



2022 Annual Report



saint mark's
episcopal church

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The Rector's Report

Together, as a parish community, we all strive to be followers of Christ. With the Vestry and other clergy and staff it is my role to be the spiritual leader in this communal effort. It is a role I am both honored and humbled in filling. Three general areas of ministry define our efforts to embody God's love: spiritual practice (worship), care for each other and those in need (congregational care) and organizational efforts (administration).

Note for 2022 report: *The year 2022 was the third year of COVID 19's influence on parish life. Some of the information below still retains references to pre-COVID experience and points to the hope I hold in returning, eventually, to a comparatively normative ministry.

Worship

My priority is our devotional life. My supervision and coordination of Sunday services, special services, weddings, and memorials includes working in concert with all our staff members, especially Associate Rectors who coordinate the details of our liturgies and various Ministry Teams (Altar Guild, Servers, Flower Guild, Greeters, Healing Ministers, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Lectors, Liturgical Art Guild, etc.). We create Christ-centered worship that retains the best of the Anglican tradition while also fostering a creative vibrancy. My hope is that we deepen our faith in God and in each other so that we may all proclaim the good news of the Gospel in many ways. Spiritual growth is our most important goal and leads to all others.

This community has been blessed over the years with a talented and faithful staff of clergy, musicians and active lay leaders who value meaningful worship. It's a privilege to guide and support these liturgists. We have been blessed for many years with skilled music leaders. In 2021 the parish began an extensive congregational process of identifying what was truly meaningful for our corporate worship. **Matthew Burt**, with the enthusiastic and unanimous support of the search committee, was hired and began as Music Director in October of that year in the midst of the challenges of the Pandemic. Now that he has been with us for a year our choir and congregation has been blessed by his experience, skill and pastoral leadership. He has also been a vital member of the program staff. Along with section leaders **Dan Galpern** and **Susan Hogben** our choir and congregation now sing again with gratitude and joy and **Matthew** is skillfully fulfilling our desire to include both the riches of the Anglican musical tradition and new ways of meaningful musical worship which deepens the faith of all in the congregation.

St. Mark's has been truly blessed with wonderful assisting preachers and liturgists, both lay and ordained. We have all been truly blessed with the presence and wisdom of the **Rev. Dr. Rebecca Lyman**, also priest and jail chaplain, the **Rev. Liz Milner**, also Minister of Adult Formation **Debie Thomas**, also Youth and Family Minister **Lily Dodge**, also parishioner **Michael Fitzpatrick** (who has

now moved out of state), and, also, of course, our Associate Rector the **Rev. Nikky Wood**. Our preachers easily rival any cathedral staff.

The **Rev. Nikky Wood**, who had been ordained a priest just prior to her arrival to St. Mark's in February of 2020 and was with us only three Sundays when COVID-19 hit us like a storm, has continued to be an incredible blessing as a priest, pastor and leader this past year. Her faith is deep, her gifts are many, her organizational and technical skills are astute and her wisdom and strength have been a great support to me. We are all truly grateful for her recovery of health which allowed her to return from a four month absence early in the year.

Our "Tech Team" has been a vital and significant asset in the expression of our worship as we continue to offer virtual and streaming services to the community. Much thanks to **Romain Kang, Brent Welch, Don Bennett, Marius Millner, Zareen Ahmad** and **Kristen Good**, as well as new Technical Video Producers **Jonathan Guillien** (who will be stepping down) and **Asa Degeller** who have been employed to anchor the volunteer team.

Congregational Care

The care of the congregation (and our care of each other and others in need) can be categorized into four areas illuminated below: 1) Nurture and Pastoral Care, 2) Evangelism and Membership, and 3) Christian Education and Formation and 4) Service and Outreach.

With other clergy, staff members and lay volunteers I offer pastoral care to parishioners. I counsel, I visit people who are housebound or in the hospital, I meet with mourners to plan memorials, lovers to plan Holy Matrimony (less frequently now), and parents and godparents to celebrate baptisms. I do my best to help other leaders in the parish to be caretakers. I am inspired by the mutual caregiving I frequently witness among members of this community. There is always more ministry and pastoral care needed than time available in the day. A communal effort to care for each other is crucial. This is a team effort and all the more important coming out of the pandemic!

Debie Thomas serves as our **Minister of LifeLong Formation**. This ministry has been a natural progression as Debie's gifts and skills have evolved and expanded. We see this as a blessing for the entire parish as our work together rests on the deepening faith and resolve of each member of the community. I am very grateful for Debie's teaching and program development skills along with her deep passion for the Christian journey. This focus on our true transformation as followers of Christ continues to hold great promise for the stability and endurance of St. Mark's and our mission.

Lily Dodge has now served for over a year as our **Children, Teen and Family Ministries Coordinator**. Moving from our teen ministry to this wider ministry she continues to be a faithful, caring and insightful leader who shares her heart so that younger souls will know the love of Christ. She continues to share a keen sensitivity to the needs of parishioners, child and adult, and her coordination has strengthened and deepened the ministry with children and families during these

challenging times. There is ongoing desire with parents in seeking new ways to raise faithful children in the midst of cultural shifts and pandemics. Special programs, like the Christmas pageant, videos and the delivery of creative curricula have been a gift to our children's formation and sense of ongoing community. We hope to engage more support from parents and others in the new year. I am very thankful for Lily's presence and her growing ministry with parishioners of all ages.

Two vital Ministry Teams that engage in welcoming and engaging church members are the **Membership Commission** (thank you to Chairs **Marina Martin** and **Michele Liencres** and outgoing chair **Jonake Bose** and **Vestry liaisons Marius Milner, Margalynne Armstrong** and **Romain Kang**) and the **Stewardship Commission** (thank you to Chairs **Mego Tracy** and **Brent Welch** and former Chair **Carol Scott** and Vestry Liaison **Andrew Bridges**). These teams work to support each member's gifts of time, talent and treasure, welcome newcomers, and invite all members into the life of the parish. Both teams are consistently engaged in ongoing and inspired improvements. Carol, Mego and Brent have been exemplary leaders and Jonake and Marina and Michelle have brought new wisdom and devoted care to a challenging environment. All are a great support to me and as we work together in these challenging days. One of my personal favorite ministry activities is meeting with newcomers and hearing the "story," of their faith journey, and then witnessing and helping them find their way in this community. Strengthening these vital ministries in a time of fatigue is an ongoing focus of the vestry in their goal of growing a more "engaged congregation" which fosters a new understanding of evangelism, new ways to connect with one another and deepen our spiritual growth. This new evangelism is an ongoing priority, especially when we are more disengaged due to the ups and downs of the pandemic effect.

We continue to increase the use of technology in our ministries, especially "coming out" of COVID. Having changed our online database/communication/organizational digital program from **Church Community Builder (CCB)** to **Breeze** our effort continues to focus on more efficiency. There is both progress and ongoing need in the area of evangelism, membership and stewardship. Our spiritual vitality and financial stewardship has new challenges with demographic and cultural changes in our community, the natural aging of committed members, the busyness and stress of families and the diminishing involvement of young adults and adults, in general, attending or joining a church and the ongoing physical disengagement of the pandemic. Updating our **website** and strengthening our overall communications within and beyond the parish in order to better share the good and meaningful ministries and programs of St. Mark's was a goal successfully reached. Special thanks is given to staff member **LeeAnne McDermott** for not only continuing to support the process but serving as interim webmaster when we had to reduce our administration staffing.

Christian Education programs are one of the major ways we deepen our faith. I have seen great signs of progress since coming to St. Mark's in the education programs for children, teens and adults. There is much to celebrate here, with ongoing programs, new programs and explorations – Scripture Study and Prayer Groups, Sunday Forums, the Lenten Series, ongoing and new Small

Groups, training for liturgists and Lay Eucharistic Visitors, various women's and men's events, a wonderful youth confirmation tradition led with care and enthusiasm by **Lily Dodge**, Inquirer's Classes, new adult Formation Classes, children and parent programs – all are a part of our ongoing education of the faithful. These have continued through the pandemic for the most part, no small task. Thanks to the faithful work of our youth ministers, parent supporters and Vestry liaisons. We give thanks for **Alex Dillard** and **Kathryn Gillam** our **Adult Education Commission Liaisons**, former Chair and liaison **Mary Esther Schnaubelt** and **Suzanne Bell**, the **Women's Commission**, former Chair **LeeAnne McDermott** and co-leader **Melodie Shubat**, the **Children and Family Commission**, former Chair **Kathy Chen**, and present Vestry Liaisons **Zareen Ahmad Brock** and **Brie Linkenhoker**. Meaningful programs for all ages will continue to be a priority in an ever more challenging culture and in a time when leaders are fatigued. We will continue to redefine the roles necessary to sustain these ministries. See the separate reports for these ministries.

