’s Report
9. Committee Reports
10. Closing of Polls
11. Report from the Tellers
12. Old Business
13. New Business
14. Closing Prayer
15. Adjournment

**Annual Meeting Agenda from meeting on January 16, 2011**

Prayer

Reading of minutes of preceding meeting and action thereon

Reports of organizations and officers

Election of Vestry members

Other business

**St. Mark’s Episcopal Church**

**Annual Meeting**

**January 16, 2011**

Scott Walton, Senior Warden, called the Annual Meeting to order at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary.

Attendance was as follows**:**

**Clergy:**

Rev. Paul Gaston, Rev. Dustin Berg

**Vestry Members:**

Scott Walton, Senior Warden, Dave Thorley, Junior Warden, Rhonda Warren, Clerk, Judy Hixon, Teri Hockman, Anne Coen, Ron Brookes, Emilie Korosi, Susie Hines, Pamela Clark, Pam Mc Carthy

**Parishioners**:

Adults: 53

Children: 2

**Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting:** Tom Turner moved that the minutes be approved as written. Charlie Kiesling seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Election of Vestry Members for 2011:**

**Rules:**

1. There will be 30 minutes of discussion.
2. Attendees can vote to add more time and state how many additional minutes for discussion.
3. Speakers must approach the microphone in the middle aisle and state their name.
4. Voting members of the congregation must be at least 18 years old and have participated in Holy Communion at least 3 times in the past calendar year.

Louise Moore moved to accept the rules; Charlie Kiesling seconded the motion and the motion carried. Dave Thorley, Craig Hockman and Emilie Korosi passed out the ballots to each voting member. The above-mentioned 3 parishioners are the counters. During the counting process, the following discussion ensued.

**Annual Budget for 2011:**

Scott Walton discussed the annual budget. The assessment from the Diocese will be based upon income of $174,907. The total expenses in the 2011 budget are $242,719. The short fall in income this coming year is $67,812.

Gary Mull, Treasurer, stated that we couldn’t cut much more from the budget. Our biggest expense is staff that includes the administrative assistant, clergy and the organist. The weekly bulletins are part of daily parish life. We will need to make hard decisions to cut further services. Our gas and electric bills are approximately $20,000 per year.

Dave Thorley indicated that our pledges are down this year. Our current pledges number 103. The number has been much higher in the past.

Ron Brookes presented the 4 major components of our budget. The components are included in the annual report.

**Open Discussion**:

Father Gaston thanked all the members of the 2010 vestry. He indicated that the vestry is both functional and dedicated. Father Gaston explained the new ministry model that he and Father Berg will be sharing over the next few months. He asked that we reflect on all the people who have contributed their time and energy to the church. The contributions are a testament to the church. He believes that we have the potential to grow the church membership.

Pam McCarthy asked if anyone at the meeting has an idea of where the founders’ of St. Mark’s photographs may be. Troy Willoughby stated that Howard and Georgene Summers have a plethora of photographs and that Pam should contact them.

John Willoughby wanted to remind church members that they could attend a vestry meeting at any time. Scott Walton stated that the Vestry has had, as many as 3-4 guests per meeting and that the guests are welcome to express their opinions or ask questions first, before the agenda begins. If members wish to discuss a certain topic, they are free to contact either Sherry Ackerman or him to be placed on the agenda.

Scott Walton wished to thank all outgoing vestry members for their hard work. A decommissioning will take place on January 30th during the 10:00 AM service.

The following Vestry members were appointed for the 2011 year: Tony Keenan for a one year term, Mike Mozingo and Derek Gordon for two year terms, Bruce Hixon, Charlie Kiesling, John Willoughby, Grace Giammarco and Kirk Bletzacker for three years terms. The final tally is found below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ONE YEAR TERM (1)** |  |
| Tony Keenan | 62 |
| **TWO YEAR TERM (2)** |  |
| Mike Mozingo | 41 |
| Derek Gordon | 59 |
| Laurie Keeney | 22 |
| **THREE YEAR TERM (5)** |  |
| Bruce Hixon | 62 |
| Charlie Kiesling | 62 |
| John Willoughby | 62 |
| Grace Giammarco | 62 |
| Kirk Bletzacker | 62 |

No further questions or comments were offered.

Gary Giammarco moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 AM. Geoff Gordon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting closed at 11: 50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda L. Warren

Clerk of the Vestry

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

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2011

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**BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF OHIO**

The Right Reverend Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

**ASSISTING BISHOPS:**

The Right Reverends:

David C. Bowman, Arthur B. Williams, Jr. and William D. Persell

**THE VESTRY**

Scott Walton, Sr. Warden – Rhonda Warren, Jr. Warden

Grace Giammarco, Clerk

Pamela Clark Ron Brookes

Anne Coen Susie Hines

Teri Hockman Kirk Bletzacker

Derek Gordon Bruce Hixon

Tony Keenan Charles Kiesling

Mike Mozingo John Willoughby **STAFF AND ORGANIZATIONS**

W. Robert Morrison Organist/Choirmaster

Sherry Ackerman Administrative Assistant

Grace Giammarco The Lion's Tale Editor

Sue Little Episcopal Church Women President

Donna Brookes Altar Guild President

Eloise Hochwalt Assistant Altar Guild President

Craig Hockman Head Usher

Bruce Hixon Head Lay Reader

Gary Giammarco Acolyte Advisor

Gary Mull Treasurer

Scott Walton Building and Grounds

Sandy Paradis & Jan Hudson Puppet Directors

Carol Popovich and Susie Hines Wedding Coordinators

Judy Hixon, Teri Hockman, Linda Deuble, Sharon Ryan,

Pamela Clark, Scott Walton, Livvy Mull Sunday School Committee

Derek & Emily Gordon, Kate Mozingo Youth Ministry Leaders

**2011 Parish Services – Statistics:**

*Attendance –*

Sunday liturgies 6657

Weekday liturgies 1090

Easter 288 (included in above total)