Our **Outreach** efforts are a vital part of our identity and education as faithful Christians. Thanks especially to present **Chairs Katie Fantin** and **Carla Bliss** and former chair **Katie Weller**, former Vestry Liaison **James McFall**, present Vestry Liaisons **Lena Chow** and **Margalynne Armstrong** and the hard working members of the Outreach Commission. We will continue to make our service to those in need a priority.

In terms of **financial outreach** we raised or donated more than \$35,000 to non-profits and people in need in 2021. All this support is in addition to over \$100,000 sent to the Diocese and the wider church. Our Advent Outreach was a wonderful effort in support of the ministry at **Elmwood Jail** and the **WeHope homeless shelter** and center. The **Outreach Commission** report has more information.

Our staff is also continuing to coordinate new ways to minister to our own parishioners in times of special need with **InReach**. Thanks to the faithful and caring leadership of **Ellen Vanderwilt** who has stepped down. We are in need of a new InReach coordinator to help us help each other!

Administration

Always the least favorite aspect of my vocation, but vitaly important, is the challenging effort to organize all these ministries and tend to the business needs of a non-profit institution. Together, with the **Wardens and Vestry**, I coordinate the staff and the various teams in planning, administration, financial management, recording and communication. Regular Rector/Ministry Chair meetings and Leadership events have occurred. Thanks to the Ministry Teams and individuals who help with these administrative endeavors: **Buildings and Grounds** – Ongoing chair **Mary Murphy** (having lost her husband who was her former co-chair) **George Schuttinger** along with Vestry Liaison **Marius Milner**; **Endowment Trust** – **Glen Kernick (Chair)**; **Finance Commission** – **Paul Milo** (chair for over twenty six years!) along with Vestry Liaison **Bryan Ford**; **Personnel Committee** – **Jeannie Leahy** (Chair) and **Commission for the Environment** Chair **Simon Binns**. It is truly

amazing what we accomplish and sustain together. I am indebted to the leadership of the Vestry, most especially the good and faithful work of former **Junior Warden Stuart Sailer** and present **Junior Warden Suzanne Bell** and **Senior Warden Anne Callahan**. These leaders have my greatest respect. Their devoted work of the wardens (we meet weekly!) is a true gift to the institution and its mission. It has been an uplifting pleasure to work with them and we all owe them our gratitude for their wise and caring leadership.

Here at the cusp of the "post pandemic" it's been time to create a new long range strategic plan and the Vestry is now engaged in that goal. **Brie Linkenhoker** has been invaluable in guiding the parish and leadership in a healthy process of moving forward with faithful vision. A new strategic plan is nearing completion. **Susan Pines** and **LeeAnne McDermott** continue to efficiently develop the **Treasurer** and **Business Administrator** positions and process, not an easy task. **LeeAnne** has stepped up repeatedly to fill administrative needs, especially after we eliminated the position of Office Administrator during the pandemic. Though we hired an administrator last year we terminated the position when **Kate Clover** was not able to increase her in-person presence. With the present job market we have been unable to hire a viable replacement and LeeAnne stepped up again to fill a void. **Katie Yates**, part time **Office Administrator support** uses her many gifts in specific administrative demands of the parish. Volunteers, such as **Nadine O'Leary** and **Anne Vosti**, have been a good help with various projects. All are very conscientious. We hired a temporary **Sexton, Adam Larrimore**, to help with regular and exceptional logistical needs.

Thank you for your trust in my leadership. I look forward to the days ahead as the vestry continues to implement short and long range plans, especially our efforts to engage more meaningfully with those outside the parish. These annual and long range goals point us to our future ministry by strengthening our identity as a Christian Community, our desire for Outreach, our inclusive invitation to others, our own spiritual growth and leadership, and our efficiency as an organization. I wrote in 2019's Annual

Report: "I believe 2020 will be a good year for significant visioning and the shaping of our future." Little did we know that three years later our leadership would continue to be so tested! The pandemic and social and economic challenges of the times continue to shape us but I believe our faith and our leadership, especially the present vestry - to a person - is extraordinarily gifted. We need to continue to strive to support each other and find new and efficient ways to lead our ministries.. May we all grow closer to Christ and closer to each other as a result of our hard work together. **Thank you for being a part of this holy community and the ongoing effort to live out our faith!**

In Christ and with gratitude,

The Rev. Matt McDermott

Associate Rector's Report

Dear St. Mark's,

2022 was challenging to say the least – for this community, as we continued under COVID-19 restrictions; and for me personally, as I had to take a completely unforeseen medical leave of absence for the first four months of the year. So very many of you brought meals to my family, sent cards and notes, and offered prayers on my behalf, and I am deeply grateful. Thank you for embodying the call to Christian love and care – the spiritual strength you offered is more than you know.

Nor was I the only one to benefit from your ministry! Meals and pastoral care were provided to several other households this year as well, under the compassionate leadership of **Ellen Vanderwilt**. The InReach team now looks for the next coordinator to help us continue to receive and communicate the needs of parishioners who need the community's support.

Looking to the world beyond our walls, the Outreach leaders have worked to reestablish a historical strength of St. Mark's community. Throughout the pandemic, hands-on engagement has been hampered by the necessary safety rules of our partner non-profits. Even so, **Carla Bliss** and **Katie Fantin** agreed to co-chair Outreach this year, bringing tremendous heart, rooted knowledge of this team at its best, and practical ideas for prioritizing what we can do well that will both benefit those with whom we work and provide opportunities for our own transformation in the process. **Diane Guinta**, **Susan Dansker**, and **Jenny Jordan** helped coordinate meals and a blanket drive for Hotel de Zink that were very gratefully received. **Christine Shambora** and **Martha Chan** have stepped up as liaisons to CIC Ministries (with the incredible **Rev. Liz Milner**) and Project WeHope, connecting us more intentionally to these agencies doing the work of justice in our county.

Re-engaging and re-imagining have been a theme across teams. Membership co-chairs **Marina Martin** and **Michele Liencres** coordinated a celebratory Community Faire, and have been working on shoring up our practices of hospitality, welcome, and incorporation of newcomers. The Young Adults group, with particular help from **Ashley Moses**, continues to try on different practices – from weekly outdoor gatherings, to bi-weekly conversations in the library, to occasional other get-togethers (Friendsgiving!) – navigating careers, grad school, parenting, and more. Many women of the parish came together for a modified (half-day, on-campus) retreat that proved to be a beautiful time of much-needed reflection and connection.

Our liturgical ministers continue to devote themselves to our life of common worship, often unseen behind the scenes. **Shin-Mee Chang** has kept the Altar Guild running, even through our many varied COVID fluctuations, and **Anne Vosti** continues to not only prepare Eucharistic vessels and iron linens, but bakes us delicious, sweet Communion bread for every single service. Please do thank them when you get the chance! Thanks too to **Cheryl Miller** and her team for the beauty of the

weekly flowers, and to **Romain Kang** for coordinating our streaming technicians (it takes both paid staff and volunteers to run a hybrid service every week!). These incredibly dedicated folks are stretched pretty thin. We are looking for lots more support for these ministries in the year ahead, as we hope to both make these teams more sustainable and to reinvigorate some practices that we've had to pause during COVID (healing prayer and Eucharistic visitors, for example).

Also rebuilding is our Children & Youth faith formation programming. We have witnessed some really wonderful liturgical engagement with some of our young parishioners – kids who feel at home in church, who have a sense of belonging, of being loved and needed, who look forward to and take seriously their roles in our liturgy (lighting candles, bringing up the offertory, proclaiming the dismissal, etc). Thanks to our encouraging and creative Children & Youth Minister, **Lily Dodge**, they also have fun and learn together during formation hour after the 10a Sunday service. Our dedicated vestry liaisons, **Brie Linkenhoker** and **Zareen Ahmad Brock**, have gone above and beyond their roles to offer special programming (Advent ornament making and the Christmas Pageant, most recently) and are looking for ways to shore up this essential ministry and strengthen its foundations. We have struggled to reconnect with many families with young people, who have not returned (at least to in-person programming) post-pandemic. It's our understanding that this is a Church-wide phenomenon, and still we seek to be proactive about reaching out and finding ways to better serve this community. Youth Group, for example, has been difficult to maintain, because critical mass at events, dinners, or get-togethers has been wildly inconsistent. We've had several parenting nights – one with guest presenter the Rev. Molly Baskette, and one informal potluck – in which we are sharing the burdens of parenting in this difficult time. Our hope is to find ways to support and encourage one another, and to build connections throughout the St. Mark's community.

In absence of a Parish Administrator, I have been working with the multi-talented, filler-of-all-gaps **LeeAnne McDermott**. She has kept both space use and the day-to-day operations running during many difficult transitions. We're working on both figuring out and teaching the intricacies of Breeze (our new member management platform), updating our website, creating a plan to be more proactive on social media, getting a handle on copier and phone contracts, and more. Many people have been trained in Whole & Healthy Church policies, both those needing keys to the campus and those who will be volunteering with minors.

As a pastor of this community, I have been honored by requests to bless members in all stages of life – from newborn to elders – on birthdays, anniversaries, and in times of sickness or recovery. My spirit has been nourished by conversations and communion shared in people's homes. We've re-established a Lay Discernment Committee, and I'm so grateful for the intense time those folks spend listening to the Spirit at work in a member's life. Thanks to the generosity to the Associate's Discretionary account, I've been able to share this parish's care with those needing various bills paid – you may never know of these needs directly, but you share Christ's love to people in moments when they do not know where else to turn.

This extended period of pandemic roller coaster has left many tired, worn out, and cautious. Some feel we are post-COVID, and some feel as though we are still in the thick of it. We are certainly experiencing shifts that will affect the Church in ways yet to be seen for years to come. And still, through it all, you continue to show up, to be the Body of Christ, to pray and hope and meet the challenges with care. As you reflect on this past year and look toward the one to come, I invite you to take a breath. Feel the Spirit's inspiration. Don't forget to breathe out! As ever, we begin again, once again. May you know Christ's nourishing presence, and in turn, may you bring that nourishment to our world in need.

Many blessings,

The Rev. Nikky Wood, Associate Rector

Vestry Report

The Vestry is St. Mark's lay (non-clergy parishioners) governing body and working Board of Directors. The St. Mark's Vestry has 12 members who serve staggered three-year terms. The parish typically elects four Vestry members at the annual meeting. These new members are installed on Pentecost, usually in late May or early June. The Vestry, including outgoing and incoming members, and clergy gather for an annual retreat near Pentecost to reflect on the spiritual and practical health of St. Mark's parish and to plan for the coming year.

Following the retreat, the new Vestry prayerfully considers the information and sharing from the retreat to establish annual goals. This year we are focused on the theme of Rooted and Rising – Review and Renew. We generated four key goals described below. The Vestry reviews these goals at most meetings and continues to adjust plans and actions to meet the needs of the parish.

Finish gathering data and work collaboratively to create a strategic plan. Under the direction of Brie Linkenhoker, we sought feedback from our St. Mark's community via an online survey and four Agape conversations. The information included challenges and opportunities, aspirations, visions of a flourishing church, and barriers to participation and leadership, among other topics. The quality and breadth of the responses we collected suggested rich conversation, careful reflection, and deep listening among members of the congregation. More information will be shared in the coming months as the Vestry moves forward on this process.

Strengthen and reinvigorate ministry teams and the role of leaders. As we return to some degree of normalcy following the pandemic, we're focused on how best to support our ministry teams/commissions and their leaders. We've put greater emphasis on the role of Vestry liaisons and have invited teams to engage in a process of self-review and renewal. This process includes team and commission discussions to identify hopes, challenges, aspirations, next steps, and desires for the longer term. Teams and commissions have considered how best to define or view leadership that is specific to their needs and function within St. Mark's. As we move forward, this effort will

incorporate identifying and using best practices and tools and how best to encourage new leaders and members to offer their gifts.

Strengthen our Christian service by embracing the passion from “Sacred Ground” and actively seeking to promote our goal of “Becoming Beloved Community”. This goal expresses our overt intention to invite all parish members to pursue information and opportunities that help us combat systematic racism and build racial justice. More can be explored in the 2022 Sacred Ground/Becoming Beloved Community Commission Report.

Strengthen our stewardship/finance/governance ministries. To ensure the continued financial and business health of the church as we adapt to a post-pandemic world, this goal includes reviewing our budgeting process, revisiting the structure of our administrative staff organization, and reinforcing our approach to stewardship.

The Vestry and Rector meet monthly, except for July. At Vestry meetings, goals are reviewed and monitored, commission/ministry leaders report on their activities and needs, the monthly financial report of the parish is reviewed, and the general business of the church is discussed. Additional Vestry meetings are held as necessary. This year’s Vestry members include Zareen Ahmad Brock, Anne Callahan (Senior Warden), Bryan Ford, Marius Milner, Margalynne Armstrong, Suzanne Bell (Junior Warden), Andrew Bridges, Lena Chow, Brie Linkenhoker, Romain Kang, Alex Dillard, and Kathy Gillam. Marina Martin served as the Clerk of the Vestry.

Two members of the Vestry hold the office of Warden. The Senior Warden is usually appointed by the Rector and the Junior Warden is traditionally elected by the Vestry. One of the Wardens presides at Vestry meetings. The two Wardens and the Rector make up the Vestry Executive Committee (VEC). The VEC meets weekly, except the weeks of Vestry meetings. At these meetings, parish matters are reviewed and the agenda for upcoming Vestry meetings is set.

A vital component to Vestry member responsibilities is to serve as a liaison to one of five ministry categories, each of which includes a parish commission and one or more parish ministries. In this role, the Vestry Liaison is an active, “hands on ” colleague, advocate, advisor and champion of their Commission and Ministry Teams and works closely with the leadership of the ministries to support the ministry’s goals and objectives, which includes securing necessary resources and providing the ministry with a voice in worship and church life. The Vestry also supports parish-wide events such as the Community Faire, the Stewardship Brunch and Stewardship Drive, the Annual Meeting, and Leadership Meetings.

The Vestry welcomes input from the parish. Please contact any Vestry member with suggestions, concerns, or questions. Our purpose is to serve and support the parish and its mission.

Anne Callahan, Senior Warden

Suzanne Bell, Junior Warden

564 Colorado Corporation

Purpose/Description

564 Colorado Corp. is a for-profit corporation that is 100% owned by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. All of 564's assets are invested in a Palo Alto home at 2727 Gaspar Court. The corporation has 3 directors: Paul Milo, Jonathan Luk, and David Kennedy, who are responsible for managing the corporation mainly by providing fiscal oversight and property management of 2727 Gaspar Court. Beth Janopaul handles the financial and administrative work for 564. A set of by-laws, on file in the church office, governs the activities of the corporation. 564 Colorado Corp. provides, subject to adequate cash reserves, a monthly donation to St. Mark's Church.

2022 Highlights

2022 was a stable year for 564 Colorado Corp. with the tenant continuing, and minor maintenance needs for the property.

- Beth Janopaul handled the financial and administrative work. Paul Milo provided primary tenant management.
- The corporation has a goal of, and has been able to maintain, a minimum of 3 months operating expenses in reserves.
- Property maintenance in 2022 included dishwasher replacement, oven hood replacement, and upgrade of old heating control to use Nest digital controller.
- The new tenant who moved in November 2021, continued with a term through May 2023.

Hopes for 2023

To continue supporting the Vestry's strategic direction regarding the use of the 564 property. To maintain full rental occupancy and increase the rent if possible depending on the rental market. We will make every attempt to balance the financial needs of the corporation with being a compassionate landlord. We will attempt to complete all needed repairs and updates to the property while maintaining a minimum of 3 months operating expenses in cash reserves.

— Jonathan Luk

Adult Formation Ministry

The goal of the Adult Formation ministry is to create viable and engaging opportunities for members of the St. Mark's community to deepen our faith in God; better understand ourselves and our

neighbors through the intellectual, emotional and spiritual discernment of God's presence in our lives; and apply this knowledge both individually and corporately in our daily practice of the Christian faith.

In response to the changing needs, resources, and challenges of this ministry, the clergy, staff, and Vestry Liaisons to Adult Formation (Kathy Gillam and Alex Dillard) streamlined the Adult Formation Commission, and in the absence of a Commission Chair, now lead the ministry in a smaller, more focused, and more staff-led way. In her role as Minister of Lifelong Formation, Debie Thomas continued the work of connecting and consolidating the various formation offerings of the church, and developing a broad vision for spiritual growth and deepening across the parish as a whole. This involved communicating with the various small group ministries in the church, encouraging more cross-pollination between their ministries, and asking "big picture" questions about the relationship between spiritual practice/growth, and faith-based engagement/activism.

The existing small groups at the church continued to thrive in 2022. Under the direction of Ken Bencala, and the administrative leadership of Marie Highby, the Good-Reads Book Discussion Group read Spirit-filled, typically modern Christian books, discussing a few chapters each week over Zoom. Also under Ken's leadership, the Tuesday Evening Scripture Discussion Group met online to read aloud from Scripture, share their responses with the group, and discuss application to the wider community. The St. Mark's Book Club (led by Debie Thomas) also met every month, at first on Zoom, and (by the summer of 2022) in person once again.

As the church continued to emerge from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Adult Formation ministry (in conjunction with other ministries, such as Becoming Beloved Community) offered a number of well-attended 50 minute Forums (both via Zoom and in-person) on subjects such as:

- Preparing for Death and Dying
- Friendly Voices – connecting with our elders
- Welcoming those with hearing impairments
- Introduction to Advent
- Becoming Beloved Community – Listening Skills
- Becoming Beloved Community: A Conversation with Julia Lythcott-Haims

We are grateful to everyone who helped make these forums happen. Special thanks to Ken Bencala, Michael Fitzpatrick, Mary Dillard, Marina Martin, Carol Scott, Debbie Clark, the Rev. Nikky Wood, and all members of the Becoming Beloved Community Task Force.