Christmas 296 (included in above total)

Private / Home Communion 57

*Numbers –*

Marriages: 3

(Matt Nadel/Jennifer Hudak; Julie Violand/Mike Thake; Kristen Paradis/Jeff Eaton)

Funerals: 5

(Marty Mull, George Cain, Michael Robertson, Terri Kocab, Wendell Wilber)

Confirmations: 4

(Morgan Wilson, Cody Popovich, Evan Jenkins, Ben Kiesling)

**REPORT FROM FATHER BERG**

*We seek to know the Lord, Jesus Christ and to make him known as central in life to others in word and deed. We seek to worship in a manner that honors our traditional Anglican heritage.*

*–St. Mark’s Mission Statement*

Greetings,

Much has happened here at St. Mark’s in 2011, thanks in large part to the notable efforts and participation of many. As you know, the beginning of my service here was in January of last year; however, I became your “official” priest-in-charge in June. From January through April, I was pleased to share pastoral leadership with The Rev. Paul Gaston.

Among our activities in 2011, much attention has been given to administrative matters. This has included re-organizing and re-energizing the ways that our vestry members interface with you, the congregation, and various parish ministries. Members of the vestry and myself drafted an updated vestry liaison structure, placing each of our ministry areas and responsibilities under the broad headings of **worship, congregational care, administration, Christian formation, communication, and outreach ministries**, each relating to our overall parish mission statement, shown above. Our hopes are that this structure of responsibility and information sharing will both enable renewed and increased participation, as well as make vestry meetings more efficient. Also among our administrative accomplishments this year, your vestry and I spent considerable time and effort to revise our church’s Code of Regulations, also known as the bylaws (now approved). Significant among the updates are that we as a parish (as national canons direct) welcome anyone 16 years or older as full, voting members with the potential to serve on vestry or as a convention delegate. Finally, but also notable was the needed upgrade of our voicemail system, that allows both confidentiality and remote access.

In terms of Christian formation, we have also made considerable progress through a variety of offerings. Included were the spring *I Will, With God’s Help* and the fall *Your Faith, Your Life* study groups; *Unbinding Your Heart* during Lent, drawing upwards of 50 participants; a forum on adopting the spiritual practices of Lent; lectionary Bible study between services; and an Advent video series. We also saw a significant shift in our Sunday School program – children now enter into worship at the Peace, in order to participate at the Eucharist. They also follow, in their lessons, the same lectionary readings that we all hear in worship. I am grateful to the Sunday School committee for their hard work and dedication each week to make this happen. Men’s prayer breakfast/study, the Wednesday morning study group, and the book club also continue to be offered. Confirmation preparation was undertaken, culminating in four of our eighth grade members’ confirmations with the visit of Bishop Persell on May 29.

Liturgically speaking, we have also seen renewal and growth. Wednesday morning services are once again being held; our acolyte and Eucharistic Ministers / readers corps have both seen new participants; and we have been deliberate about offering robust Holy Week / Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas services too. (Think foot-washing, Reconciliation on Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, the Gospel read in many languages at Pentecost, and the children’s pageant on Christmas Eve.) St. Mark’s also continues to be a supportive and caring liturgical community at the “life passage” times of funerals and weddings, assisted by another dedicated group of volunteers.

While we celebrate our ministries and accomplishments, we recognize also our need for growth, and the challenges that come along with it. With that in mind, your vestry and I have identified at least the following goals and objectives to strengthen our commitment to building up the Body of Christ here:

* Identify a “signature outreach” in 2012.
* Establish a ministry and gifts inventory for the parish.
* Increase diocesan participation and use of resources.
* Update to, and increase, electronic communication and media (email, website, text messaging, etc).
* Strengthen pastoral caregiving by establishing and communicating the processes, procedures, and needs for clergy and Eucharistic Visitors.

These represent only some of the work before us, to be sure.

Many have conveyed to me recently a desire for St. Mark’s to grow, and I share this desire! What I also make clear, though, is that with lasting growth comes some degree of adapting to new realities. St. Mark’s is not as large as it once was, for example, that is true. We also give thanks for the 21 years of service of our administrative assistant, Sherry Ackerman, and wish her our blessings as we say goodbye. These are the times in which we find ourselves, and yet we humbly pray for God’s Spirit to help us to continue our ministry, and that we grow!