Additionally, in September of 2022, we formed a new small group called, "Living the Questions," for parishioners interested in deepening their faith through reading, study, prayer, and honest conversation about God, Christianity, and the Church.

Also this year, the Adult Formation Ministry helped the Children, Youth, and Family Commission to organize and host an “Advent Festival,” which included wreath making, dinner, and a candlelit Advent liturgy inside the church.

The future of Adult Formation at Saint Mark’s holds much promise, as we continue to vitalize our existing programs, and offer new formational opportunities for our parishioners. In 2023, we hope to expand our forum offerings; design some new weeknight courses on Episcopalian faith, spirituality, history, and practice; organize Lenten and summer book reads, and connect with newcomers through spring Inquirers Classes. As ever, we are deeply grateful for everyone who contributed to our programming this year!

–Kathy Gillam, Alex Dillard, Debie Thomas, and Matt McDermott

All Souls’ Memorial Garden

All Souls’ Memorial Garden is a sacred place to honor and remember loved ones who have passed on to the next life. The garden provides a place for cremated remains of deceased parish members, their families and others at the discretion of the Rector. The All Souls’ Memorial Garden Endowment Fund (slowly growing) affords our maintenance costs to be removed from our regular budget. We hope to continue to increase this endowment so that future maintenance and improvement may continue.

In 2013 the Landscape of Community capital campaign and the 2014 Landscape construction allowed us to expand the garden in order to have more future space for sacred burials, while also upgrading the existing garden. In 2016 we received a generous gift from former parishioner **Jan Hafner** (now interred in the garden) in memory of her daughter **Gaylen Hafner** (and in thanksgiving for the support of the St. Mark’s community). This gift is now being used for improvements and additional sacred monuments, such as the Celtic cross and the new plaque plinth on the exterior church wall. Also in 2018 a rock fountain, like the one in our courtyard, was designed and installed in honor of parishioner **Kenneth Vosti**. Interred in the garden in 2022:

- **Claude Madden**
- **Freeman Bradford**
- **Bernadine Einloth**
- **Sandra Gill**

May the souls interred and the souls of all the departed rest in peace.

— Rev. Matthew McDermott

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild creates and maintains an environment in the Church and Chapel that contributes to meaningful worship for everyone. We do this by preparing the Church and Chapel for worship services; preparing communion kits for the Lay Eucharistic Ministers; caring for the linens, vestments, and silver; assisting the clergy with special events such as baptisms; ordering supplies like communion wine; and baking communion bread.

There are people assigned to each weekend. We have a faithful team of dedicated and reliable members whose service is essential to the smooth running of the church. However, our ranks have thinned this past year and now we are down to just 4 members. If you would like to join us in 2023, or know someone who likes serving behind the scenes, please contact me.

— *Shin-Mee Chang, Chair*

Building and Grounds Commission

Mission:

The Building and Grounds Commission assists in providing a clean, safe, attractive, and functional environment for worship and community activities.

Membership:

Matt McDermott (Rector); Marius Milner (Vestry Liaison); Bruce Anderson; Burt Bell; Don Bennett; Simon Binns; John Frankfurt; Mary Murphy; Rich Kimble

Activities:

The commission oversees all major and regular maintenance and repairs with the rector, the staff and the parish leadership. Also, the group manages the replacement of the facility assets, organizes three parish workdays, and supports the Membership Commission in organizing the Community Faire.

2022 Highlights:

- Upgraded fire alarm system in church and throughout campus.
- Created new all-souls sites, maps, and survey.
- Replaced garden sprinkler system.
- Upgraded audio & streaming church system.
- Review the 5 Year Major Maintenance & Asset Replacement Reserve with the Treasurer.

2023 Objectives:

- Resolve Rectory patio and walkway issues.
- Repair/resurface kitchen floor.
- Add windows to office doors per insurance company safety report.
- Acquire metal shed for storage of paint and hazardous materials.
- Replace Rectory roof and garden fence.
- Need a new commission chair.

— Respectfully submitted by Marius Milner

Children, Youth, and Family Commission

Mission Statement:

The mission of the CYFC is to pass on our Christian faith and the Church's rich heritage and traditions to our children, and to support the spiritual growth of our families through meaningful programs, curriculum, worship, and community-building activities.

Ministry Highlights and New Developments:

Within our leadership:

Lily Dodge remained in both roles as Children's Minister and Youth Minister, also performing administrative duties previously assigned to Children's Director and Youth Director. Zareen Ahmad Brock has stepped up to help with volunteer coordination and ran the pageant. Commission leaders and members, Kathy Chen, Stuart Sailer, and Catherine Phillips, continue to support the ministry's work, liaise with vestry, coordinate events, etc.

Within the Children's ministry (ages 5-11):

We have worked hard to include children in our worship and ensure that everyone is a fully participating member of the congregation. To that end, we have:

- Worked with older volunteers to be "Worship Buddies" and sit with children during the service
- Established "liturgical jobs" that allow children to participate in various aspects of our service, including lighting candles, reading the dismissal, and carrying the offertory
- Created weekly "coloring bulletins" with liturgically relevant images and questions
- Provided age-appropriate ways for children to engage with parish-wide events, such as the Advent Eve dinner, the greening and de-greening, and Buildings & Grounds work days

- Run a children's program during the Parish Retreat

We also run weekly post-church programming specifically for the children, with spiritually formational activities, games, crafts, and conversation geared toward their developmental level. These have included:

- A "waiting" game to understand the season of Advent
- Thank you cards for the rest of the parish to connect with Stewardship season
- A "saints and symbols" scavenger hunt to connect with stories of saints and their iconography
- Welcome and advice cards for new babies born into the parish

We have also planned a number of events specifically for the children of the parish, including:

- A hike around a local park with horses
- A cooking evening for Hotel de Zink
- A pool party
- A service day to help organize the children's chapel

Within the Youth ministry (ages 12-18):

Youth ministry has proved challenging during the past year. St. Mark's is not alone in this struggle - other churches and organizations report that they have seen a significant drop-off in engagement among teens. It will likely be decades before we fully understand the unique impact that the pandemic plus heavy technology use has had on this particular generation, but it's obvious that fatigue, anxiety, and apathy are major influences.

We also face a specific challenge in that a handful of our most engaged teens recently turned 18 and/or graduated from high school and thus left our program. (While they are still welcome to participate in St. Mark's youth programming, they have become ineligible for diocese-wide events and other opportunities.)

In 2022, we had a few successes with youth programming, including a well attended and very fun Hotel de Zink cooking evening. We also ran a weekly youth group in the evenings for a while, and attendance was low but consistent among the few youth who did attend. Our teens are also often present at parish events such as the Advent Eve dinner, the greening and de-greening, etc.

We have not been able to maintain a consistent schedule of youth events. Invitations to larger diocesan events have been unsuccessful. Weekly youth group had such low attendance that we felt it was not an effective formational space, so we are taking a pause on that right now.

We are currently working to better understand the current needs of our teens and their families, then find more effective ways to meet those needs. To this end, we plan to send a casual survey to

the "Teens & Parents" Breeze list within the week and follow up with individual, personal phone calls to families for whom we have contact information.

We are also working to schedule community service events and opportunities for our youth, as those have historically been well attended and enjoyed.

Current Needs & Areas of Growth:

We continue to need more administrative support, particularly in the following areas:

Volunteer coordination, especially Safe Church documentation & weekly scheduling

Event planning, especially around food

For children's ministry, we need more volunteers to take the Safe Church trainings and be available as Worship Buddies during the 10am service or ministry volunteers during the children's programming.

For youth ministry, we also need Safe Church trained ministry volunteers for events as well as drivers to transport youth to and from events around the peninsula.

Compline/Evening Prayer

A group of laity take turns leading the Compline service via Zoom on weekdays (Monday-Friday, except Thursday) at 8pm. We use the online service at <https://bcponline.org/>, displaying it in the Zoom session so everyone can participate without needing a physical prayer book. The links for the Zoom sessions are on the main St. Mark's web page in the red section under Worship Services / Daily Prayer.

We also lead noontime prayer ("An Order of Service for Noonday") every Wednesday at 12:00. While this isn't Compline, it is similar, so is reported here.

We find these services are a convenient way to have corporate prayer from the convenience of our homes, and friendly discussion with like-minded parishioners and others. It gives us an opportunity to pray for our needs and others' needs.

Participants other than the leader generally number one to four, but occasionally there are no participants other than the leader. Participants are not limited to St. Mark's members, as we invite friends to participate. This is a valuable opportunity to reset our busy lives and focus on God. During the "Thanksgivings and Intercessions" part of the service, we offer thanks for events in our lives and pray for others in the world and in our parish.