Nationally, mainline churches in general, and the Episcopal Church in particular, have declined in membership and attendance in recent years – this is no surprise. This is simply another reality we must live with. I am often asked why this is. One answer I sometimes give is that we may not be in a position any more to simply invite the unchurched to us and expect them to show up. We need to go to them – be present where they are, be attuned to the realities of their needs and lives, and be authentic with the witness of the Gospel, translated into contemporary idioms when necessary. How we share God’s good news is up to each of us – and we must hold each other responsible for being bearers of that good news.

All that is to say, we face some challenges in order to grow in vitality, depth of spirit, and in numbers. To this end, continue as I know you will in your prayers and dedication to the mission and ministry of St. Mark’s. When the members of this, Christ’s Body, are attuned to the realities of where the church finds itself in the present age, we *will* grow. Rather than lament that we are not the same as we once were, think about how *you* may help to write the next chapter of St. Mark’s story. It takes all of our efforts, but God’s kingdom will bear fruit when we all, together, work at transforming our world for the sake of the Gospel.

Faithfully,

Fr. Dustin+

**Senior Warden’s Report**

Overall I believe that 2011 was a continuation of the peace that had begun to be restored when Father Paul Gaston came to be with us beginning in 2010. Father Dustin Berg began with us last January and greatly helped me by taking off the administrative responsibilities that had mounted up for me. In May the Vestry interviewed and called Father Berg as our full time Priest-in-Charge. He continues to grow and lead in a direction that I believe will continue to strengthen our parish.

Over the last year, the Vestry has continued to strengthen its role in our parish. The main focuses of the past year were the selection of a Priest-in-Charge, formation of Vestry Liaisons, formation of a Finance Committee, completion of the revised By-Laws, and the adoption of a budget for 2012 that reduces our loses. Please pray for your Vestry members as they continue to lead our parish.

It is my hope that we as a parish will continue to grow as individuals and as a parish. Our average worship attendance has stabilized, even though it is less than in years past. This is a start! We can build up from this point and welcome visitors into the family of St. Mark’s and grow. When you see an unfamiliar face in the pew, make sure to introduce yourself. Your welcome may be the thing that attracts that visitor to our parish. Please continue to pray that St. Mark’s will continue to grow and have a presence in our community.

All-in-all, it has been my pleasure to serve as your Senior and Junior Warden over the past three years.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Walton, Sr. Warden

**JUNIOR WARDEN**

The Vestry had a very good year in 2011. Our biggest accomplishment was hiring Father Berg and finally seeing the community of St. Mark's coming together in peace and fellowship. As Junior Warden, I worked on the By Laws most of the year, culminating in the final vote to approve the revised edition  on January 8th, 2012. In 2011 we began the three year study of the books by Martha Grace Reese. We finished "Unbinding the Gospel" with 57 parishioners taking part in the study.  I wish to thank all of the leaders of the various study groups who tirelessly helped the process begin.  This year, we will be participating once again, starting the sessions with either "Unbinding the Soul" or "Unbinding the Heart". The focus this year will be on inviting your friends, neighbors and other family members into the sessions.

Rhonda Warren

**Buildings & Grounds Report**

When it comes to repairs and the up keep of our facilities and grounds we have been blessed in the last year with many volunteers and few breakdowns.

The grounds continue to get more beautiful each year as many volunteers transform the many different flower beds into beautiful works of art. We would like to offer our thanks to Emilie Korosi for her efforts to coordinate the necessary work to be done with the different flower beds. This was no small task last year and we appreciate all of her efforts. The Betty Fortney Sanctuary continues to blossom due to the efforts of Kathleen Conley, Marilyn Thorp, and their volunteers. We would like to offer a special thanks to everyone who put the effort into making our grounds look beautiful and inviting.

We continue to make improvements to the building as necessary. We have formed a group of helpers to tighten bolts, repair broken pews, paint walls, clean gutters, at seal skylights. New volunteers are always welcome and can contact Kirk Bletzacker or Scott Walton. Thank you to all who have helped in the past year to keep our building operating.

Kirk Bletzacker & Scott Walton

**Acolytes**

The ministry of acolyte is very old, going back to at least the third century A.D..These early acolytes had functions very similar to those of the modern day. They were to assist the bishop and clergy during liturgical services and help lead and define the tone of worship for the community. Like today, these early acolytes gave strong witness to their Christian faith and were dedicated to their worship community.

Acolytes at St. Marks church include the Crucifer, “Head Cross” who processes with the cross ,directs the other acolytes in preparation of the alter at offertory, and acts as chief acolyte for the team serving that day. Torch – bearers in process with the torches and assist the head cross at offertory. The Gospel bearer, who processes with the Gospel Book; and the second cross make up our acolyte group each Sunday at the 10 A.M service. At the 8 A.M service there are 3 acolytes. The Head Cross and two Torch Bearers. The acolytes serve funerals and other special services.

We have a total of 21 Acolytes of which 6 are adults and the remaining 15 are the young adults. This assembly of acolytes takes their individual positions each Sunday very seriously and looks forward to complimenting the church service. At St. Marks we are fortunate to have such a great group of people.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Giammarco

Acolyte Advisor

**Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers / Visitors Annual Report 2011**

St. Mark's continues to be blessed with a dedicated and talented group of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. I am happy to report that our number has grown to fourteen, one short of the largest group we have had since I have been coordinating these ministries. New Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, Mike Mozingo, Tom Turner, and Will Hines have added their talents to our group, and Bruce Schutrum has indicated a desire to begin serving as a Eucharistic Minister later in 2012.