The service usually lasts about 15 minutes, although we often have friendly discussions before or after the service. A leader agrees to lead the service regularly on a particular day, for example, every Tuesday. If the designated leader has a conflict, others offer to take over temporarily.

Coordinator: Terry Moore

Current and former leaders: Sandy Baran, Lena Chow, Iain Greensides, Diane Guinta, Ron Hodges, Jonathan Luk (noonday), Terry Moore

Congregational Vocations Commission

The Vocations Committee (“Lay Discernment Committee” or LDC in Diocesan documents) supports and journeys with members who feel called to ordained ministry (the priesthood or diaconate). The group meets regularly for conversation over the course of several months with the intention of mutual discernment of the Spirit’s guidance. The committee is also responsible for discerning whether each potential applicant is able to meet canonical guidelines for formal leadership in the Church and for offering a recommendation to the Vestry.

In 2022, a new Vocations Committee was formed: **Mildred Jones, David Kennedy, Martha Leveque-Eichhorn,** and **Jim McFall** have generously offered their time, thoughtfulness, and open spirits to discerning a call with **Debie Thomas**, who presented herself to the Rector for this process.

— *The Rev. Nikky Wood*

Contemplative Prayer

Mission Statement

The mission of St Mark’s Contemplative Prayer Ministry is to offer opportunities for everyone in our community and beyond to practice being still and listening for the voice of God that can sometimes be difficult to hear in our busy lives. We also endeavor to build a greater sense of community and support for those who are seeking to deepen their relationship with God through contemplative prayer.

Accomplishments

Prior to the pandemic Centering Prayer was offered for a half hour three times per week (Mondays at noon, Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.) Between two and ten people show up regularly. We also occasionally hold or participate in retreats or forums. The typical format is a

half-day retreat, with a combination of contemplative prayer practices and group discussion/sharing. Sessions presently take place in the Kennedy Room on Wednesdays at 8:15am (soon to be 8:30am) and Fridays at 9am. Thanks to Susan Dansker for coordinating the Friday session.

Goal

We would like to let more people know about the utility and benefit of these practices and encourage others to join us!

— *Matthew McDermott*

Diocesan Delegation

St. Mark's Diocesan and Deanery Delegates serve to connect our congregation to the Diocese of California, as well as the wider Anglican Communion. This year our delegation included Rev. Matt McDermott, Rev. Nikky Wood, Rev. Liz Milner, and Rev. Dr. Rebecca Lyman in the clergy order, plus lay delegates Robert Bell, Carla Bliss, Matthew Burt, Jonathan Harvey, and Terry Moore.

The 173rd Annual Convention met online Friday & Saturday, October 28 & 29, 2022. This was the third time the Convention took place online because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The additional year of experience with online meetings led to additional preparations for the convention, including the use of a mini website focused on the information pertinent to the convention and a much-improved application to facilitate voting.. The site is open to all interested parties:

<https://www.diocalconvention.org/>

Decisions reached by the convention are described at "CERTIFIED DECISIONS OF THE 173RD CONVENTION ARE AVAILABLE HERE." link on the web page cited above. Resolutions adopted include:

- Establish a program to provide Disability Sensitivity Training.
- Form a task force on Young Adult Ministries to consult with the Faith Formation Working Group to gather information on the ministry needs of young adults in the Bay Area and to make recommendations to meet those needs to the Diocese.
- Follow up on several recommendations made by the 2022 Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion.
- Investigate how to address the housing needs of clergy in the Diocese.
- Updated the Diocesan assessment formula and recommended clergy salaries.

As a subgroup, the Deanery of the Peninsula meets quarterly to lay the groundwork for the annual convention. Deanery members also provide local sponsorship for Bishop Marc's "Building the Beloved Community" initiative within the parishes.

In 2023, we will be selecting a new bishop to replace our Bishop Marc when he retires in 2024.

A sizable portion of the St. Mark's budget goes to the Diocese as part of our annual assessment, so our participation at the Diocesan Convention is important. Our delegation faces a transitional year in 2022 as long-time Convenor Romain Kang retired to devote time to being a Vestry member. As with other ministries at St. Mark's, we encourage interested parishioners to speak with us about joining the delegation.

— Terry Moore

E-Prep Commission

The E-Prep (Emergency Preparation) Commission has briefly resurfaced following its prior surge in activity several years before COVID.

The prior work focused on establishing practices to secure the safety of any persons on-site. A step forward is to renew communications and acceptance of these sound practices within the St. Mark's community. In 2022, prior communications with staff and vestry were circulated. There have been no specific requests for further work by the Commission.

Please contact Ken Bencala (kenbnc@hotmail.com) if you are interested in furthering Emergency Preparation at St. Mark's.

Endowment Trust

St. Mark's Endowment Trust was established in February 1985 to provide an opportunity for members of St. Mark's to contribute to a permanent endowment benefiting St. Mark's. The Endowment Trust is separate from the operating funds of the Parish. In May 2007, the original trust agreement was updated and The Amended and Restated Trust Agreement ("Amended Trust") was completed. The Amended Trust establishes two funds, the General Fund and the Major Maintenance Fund. The income from the General Fund can be used to support any activity of the Parish. Under the General Fund, sub-funds may also be created for specific uses. There are currently two sub-funds under the General Fund, the "All Souls Garden Fund" and the "Organ Fund". Neither the present principal amounts nor any future contributions to either fund can be spent. The earnings from the principal and the earnings from any future contributions are available for specific projects selected by the Vestry. The income / earnings from the Major Maintenance Fund can be used only for non-routine maintenance of St. Mark's facilities that are not regularly provided for in the annual operating budget.

Contributions to funds, by a gift or bequest, are always welcome. If a potential donor wishes to direct the use of his or her gift more closely than described (i.e., start a sub-fund of the General Fund), the Vestry and the Trustees must agree to the proposed conditions prior to acceptance of the gift.

During Fiscal Year 2022 (ended September 30, 2022), there was a distribution of \$10,000 from the All Souls Garden Fund to provide funding for maintenance and upkeep of the garden. There were no contributions during the past Fiscal Year.

This Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2022, the Trust assets decreased by \$246,519 (including the \$10,000 distribution) due to the depreciation in value of the investments which included negative equity and bond returns. In June of 2018, the Trustees decided to transfer the funds from stock and bond funds to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) which invests in equities, fixed income (bonds), hedge fund of funds and real estate. DFMS is an Episcopal based investment manager with over 25 years of experience incorporating Episcopal values for “Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investing.” DFMS administers over 1,300 individual trusts including the Diocese of California which has adopted a resolution to refrain from investing in fossil fuel companies as well as other exclusions such as weapons, tobacco, and “for profit” prisons.

The DFMS portfolio performance over the 2022 Fiscal Year period was -23.0% as compared to its custom benchmark return of -18.3%.

	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2021
TOTAL ASSETS	\$783,371	\$1,029,890
Trust Estate		
Major Maintenance	\$547,850	\$712,171
Gen Fund - All Souls Garden	\$206,891	\$280,502
Gen Fund – Organ Fund	\$28,630	\$37,217
Distributable Amount *		
Major Maintenance	\$181,155	\$345,476
Gen Fund - All Souls Garden	\$67,248	\$140,859
Gen Fund - Organ Fund	\$14,472	\$23,059

**Negative indicates no distributable funds available*

Four Trustees govern the Trust. Trustees may serve two consecutive four-year terms. We thank Susan Pines for her service and completion of her second term in January 2023. The Endowment is currently seeking a new trustee to serve and welcome any candidates. Please contact one of the trustees or Father Matt. Blessings.

TRUSTEES

Justin Martin
 Glen Kernick
 Peter Kidder
 New Trustee TBD

TERM EXPIRES

2024 (First Term)
 2025 (Second Term)
 2026 (First Term)
 2027 (First Term)

— Glen Kernick, Trustee & Chairperson

Finance Commission

Who are we

Matt McDermott (Rector), Beth Janopaul (564 Business Manager), Susan Pines (Treasurer) Maureen Kennedy (Treasurer Emeritus), Jonathan Luk (564 President) Mary Murphy (Maintenance Funding), Bryan Ford (Vestry Liaison) Paul Milo (Chair, 564 Director)

Purpose

Meeting monthly, we review St. Mark's Episcopal Church's main financial investments and programs; review the annual budget recognizing income/expense exposures and make recommendations to Rector/Vestry; support the Treasurer in preparation of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church annual budget; review requests for funding from commissions and make recommendations to Rector/Vestry; create new programs to develop the overall financial strength and stability of St. Mark's.

2022 Highlights

Finance commission meetings continued to be an excellent forum for the rector, treasurer and members to review St. Mark's Episcopal Church's main financial programs and investments; review performance against our budget and just talk about financial issues. Here are a few key items:

- Susan Pines continued as Treasurer. Maureen has also regularly attended finance meetings and supported provided general financial guidance
- Bryan Ford continued as Vestry Liaison
- Supported 564 Colorado Corp Management that had full occupancy through 2022
- Maintenance Funding: Mary provided monthly reports to Finance
- Amazon: Jonathan continued "Support St Mark's when you shop on Amazon!" offering a percentage of Parishioners purchases to St. Mark's Outreach
- Report to Vestry completed and offered New Vestry Financial Training as needed
- Maintained a Balanced Budget by Effective Monitoring
- Supported Treasurer in Development of St. Mark's Annual Budget
- Completed quarterly reviews with Endowment Trust
- Planned Giving: David Kennedy continued to lead the initiative

2023 Objectives

- Adaptation to a changing parish demographic and declining pledging units.
- Recruit one new member to replace Justin Martin

- Analyze income/expense results; offer advice and suggestions to Rector/Vestry as well as financial leadership; support fiscal responsibility in budgeting and budget achievement with commissions.
- Review Maintenance Schedule and Funding Sources
- Quarterly reviews with Endowment Trust
- Continue Amazon Smile to raise money for Outreach
- Monitor Donation Options: non cash alternatives, e.g. Paypal for donations
- Offer Finance Training of Vestry Elect and Leadership and Report to Vestry
- Maintain a Balanced Budget by Effective Planning and Monitoring
- Monitor trends and opportunities for Socially Responsible Investing
- Support Activities for Planned Giving Commission
- Legacy Society Promotion and Education
- New funding ideas: is present outreach ideal? Review at every Meeting

— Paul Milo, Chair

Flower Guild

Members: Cheryl Miller, Anne Anderson, Dan Brower, Louise Beattie, Jana Hesemans, Anne Vosti, Melodie Schubat, Cindy Price

- Our group has maintained its 8 committed members over the past year, each of whom are assigned a specific weekend to arrange the flowers in the church.

Mission Statement: To provide floral arrangements in the church (and chapel when needed) for Sunday services. To assist with decorations for various seasons of the church calendar as needed.

Whom do you serve: We serve the entire parish.

Accomplishments from last year

- Each week, Flower Guild members create flower arrangements for the 10am service in the church.
- The chapel urns continue to be utilized for smaller flower arrangements which sit on small tables flanking the altar in the church.
- The larger urns were utilized for the 2022 Easter service.
- Breeze has been helpful in notifying members of their flower arranging date(s).
- In August 2022, Louise arranged a training by local florist Kathryn Glazier who demonstrated the use of chicken wire in lieu of oasis (floral foam which does not biodegrade) for more

sustainable flower arrangements. A luncheon followed the training allowing the team to reconnect after so many months without face-to-face contact.

- Individual parishioners have contacted the Flower Guild if they want to pay for and dedicate the flowers to a loved one.

Areas to Strengthen/Consider

- Donations for flowers continue for Christmas and Easter. These donations are recorded.
- However, many of the flower arrangers buy flowers at local markets and cover the cost of the flowers themselves.
- We therefore do not have a good sense of the true cost of flowers. We might consider asking Flower Guild members to submit receipts even if they don't want reimbursement.

Leadership is shared among our members by phone, snail mail and email communication.

- Anne Vosti mails out calendars every 6 months requesting members to submit days they are available for flower arranging for the next 6 months. She then creates the calendar and mails it to members. Members are responsible for finding subs if they can't make their assigned date(s).
- Cheryl takes the lead in communication via Breeze and sends emails with timely information.

Our ministry members bring gifts of creativity, camaraderie, respect, cooperation, flexibility, pleasure in our work and growing friendships to this ministry.

Additional beneficial resources which would help in strengthening our ministry are;

- Funds for new copper urns if we resume use of the larger urns.

We thank/acknowledge members and participants in our ministry activities verbally and by e-mail (sometimes including photographs). Flower arrangers' names are now included each week in the bulletin for the service.

— *Respectfully, Cheryl Miller*

InReach Commission

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to minister to the needs of parishioners as they arise. These needs can take a variety of forms, but often include providing meals and/or transportation for people who are sick, disabled, or otherwise unable to provide for themselves.

Who we are:

InReach has about 20 active participants. All have joined InReach with the understanding that they will receive notifications of needs as they arise in our parish, and that they have made a commitment to respond, when able to meet those needs. Because we have 20 members, no one needs to feel pressured to respond to every need. Of note, there are some members who respond much more frequently than others.

Vestry liaison: Lena Chow

InReach Structure and Governance: The structure of InReach is flat. The leaders in 2022 were Rev. Matt and Ellen Vanderwilt. Committee members respond to needs as they are able. There are no formal meetings. Communication regarding identified needs is conducted by phone, email and text.

Activities in 2022:

Twenty InReach members provided meals and/or rides during a very busy 2022.

Meals: Fifty-four meals were lovingly prepared and provided to seven St. Mark's community members and their families in 2022. Four individuals/families needed assistance due to illness, two had suffered the loss of a family member and one family welcomed a new baby.

Rides: In Reach provided seven rides for medical treatment to one church member and one ride to another.

Plans for 2023:

In Reach will continue to respond to needs as they are identified in the coming year.

— *Respectfully submitted, Ellen Vanderwilt*

Lay Eucharistic visitors

Mission Statement

Our mission is to aid the clergy in the administration of the Eucharist to our congregation. This includes providing Lay Eucharistic Ministers to bear the chalice during regular Sunday church services; and Lay Eucharistic Visitation, in which we bring the Eucharist to members who are unable to attend those services.

Who we are

Prior to the pandemic there were six Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) and one priest registered in the group for this ministry. During normal times one or more LEVs is assigned each Sunday to:

- Provide Lay Eucharistic Visitation for those who cannot attend church, and report to the clergy the status of those members.
- Record each visit in the service book in the Vestry
- Bear the chalice for the corresponding 10AM service
- Seek out a substitute if unavailable for any of the above

The current list of LEVs includes: Debie and Kiran Thomas, Terry Moore and Bruce Anderson.

Activities in 2022

Prior to the Pandemic we had 2-3 people requesting an LEV on Sundays.

Plans for 2023

Be ready when safe to continue to respond to the needs of members who wish to receive a visit and Communion at home.

— *Rev Matthew McDermott*

Membership Commission

The Membership Commission's purpose is to encourage a welcoming and nurturing environment in the loving and diverse community that is St. Mark's. We do this by welcoming and integrating new members into our community, and helping them get involved with parish activities.

Highlights from 2022:

- The commission supported the Annual Community Faire in September.
- Greeters have been hosting the membership table where new members can stop and learn more about St. Marks after the service.
- There has been some increase in young adults attending.

Goals & Strategies for the Coming Year:

- The Membership Commission has been short-staffed this year, with Michele wearing many hats at St. Mark's and Marina having limited time. However Marina will have more time to dedicate to this work after February.
- Will need to recruit a new Co-Chair of Membership Commission when Michele Lienres relocates to Utah.
- Integrate the Greeters with Membership to rebuild the commission - without requiring frequent meetings or extensive responsibilities beyond days they do Greeting
- Support Inquirer's Classes and New Member Welcomes

- Work with clergy to streamline the workflow of the membership spreadsheet, outreach, and Breeze enrollment, and have clear owners for each stage of the process (newcomers to become members)
- Organize and run the Community Faire August 27, 2023

— Membership Team - Marina Martin and Michele Liencres

Music, Choir and Concerts

Mission Statement (from 2021 Music Survey):

Music is vital to the spiritual life at St. Mark's. Listening to and participating in music grounds us as a diverse community and deepens our experiences of the Holy. We have and will always treasure the classical tradition, yet we are also newly inspired, partially from our recent streaming experience during the pandemic, to explore the promise of a wider range of musical offerings. We find chanting from various traditions to be centering and also find that singing folk spirituals or summer camp/retreat songs or contemporary compositions that are both musically astute and lyrically meaningful is uplifting and conducive to deepening the souls of those gathered. In other words, we celebrate our musical tradition which has endured and remains worshipful while also enjoying new explorations that, offered with the same regard for theological integrity and musical quality, will nurture us in new ways.

2022 Activities:

This was my first full year as Music Director, and I remain so grateful to the choir and congregation for the opportunity to be part of the St. Mark's community! While the year got off to a slow start, as we once again closed to public worship in January and February, it was wonderful to prepare Haydn's Little Organ Mass for Easter Sunday, when we performed it together with a string trio. And a lovely Eastertide highlight was welcoming the **Ragazzi** boy choir to sing on Sunday May 1, thanks to the generosity of **Pat Roberts**.

For much of the spring and early summer, attendance in both choir and congregation remained low. However, since mid-August, we experienced something of a renaissance not only in numbers but also in the quality and range of music we have been able to share. **Randy Smith** and his musical colleagues put together a wonderful jazz Eucharist on Sunday August 28. And over the course of the Fall, **St. Mark's Choir** has consistently grown, with around six new members and a few former members returning, so we ended the year with over twenty regular participants.