In addition; Ten Gall, Don Lovgren, Pam McCarthy, Anne Coen, Leigh Wilson, Scott Walton, Kim Nadel, Mark Nadel, John Werren, and Bruce Hixon continue their dedicated and much valued service to St. Mark's and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ten Gall, Anne Coen, Scott Walton, John Werren, and Bruce Hixon are licensed Eucharistic Visitors and are available to offer Communion to those who are unable to attend Sunday Eucharist. In addition, Tom Turner has undergone training and is awaiting his license. Under the direction of Father Berg we are endeavoring to increase the activity and effectiveness of this group.

In 2011 the Guide for Lay Ministers has been re-written. It's distribution is awaiting the final go ahead from Father Berg.

These Ministries are as follows:

**Lectors** - are licensed by the local parish and read to the congregation from the Word of the Lord.

**Eucharistic Ministers** - are licensed by the diocese and administer the Chalice during Holy Communion. At St. Mark's all of our EM's are also Lectors although they are not required to be.

**Eucharistic Visitors** - are licensed by the diocese to carry the Consecrated Elements to those unable to attend Sunday Eucharist, and to administer Holy Communion to them.

**Worship Leaders** - Are licensed by the diocese to conduct services in the absence of a Priest or Deacon.

We are always open to new members of these special ministries. Anyone who feels called to do so should make themselves known to Bruce Hixon or Father Berg.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Hixon

**E.C.W. (Episcopal Church Women) Annual Report for 2011**

The E.C.W. membership includes all the women of the church. As an Episcopalian, you are welcomed and invited to participate in any or all activities of the E.C.W. We may appear invisible, but we are at work in the church, the mission area, and the diocese. Many women are willing to “show up and work” but do not want to attend meetings. Many of our decisions are made at the Knitting sessions on the second and fourth Mondays from 1-3 pm in the family room.

We donated about 80 Easter baskets to the Y.W.C.A. homeless shelter. The E.C.W. bought the buckets and parishioners donated items and cash to help fill the them with toiletries and small personal items. Extra cash was used to purchase disposable diapers when they were on sale. We have given these baskets for many years and try to customize the children’s baskets according to age and sex.

Our annual Christmas luncheon and raffle was held the first Sunday in December. This year Carol Popovich made the pulled pork and barbecue sauce and Marcia Tirpak made the vegetarian vegetable soup. Money raised from this event will help buy the new energy-efficient freezer for the kitchen and assist the Teen Forum leaders and the Puppet Gang with their supplies. We also pay our fair share to the ECW Diocese and Mission Area.

With the change from Deanery to Mission Area, many of our Deanery friends are now in the Summit Mission Area and we were left holding hands with St. Tim’s, Massillon and St. Paul’s, Canton. The other churches in our Mission Area either have no ECW or are not interested in participating. With Bishop Mark’s permission, we have merged with the Summit Mission Area and are working with them on projects. One project is our very successful Ms. Bra bag of new and gently used bras which we will be donating to Summa Hospitals. We are also making small pillows and pillowcases for several county-wide hospices. These pillows will be given to women having mastectomies. We are also collecting BoxTops for Education for Lillian Vallely school in Blackfoot, ID This is an Episcopal school for elementary education on the Blackfoot reservation.

In October we had a Fused Glass Jewelry class of 13 students and had a great time showing our artistic and non-artistic talents.

We continue our small knitting group and had about 40 items to take to the ECW Annual Meeting in 2011 along with 75 dresses for Haiti. We also knit four scarves for the Special Olympics. I have just prepared a box of little dresses and other children’s items which Wayne and Sandy Paradis will take to Agape Airlines in Florida with Haiti as the destination.

Sue Little

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS**

For more years that I can recall, St. Mark’s has supported Community Christmas by adopting needy families who apply for assistance. There is such need that a family can be on the “adopted” list only every two or three years. In other years they are given food and shoe vouchers and can pick toys from the organization’s donated toys. Many toys come through the U.S. Marines’ Toys for Tots program.

The first year I was involved in the shopping, Thelma Baines invited Marcia Tirpak and me to go down the street to Fisher’s to shop for food. We started with 5# sugar, 5# flour, a box of salt…….. Donated (used) clothing items were given to the families. Later it was requested that new items be given as it may be the only time during the year when they received something new. We also switched over to food vouchers because each family can shop according to its dietary needs.

This year we provided Christmas for 6 families each consisting of 4 individuals. We collected the money, shopped, and were ready to wrap when unknown individuals broke into the church and stole the gifts for three families. Because of the generosity of our church family and the generous donations from those who read of our plight in the Repository, we were able to replace all the lost items and give an additional sum of money to Community Christmas.

I am very proud to be a member of this church family who made a positive result rise from this adversity.

Sue Little

**United Thank Offering ( U.T.O.)** is a uniquely Episcopal fund raiser to benefit people and programs nationally as well as internationally.  Giving is a reflection of our thankfulness for God's blessings in the lives of family and friends.  There are two collection opportunities each year.  The total for the Spring Ingathering was $714; the Fall Ingathering was $859.  Fr. Berg offered a prayer of dedication for our collection of the Fall Ingathering the Sunday after All Saints' Day.   May we keep the recipients in our prayers.

MaryAnn Kiesling, Parish Coordinator

**Annual report--Wednesday 10:30 AM study group**

This is an informal group that has been meeting at St. Mark’s for many years.

Membership  changes as years go by. New members or visitors are always most

welcome.  Deciding what we will read is a group decision.  Sometimes a book of the Bible is chosen while at other times we explore contemporary works.  We are not afraid to share our thoughts on any subject.  Most of us are also here for the Wednesday communion service which gets us off to a good start on our morning together.

Our first book of the new year was a suggestion of Fr. Berg’s.  It was an engaging book entitled “Searching for God Knows What”  That carried us through to the beginning of Lent when we decided to be one of the groups using the “Unbinding the Heart” books.  Our group expanded for that.  Susie Hines was our facilitator.  We felt this very worthwhile.  When this group ended we finished the “Searching” book and considered some new possibilities.  We chose to do “Lost Scriptures--Books that Did Not Make It into the New Testament”, a rather challenging book.  We finished that one two weeks before Christmas and are currently deciding what to “read and digest” next.

We look forward to Wednesday mornings with this group in which both minds and spirits are fed.  If you are free to join us on a Wednesday morning, please do.

Eloise Hochwalt

**USHERS**

During 2011, the dedicated usher teams continued to support Saint Mark’s in our services and funerals. We remain constant at 8 teams and 37 members. I continue to look for new ushers and welcome anyone that would like to serve the church in this capacity. We currently have three teams that need a fifth member. It is important to note that ushering is open to both men and women of St. Mark’s, and I will encourage and welcome all who wish to serve the church as an usher.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Hockman – Head Usher

**NEW ST. MARK’S SIGNS**

We are happy to report that we have installed newer, more legible signs at the corners of Frazier and 44th as well as Market and 44th.  We intend to work on locating a sign at the corner of Cleveland and 44th in the coming year.  In addition, we will take another look at the three signs that are located on the church property which are beginning to fade to determine possible updates and/or repairs.

Derek Gordon

**2011 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR**

*Our choir motto:* Singers ought to study how to vowel and sing cleanly, expressing their words with devotion and passion, whereby to draw the hearer by the ears, as it were in chains of gold, to the consideration of holy things. (Thomas Morley 1547).

To that end, Sandi Kaustinen, Frances Swinehart, Leslie Redmon, Barbara Siegfried, Candy Wallace, Beck Rand (librarian), Barrie Thorp, Ken Jaeb, Bill King, Louise Moore, Pam McCarthy have been our "regulars" with occasional assists from Robert Karl Bortz, Eric Hockman, Charles and Caroline Willoughby.

Significant volunteer service has been provided by our resident timpanist, John Gregory, and recently retired piano professor Sandra Carnes. Katie Hockman has played her violin for us frequently. Guests have included tenor David J. White, trumpeter R. Chris Hall, flautists Abigail Dombroski, Robin Tryon, and Molly Murphy, cellist Rebecca Kamen, soprano Catherine Dillon, oboist Susan Bair, and basso/pianist Charles Reiman. Paris, France grad student Mark Indorf played a recital. A music stand light was added for Mr. Gregory.

The S. Kathleen Morrison Choir Room has been a continuing delight for our rehearsals, with Livvy Mull's artistic reminder "Music: to the glory of God and refreshment of the soul" (J. S. Bach) inscribed on an upper panel.

A Cable-Nelson spinet piano was donated to the church by the Wilber family with provision for its moving, tuning, and a wheeled dolly. The  Charles Walter choir room piano is a  memorial to the late choirmaster Jim Baines; the Sanctuary houses a Yamaha studio piano and a Kawai Grand, and the 2001 Schantz/Wervey/C. Zimmer organ given by the Boyd family and others. The timpani are on loan from the Canton Concert Band. Our piano technician is Fred Balzer; Greg and Jon Lester maintain the organ. Our 25 Schulmerich Handbells were the gift of June Shealor.

We lost two of our members, Cynthia and John Bridges, to new jobs in Texas, and our challenge is to attract some new members to enrich the musical offering of time and talent in this portion of God's vineyard.

Looking ahead: World renowned Hector Olivera will play our organ Sunday afternoon April 15th at 3:00.

Since 1997 it has been my pleasure to make music in St. Mark's sacred space.

Respectfully submitted, W. Robert Morrison

**TRUSTEES**

The Trustees of St. Mark’s manage all endowment funds for the church. Endowment Funds are made up and bequests and donations which generous parishioners and friends have given to St. Mark’s to ensure the longevity and well being of the parish. There are five Trustees who serve five year terms (maximum two consecutive terms) and who oversee the investment and distribution of the funds. Trustees for 2011 were Gary Mull (Chairman), Geoff Gordon (Treasurer), Marcia Kiesling (Secretary), Rick Werren, and Mark Nadel. Assets are currently invested in equities, money market funds, and certificates of deposit. A small portion of the assets have been designated by the donors to use only the income for the church library and the church music program. The balance is available to be used for the benefit of the church, subject to request and approval of the Vestry.