Other musical highlights from the Fall included the outdoor service commemorating St. Francis and St. Clare on October 2 (let by Randy, Fr. Matt, and the choir), performing two Purcell anthems with a

guest cellist on October 23, and a celebratory All Saints' Sunday on November 6 with guest organist **Margaret Kvamme**, at which we sang Bainton's majestic anthem "And I saw a new heaven", and at the conclusion of which Margaret and I played an organ duet (on two organs)!

Our Advent and Christmas music this year was particularly beautiful, and we offered the thirty minute musical prelude on Christmas Eve from the rear balcony using the antiphonal organ—what a fantastic and unique resource to have instruments at both ends of the Church!

Particular thanks go to our volunteer librarian **Terry Forrest**, who has helped keep our music in order throughout the year, and to our section leaders **Dan Galpin and Susan Hogben**, who also served as cantors periodically.

We are blessed to have many great instrumentalists at St. Mark's—in addition to Randy, whom I already mentioned, we were very fortunate to have **Zakir Ahmad** play trumpet at the Christmas Pageant Eucharist.

I am also delighted that we have resumed regular organ concerts on our beautiful **Casavant Organ**. Joy-Leilani Garbutt played in October, and we have two more recitals scheduled for February and May. **Roger Inkpen**, our technician, continues to address some of the deferred maintenance needs of the instrument, and we await the arrival of our new adjustable bench in January 2023!

Conclusion

I am excited to continue the momentum we gained in the Fall of 2022 heading into the New Year. This will hopefully include continuing to find ways to incorporate different instruments and a range of musical styles into worship, and to continue to foster the musical participation of our children. St. Mark's is widely regarded as a premier concert venue, and I hope to find more ways to partner with other musical groups, and for the choir to have the opportunity to work further with guest leaders and/or accompanists. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for your continued support of music at St. Mark's.

— *Matthew Burt*

Mystic Contemplation in Stillness

MCS offers an opportunity each Sunday to sit in stillness to contemplate the wisdom of diverse mystical traditions. We gather about 9:15, socially distanced, on Sundays in the Kennedy Room and wrap up about 9:45, which is conveniently in time for the service. We are currently working through *The Essential Mystics*, a collection of short excerpts from various mystical traditions, and read one excerpt each week before entering stillness. We conclude with a prayer or passage from the Book of Common Prayer.

We have a consistent handful of dedicated contemplators each Sunday and have enjoyed starting to meet in person again.

— Alex Dillard

Office Report

The Administration team continued to work through the challenges of returning to normal post pandemic. Now that the pandemic has ebbed, our goal is to have an Office Manager who will work in the office at least three days a week.

Kate Clover left us in the late spring in order to pursue her teaching career. We have been unable to fill the role of office manager due to the area-wide staffing shortage for this type of position. We are currently working to reshape the position to have a better chance of finding a qualified candidate.

In the meantime, different staff have stepped up to manage all of the necessary tasks that the Office Manager performs.

Katie Yates, who has been an integral part of the team for many years, has continued to work remotely for us creating the weekly e-newsletter plus pitching in for various projects. We remain deeply grateful for her commitment to the success of St Mark's and support for the administrative team.

Matthew Burt has taken over creation of all of the service bulletins for Sundays and other specials services and events. His expertise in this area has been a huge blessing for which we are extremely grateful.

Nadine O'Leary volunteers weekly and helps LeeAnne in the office with a variety of different special projects and tasks that literally would never happen without her. She is assisting with sorting and organizing records, organizing and maintaining all of the records for the All Souls Garden, and helping to digitize various parish records and materials for easier access and use. She's also been a huge source of moral support for LeeAnne and we are very grateful for her presence on Tuesdays.

LeeAnne McDermott takes care of the financial administrative tasks, maintains the web site and Breeze, orders supplies and interfaces with vendors for our various software and systems, oversees volunteers, works on special annual projects such as Stewardship, and attempts to keep up with all of the other tasks that the Office Manager would normally perform.

The biggest change this year has been the explosion of use of our space by outside groups. We've hosted at least 20 events a month not counting our many regular groups who meet once or twice a week. A huge chunk of LeeAnn's time is spent coordinating the calendar between church and

outside use, scheduling and communicating with groups, invoicing, billing and then hosting the actual events. We are currently booking events well into 2024!!

LeeAnne's favorite part of her job is writing the weekly History article for the Parish newsletter. It's not really part of her job but she pretends it is because it's something that gives her a lot of joy!

— *Business Manager, LeeAnne McDermott*

Outreach Alliance Commission

Mission Statement

The Outreach Alliance Commission's mission is to find local and global opportunities to serve, with input from the congregation. We research and organize outreach activities (including hands-on) and encourage our fellow parishioners to participate, along with ourselves. We believe that as a church family we can make a difference in our local and global communities. Since 2019, our focus has been delving into issues of homelessness and housing insecurity.

Our members

We have a significant number of congregants join in outreach activities and/or who have received information about outreach activities. **Carla Bliss, Susan Dansker, Anne Callahan, Mildred Jones, Mary Beth Train, Ellen Vanderbilt, Martha Chan, Trudi Reinhart, Christine Shambora, Diane Guinta, Rob Nielson, Tita Graebner, Susan Pines, Consuelo Beck-Sague, Michelle Gallagher, Jenny Jordan, Marueen Kennedy, Peter Kidder, Brie Linkenhoker, Jonathan Luk, Marina Martin, Lorna Paisley, Virginia Rock, Jessica Shambora, Peter Shambora, Mego Tracy, Peter Jon Shuler and many others.**

Co-Chairs: **Katie Fantin/Carla Bliss**

Vestry Liaisons: **Margalynne Armstrong/Lena Chow**

Clergy: **Nikky Wood**

Activities in 2022

This past year, in our local community, we served the following organizations through hands-on service and/or providing in kind donations:

LifeMoves

- A linens drive for Life Moves and Hotel de Zink
- A series of HDZ announcements that told the story of one or a few unhoused folks
- Hosting 15 unsheltered guest in August at St Mark's at Hotel De Zink

ProjectWeHOPE:

Advent giving tree recipient

CIC: Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy (Jail ministry overseen by Rev Liz Milner)

- A jail Ministry forum lead by Rev Liz
- Advent giving tree recipient
- Individual parishioners have provided books etc for those incarcerated
- Participated in Sunday evening worship services in women's jail
- Provided over 400 Christmas cards and stamps from congregants for those incarcerated to send to their families

The Food Closet

We have provided support to those operating the food closet by publicizing needs and supporting logistically. Donations of food and monetary donations to the Food Closet continued even during the pandemic. These donations helped the Food Closet deliver food donations to those who cannot leave their homes. **Michelle Gallagher**, along with several other St. Mark's parishioners coordinate the collection and delivery efforts.

Advent Giving Tree

Advent Giving Tree & Service Project. The St. Mark's Advent Giving Tree has historically served one local nonprofit and one international nonprofit. This year, the beneficiaries are: Project We Hope and Elmwood Jail Ministry (CIC). had the kids do the tags on the giving tree.

Other Activities :

Katie Fantin presented an outreach connected stewardship sermon

Outreach chair provided Advent reflection

Supported the St Mark's CROP walk team, facilitated by Mary Beth Train

Supported Organizations

The following organizations were supported with 2022 funds from the Outreach Designated account, many of them focused on housing and homelessness. As a reminder, 100% of the plate offering now goes to Outreach and these contributions totaled \$5265 for 2021. Additional contributions were made through the Advent giving tree and individual donations processed through St Mark's.

Absalom Jones Fund (HBCU)	\$1,000
LifeMoves	\$3,000
Sogorea Te' Land Trust	\$1,290
AFEDJ	\$320 (Diocese of Jerusalem, from 2022 Good Friday service)
CIC Ministries:	\$4570 (designated giving, plus \$1825 from Advent Giving Tree)
Project We Hope:	\$775 (designated giving plus \$625 from Advent Giving Tree)
Episcopal Impact fund:	\$560.91
Total:	\$11,515.91

Plans for 2023

- To lean into supporting CIC Ministries (jail ministry) as a significant number of St Mark's congregants participate in this ministry.
- To create a plan for a community wide outreach activity in person after the holidays. This may mean exploring Project We Hope or other opportunities (i.e Youth Community Services, which Lena Chow is exploring), with a priority on intergenerational activity.
- To create a framework for how to decide with ministries/activities are considered "outreach commission affiliated" .
- Debrief Hotel De Zink and consider other ways to help the congregation participate.
- To connect with the Becoming Beloved Community task Force to consider partnering for Lent
- To investigate the idea of providing a safe parking program at St Mark's.
- To engage additional congregational opportunities , including Bay Area Furniture Bank

— Katie Fantin/Carla Bliss

Planned Giving and St. Mark's Legacy Society

Planned Giving is designating in your estate plan one or more charitable organizations to receive a portion of your estate when you pass. Planned gifts can take many forms, including a simple bequest, a designation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy, and more complex arrangements such as a charitable gift annuity. The latter can provide both current income and tax advantages to the donor. The motivation for most of us in making a planned gift to St. Mark's is a strong belief in St. Mark's as a place of worship and the work it is doing in the community, and a desire to help ensure that worship and work will continue into the future.