Gary Mull

**Lazarus Committee Report: Columbarium**

The Columbarium is a wonderful gift that present and past parishioners have given to the St. Marks Family.  Many parishioners have reserved a place for themselves and their immediate families.  The cost today is $1000.  This covers the niche, maintenance and the gold lettering.  Not only is this considered a bargain in funeral costs, it eliminates much worry and expense for those who come behind us.

There are many spaces available and each niche is designed to accommodate both husband’s and wife’s ashes. All the rest are sold only as single units for one person. Engraving is a standard design for all niches and there are no variations.

In 2011 we had to change engravers, because Canton Monument had a death in the family and went out of business. We had a slight processing delay with one niche cover that was in processes. After a little investigation and the cover was located . Lang Monument has agreed to engrave the niche covers and is set up with the proper layout and gold lettering.

A review of the columbarium agreement, procedures, and cost is still under review and should be complete in 2012.

Charlie Kiesling

**Wedding Coordinators Report**

In 2011 there were three weddings within our St. Mark’s family. Saturday, June 18 was the wedding of Jennifer Hudak and Matthew Nadel (son of Mark and Kim Nadel) --- a celebration with nineteen attendants. On Saturday, August 20 Julianne Christine Violand (daughter of Chuck and Karen Violand) married Patrick Thake, Jr. A brass quintet, fellow classmates from Ohio State, performed their wedding music. And on Saturday, December 17 Kristen Sandra Paradis (daughter of Wayne and Sandy Paradis) married Jeffrey Joseph Eaton at an early evening candlelight service. Each wedding was special and a wonderful way for these couples to begin their married lives.

Our challenge this past year was to revise the St. Mark’s Wedding Guide. We blended information from our previous guide with some other churches’ wedding rules, added some, tweaked some, and put together an updated version and reworked our wedding paperwork too. Along with Father Dustin Berg’s corrections, additions and well done final editing, St. Mark’s has a completely updated, revised wedding guide.

It is hoped that in 2012 some others will volunteer to assist the coordinators that are needed for every wedding. Two, at least, are needed to do the job. It would be beneficial to have others experienced in the process to assist and even to fill in for the coordinators when necessary.

We begin 2012 with a wedding scheduled for June 9. We’re looking forward to more.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Popovich

Susie Hines

**Cluster Dinners** are opportunities for adult parishioners to gather in each others’ homes for fellowship and potluck dining. Groups consist of 7 – 8 people and meet once a month for 3 months. At that time interested parishioners are reshuffled into different groups for opportunities to become acquainted with a new group of people. Cluster Dinners are occasions for leisurely conversation and a good way for long-time members and new members to connect, as well as 8 o’clockers and 10 0’clockers. This means of fellowship was well received and about 20 parishioners have participated in 2 rounds of groups, beginning in June, 2011. A sign up sheet will be posted in January with hopes that dinners will begin in March,2012. For questions and/or information, contact Charlie & MaryAnn Kiesling.

MaryAnn Kiesling

**Fellowship Committee**

The fellowship committee started off the year with a “kitchen shower.” Due to all the generous donations from parishioners, we were able to well stock our redesigned kitchen properly.

Charlie & MaryAnn Kiesling told us about Cluster Dinners that they had enjoyed at their previous parish. They agreed to head up the program. Members sign up to be a part of the dinners, and groups of parishioners meet once a month for a meal and fellowship. This has been a wonderful way for us to get to know each other. Every 3 months the groups are reshuffled allowing you to “get to know” a different group.

Some of our activities this past year included, a dinner for the Fresh Start clergy group, a pancake supper, Palm Sunday brunch, Maundy Thursday pot luck, Easter Vigil with strawberries and champagne, Easter Sunday reception for Father Gaston, reception for the Bishop and our confirmands, a welcome reception for Father Berg, our July picnic, chili cook-off and Fall fest and an All Saints Day brunch.

All this was made possible with “many hands” from our youth group setting up tables to trash being hauled out at the end of the evening. Thank you to all who helped and participated in these many activities. We believe fellowship is a very important part of St. Mark’s. We love to come together to worship, but also to share in each other’s company.

Anyone with any suggestions or ideas or would like to be part of the committee, please let Carol Popovich, Anne Coen or Cindy Brown know. We are looking to add and expand!

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Brown

**PARISH CARE**

Parish care is a church-wide ministry organized to help assist families during a time of need. We arrange receptions after memorial services or may provide a meal for ailing parishioners. We provide beverages and cookies, and depending on the family’s needs, may also provide tea sandwiches or assist the family with serving their catered meal. The family customarily donates to parish care to keep the ministry ongoing. Arrangements need to be made with Sue Little, Grace Giammarco, Marilyn Thorp or Cindy Brown. In 2011 we served the families of Terri Kocab and Marty Mull.

Sue Little

**Sunday School Committee report;**

With the vacancy of the school superintendent and the decline in student enrollment the Sunday school has undergone several important changes. First, we had to say goodbye to Kim Nadel, our long-serving school superintendent: thanks to Kim for her many years of service. When no one came forward to take on the superintendent roll, the committee decided to restructure our Sunday school team, which means we no longer have a superintendent but rather a committee, the committee members are Pamela Clark, Linda Deuble, Judy Hixon, Teri Hockman, Livvy Mull, and Sharon Ryan.

Next, we updated our Sunday curriculum and are now on a lectionary cycle, meaning that most Sundays our lessons are in-line with what is heard in the service by the rest of the congregation. We have seen a decline in the number of regular children attending Sunday school so we have had to be more flexible in rearranging child/grade groupings. And if all this was not enough, we moved the nursery upstairs, as we felt it was important to have the children in a classroom that was bright, roomy, and easy to find, especially for visitors. Currently, our greatest need is to hire a Nursery Attendant, if you are interested or know someone who is, please let Fr. Berg or any committee person know.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Hockman

Sunday school Committee

**Altar Guild Report 2012**

St Mark’s Altar Guild is made up of 18 active members who are dedicated to preparing for the rites of the church. They include two Sunday services, a Wednesday Communion, baptisms, weddings, funerals and other celebrations. We also care for the silver, brass, linens and vestments, cleaning etc.

We set the altar each Saturday for the coming Sunday as well as for Wednesday communion services. Many of our members work behind the scenes and are not always seen but their efforts are much appreciated.

The flowers seen on the Altar are from the money gifted to the Altar Guild as memorials to family or friends or other loved ones, or in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries and many other occasions.

We always welcome anyone who would like to join the Altar Guild regardless of gender.

Many of the husbands lend a helping hand behind the scenes, decorating for Christmas as well as helping after morning services. Our many thanks to our unsung heroes!

Donna Brookes

Altar Guild President

**MEN’S PRAYER GROUP**

Interest in men's prayer breakfast has declined to 5 or 6 active participants. This overloaded the leadership requirements for meetings twice a month, so our meetings are now once a month, the first Wednesday, at the historic 6:45 to 8:00 AM period. All men are welcome, whether they wish to lead the discussions or not. The agenda includes a continental breakfast, an informal devotion with prayers for specific family, friends, and neighbors, fellowship, and lively discussions of current events, of interesting book, magazine and newspaper reviews, and of matters relating to the Church, the diocese, and the parish.   
  
Tony Keenan

**LION’S TALE 2011**

St. Mark’s Lion’s Tale is printed and mailed to parishioners 12 times a year. Although simple in form, it has served the purpose of keeping the Parish updated on schedules, meetings, Parish ministries, Sunday Scholl, social events, outreach, and , of course, Bob’s Pen and birthdays. Over the decades features, fonts and form have changed. But the Lion’s Tale still captures the love in which our Parish carries out God’s work.

Grace Giammarco

**PUPPET REPORT**

We continue to have an active puppet ministry at St. Mark’s. We have had two 25 minute musical black light shows. In the spring 2011 our show was “God’s Sea in 3-D.” A group of marine biology students were about to take their underwater tests. The story turned tragic when one student refused to do what was asked of him. God’s love brought him to understand how he needed God in his life. All the Sunday School students became a part of the production as they paraded through the set with underwater creatures. “Christmas Puzzle” was our Christmas show. Cousins were gathered at Grandmas when the electric power went out. Grandma gave them a miracle puzzle that showed the importance of how it was for us to be a part of this Christmas story. All the Sunday school students by putting their picture on the Christmas puzzle shows that they too are a part of the Christmas story. We have a lively fun group of puppeteers eligible to join in the 7th grade. We have Kelsey Ryan, Rachel Walton, Maddie Thomas, Morgan Wilson, Benjamin Clark, Nathaniel Clark, Jeff Turner, Tim Turner, Cody Popovich, James Weaver, and until September until they went off to college, Katie Hockman and Zachary Clark. Mike Hudson will continue to assist Jan in the upcoming production of “Israel Icon” which is a take-off on American Idol. Thanks so much to the ECW and Vestry for supporting us with donations. We were able to buy a portable stage so that we can do outreach shows more easily. Thanks everyone for their wonderful support.

Much love,

Sandy Paradis and Jan Hudson

**Vestry Nominations, 2012**

**Candidates for Three-Year Term (Vote for 4):**

Bert Heisser

Carol Popovich

Diane Sanofsky

Jane King

Jan Hudson

Sue Little

Barrie Thorp

**Declined:**

Kent Clark

Kelsey Kaustinen

Jesse Childers

Ken Jaeb

Diana Cornell

Beth Clark-Thomas

Sandy Paradis

Betty Traganza

Karen Violand

Joe Hoot

Bill Rand

Tom Turner

Alex Korosi

Barb Siegfried

Ted Boyd

Dave Thorley

Ann Heisser

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2011 Year-End Financials and 2012 Budget as of December 31, 2011** | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Year 2008** | **Year 2009** | **Year 2010** | **Year 2011** | **Year 2011** | **Year 2012** |
|  | **Actual** | **Actual** | **Actual** | **Budget** | **Actual** | **Budget** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plate Offering | $2,222 | $1,654 | $2,439 | $1,500 | **$2,169** | $2,000 |
| Pledges | $256,289 | $238,557 | $196,638 | $176,677 | **$205,343** | $173,204 |
| Interest | $788 | $512 | $32 | $30 | **$16** | $20 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Income** | **$259,299** | **$240,723** | **$199,110** | **$178,207** | **$207,528** | **$175,224** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diocesan Assess | $31,979 | $29,078 | $36,149 | $29,052 | **$27,864** | $24,137 |
| Seminary Pledge | $1,000 | $0 | $0 | $0 | **$0** | $0 |
| Salary Rector | $14,039 | $25,000 | $42,725 | $60,918 | **$59,171** | $62,100 |
| Supply Clergy | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | $800 |
| Salary Organist/Mus | $14,250 | $14,600 | $14,600 | $14,600 | **$14,600** | $14,600 |
| Salary Office | $32,000 | $35,480 | $35,480 | $35,480 | **$35,480** | $17,615 |
| Paid Nursery Att | $1,175 | $1,910 | $1,875 | $1,900 | **$1,200** | $1,040 |
| Soc Sec & Payroll | $4,260 | $5,936 | $8,020 | $8,000 | **$4,358** | $2,850 |
| Professional Develop | |  |  | $250 | **$1,291** | $750 |
| Pension | $0 | $8,397 | $8,678 | $10,965 | **$16,708** | $11,178 |
| Medical Insurance | $0 | $8,266 | $5,166 | $11,250 | **$7,278** | $8,006 |
| Fuel Power Water | $24,527 | $29,054 | $16,586 | $18,000 | **$21,544** | $18,000 |
| Office Expense | $8,056 | $6,966 | $5,308 | $5,400 | **$6,080** | $3,000 |
| Bank Service Charge | $8 | $16 | $37 | $35 | **$35** | $0 |
| Housing Allowance | $14,039 | $28,333 | $40,046 | $0 | **$0** | $0 |
| Mileage Reimburse | $1,576 | $1,625 | $1,070 | $500 | **$692** | $500 |
| Utility Allowance | $0 | $0 |  | $0 | **$0** | $0 |
| Discretionery Fund | $500 | $386 | ($25) | $0 | **$0** | $0 |
| Hospitality | $1,557 | $1,240 | $636 | $500 | **$708** | $500 |
| Fellowship & Social | $932 | $1,380 | $699 | $500 | **($102)** | $250 |
| Telephone | $1,693 | $1,870 | $1,605 | $1,630 | **$1,377** | $546 |
| Internet Service | $0 | $720 | $833 | $720 | **$999** | $1,308 |
| Altar Supplies | $2,154 | $1,397 | $539 | $500 | **$1,481** | $700 |
| Music/Choir | $1,797 | $2,575 | $2,816 | $1,900 | **$1,867** | $400 |
| Outside Maint | $12,442 | $12,955 | $8,401 | $9,000 | **$8,935** | $8,000 |
| Envelopes/Prayer bk | $958 | $1,234 | $668 | $500 | **$315** | $500 |
| Inside Maintenance | $11,194 | $12,378 | $6,554 | $6,000 | **$4,480** | $4,500 |
| Misc | $1,056 | $1,064 | $719 | $0 | **$532** | $0 |
| Christian Education | $5,140 | $5,461 | $6,207 | $4,000 | **$2,400** | $2,000 |
| Furniture Fixtures | $7,690 | $2,601 | $4,376 | $2,500 | **$3,218** | $2,500 |
| Church Insurance | $5,335 | $5,205 | $5,773 | $5,800 | **$6,117** | $6,729 |
| Contract Maint | $4,270 | $5,737 | $4,988 | $5,000 | **$5,408** | $6,000 |
| Robes and Cleaning | $134 | $504 | $370 | $300 | **$214** | $100 |
| Youth Group | $3,843 | $125 | $26 | $500 | **$245** | $500 |
| Evangelism | $2,200 | $489 | $0 | $0 | **$0** | $250 |
| Dio Conv Expenses | $0 | $183 | $270 | $200 | **$60** | $200 |
| Audit Expense | $3,000 | $1,800 | $1,800 | $2,000 | **$3,301** | $2,000 |
| Reserve for Cap | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | **$0** | $0 |
| Operating Reserve | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 | **$0** | $0 |
| Year End Gifts | $3,050 | $300 | $0 | $0 | **$0** | $0 |
| Office IRA | $2,000 | $2,000 | $2,000 | $2,000 | **$2,000** | $2,000 |
| Cleaning Supp | $0 | $3 | $453 | $450 | **$317** | $450 |
| Church Cleaning | $3,755 | $8,620 | $8,140 | $8,200 | **$6,980** | $6,500 |
| Search Committee | $2,735 | $2,645 | $0 | $2,500 | **$0** | $0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Exp** | **$224,344** | **$267,533** | **$273,584** | **$251,050** | **$247,153** | **$210,509** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Assessment Expenses** | |  | **$237,435** | **$221,998** | **$219,289** | **$186,372** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Inc less Exp.** | **$34,955** | **($26,810)** | **($74,474)** | **($72,843)** | **($39,625)** | **($35,285)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **\*Total Rector Comp** | $28,078 | $53,333 | $82,771 | $83,383 | $84,448 | $82,034 |
| \*Social Security Wages | $52,475 | $54,290 | $53,955 | $53,980 | $53,280 | $52,284 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Year 2008** | **Year 2009** | **Year 2010** | **Year 2011** | **Year 2011** | **Year 2012** |
|  | **Actual** | **Actual** | **Actual** | **Budget** | **Actual** | **Budget** |

Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church

Annual Report

for 2011

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

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