In 2010, the St. Mark's Vestry established a formal Planned Giving program along with the St. Mark's Legacy Society to recognize those who have remembered St. Mark's in their estate plans, wills or living trusts. As of the end of 2022, 19 members have advised us that they have designated St.

Mark's as a beneficiary of some portion of their estate and are therefore members of the Legacy Society. St. Mark's was advised of three bequests during 2022 which will be added to the Endowment Trust when received.

If you have remembered St. Mark's in your estate plan please tell Rev. Matt McDermott or **David Kennedy** and you will become a member of the St. Mark's Legacy Society. Generally, unless otherwise designated, bequests and other planned gifts are added to the St. Mark's Endowment Trust.

Even if you do not feel able to make a planned gift to St. Mark's or other organizations, it is important that you have a will or living trust. Wills are not just for the elderly! The lack of a will or trust can result in serious problems for your surviving family. This is particularly important if you have minor children so even a simple, properly executed will is important for everyone.

— *David Kennedy*

Sacred Ground/Becoming Beloved Community Commission

Mission Statement:

In June 2022 the Sacred Ground Commission changed its name to the Becoming Beloved Community Commission. This reflects the national Episcopal Church initiative of the same name. Our mission remains the same: to be an incubator for education, becoming beloved community and action to combat systemic racism and build racial justice.

Our members:

Margalynne Armstrong, Andrew Bridges, Anne Callahan, Alex Dillard, Mary Dillard, Bryan Ford, Ellen Ford, Kathy Gillam, Gail Grant, Diane Guinta, Jonathan Harvey, Lynn Johnson, Peter Kidder, Michele Liencres, Rebecca Lyman, Cheryl Miller, Terri Moore, Rev. Matt McDermott, Trudi Reinhardt, Carol Scott, and Debie Thomas.

Activities in 2022

Over the course of the year, we met 8 times either as a subgroup or as the whole. During the 2022 Lenten season we carried out these activities:

- Led a series of Sunday of small group discussions during the Sunday forum hour on becoming beloved community using curriculum from the national Episcopal church
- Coordinated parish read discussions, led by Margalynne Armstrong and Rebecca Lyman, on the book *The Church Cracked Open* by Canon Stephanie Spellers
- Worked with Rev. Matt McDermott to include brief testimonials by Sacred Ground participants about how they had been changed by their participation in the program

- Coordinated with Rev. Matt to bring as a guest preacher, Rev. Jemonde Taylor, an Episcopal priest now in North Carolina who attended St. Mark's when he was getting his master's degree in engineering at Stanford and who knew Rev. Matt then.
- In addition, Rev. Matt arranged to have a copy of the stained-glass window given to the 16th Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama depicting a black Jesus, put up in the sanctuary for the Easter season.

Following Lent, we collated the many ideas that had come from the Lenten discussions and earlier meetings to discern next steps. We divided into two main working subgroups: formation and action. Another subgroup is focusing on prison ministry as social justice action.

The formation subgroup developed these priorities:

- Provide opportunities for everyone in the parish to have exposure to the knowledge and goals gleaned from Sacred Ground and the call to Become Beloved Community
- Engage with groups that have been discriminated against and ask to learn about their experiences, with the goal of becoming effective allies
- For ourselves, learn to be better listeners, since one of the first steps toward reconciliation is truly hearing the stories of others' experiences.
- Focus on the November elections by informing the parish about non-partisan opportunities to learn more about candidates and issues

The action subgroup identified these priorities:

- To engage in listening to parishioners and those in the community about their families' experiences in local education
- To reach out to local congregations of persons of color to listen and learn how to become better allies and also to see if there is any interest in joining together to restart a Bright Lights program.

The social justice/prison reform subgroup will begin its work by sponsoring a January Forum led by Rev. Liz Milner.

We began to act on these priorities in the following activities:

- In September, members of the formation group distributed materials about the November elections online and in paper form in the narthex.
- In October we hosted an in-person discussion with Julie Lythcott-Haims, local author, on her experiences as a mixed-race Stanford student and Palo Alto resident. Also in October Diane Guinta and Kathy Gillam had a virtual meeting with the Executive Director of the Ramaytush Ohlone Association to explore possible collaborations, and Diane had a similar meeting with Pastor Kaloma Smith of the University AME Zion Church.

- In December we held a Forum discussion on deep listening led by Carol Scott, Mary Dillard and Mary's daughter, Katie.
- Rev. Matt is continuing to display more inclusive art above the alter.

Goals for 2023

- To continue to implement the priorities described above.
- To continue to find ways to involve the entire parish in learning of the sort that took place during the Sacred Ground program
- To develop opportunities for actions that address racial disparities and injustice.

Plans for 2023

- Starting January 11, we will be holding monthly meetings.
- January 22: We will have a forum presentation by Rev. Liz Milner on prison ministry and social justice.
- Ideas under discussion
 - An outside speaker event open to the community, for which admission could be charged. An example would be Pamela Cooper-White, author of *The Psychology of Christian Nationalism* (Episcopal priest, psychologist, faculty member at Union Theological Seminary). Another potential speaker is Jonathan Cordero, PhD ethnographer, speaking on "The Impact of the Mission System on Indigenous People."
 - Engagement in the work of the California Reparations Task Force; in addition, Rev. Matt is looking into the National church work on reparations.
 - Exploration of the added session of the Sacred Ground curriculum (Session #11), for possible use at St. Mark's (Cheryl Miller is looking into this.)
 - Lent 2023: Small group book discussion on a topic related to becoming beloved community, perhaps with a speaker

— Diane Guinta, Kathy Gillam, Trudi Reinhardt

Stewardship Commission

Our mission is to invite all parishioners to be good stewards, i.e., to be caretakers, of our faith community by returning in thankfulness a portion of all the blessings we have received from God so this community can further its work. Among our many blessings are the time we are given on this earth, our talents, and our financial resources.

The theme for this year's stewardship work was Rooted and Rising: Together we A-Spire. Gratitude was also stressed again. In gratitude for all that we have received, we come together to share a portion of our time, talents, and money so that our parish community remains strong and our outreach to the broader community can flourish.

The major activity for the Stewardship Commission, then, is to first care for each member of our parish by making a personal contact by phone if possible, and inviting everyone to participate in the new Church program year beginning in September. During October through December, we then invite everyone to care for the parish as a whole by making a promise of support in terms of time and talent as well as financial resources for the coming year.

Specific activities include:

- Coordinating members of the vestry, ministry leaders, and a few extraordinary volunteers to help make contact and check in with every parishioner at the end of the church year in May, at the beginning of the church program year in the fall, and again in October (in this month to check on the receipt of the stewardship mailings and invite to the Stewardship Brunch). Full coverage of the parish requires 20-25 callers. Instituted in fall, 2013, this personal contact has become an invaluable way to check in with each parishioner, to invite them to upcoming events, and to be sure that we have the correct contact information for church communications. We give thanks to all of you who gave your time to this important ministry this year, and especially to **Brent Welch** who organized the calling process, and our volunteer callers (other than the Clergy, Vestry and the Stewardship Commission).
- Working with the Finance Commission, Vestry, and Rector to understand the needs of the parish that require parishioner support.
- Working with the Rector and Vestry to develop Stewardship mailing materials to provide clear and comprehensive information about parish needs for volunteers and financial support and to prepare these materials for mailing. We give thanks to **LeeAnne McDermott**, our intrepid business manager, for stepping in to create this year's Stewardship Brochure and thanks to **Anne Vosti** for once again stuffing, stamping, and mailing all of the materials.
- Organizing the annual Stewardship kick off brunch to open the campaign and share budget plans and needs with the parish. Due to the continuing pandemic, we were unable to gather in the Parish Hall again, but offered outdoor seating and tables on the labyrinth. We gathered and were reminded of the grounds as well as the community and the buildings. Many thanks to **Carol Scott** for coordinating this year's brunch. Thank you also to the 13 plus community members who helped slice and dice, cook and plate soup and salad for 100.
- Inviting parishioners to write articles for the Messenger Lite and the Stewardship webpage that share their perspectives on the blessings of being a part of St. Mark's and their views on pledging to support the church. This year we featured one article on gratitude and/or artistic

representation of gratitude and aspiring each week. Many thanks to: **Katie Fantin**, a series of photos of the brunch, **Pat Roberts, LeeAnne McDermott** article on history, **Peter Kidder and Lynn Johnson, Rebecca Lyman, Lily and the youth group.**

- And special thanks **LeeAnne McDermott** for stats, web design and posting of articles.
- Inviting a parishioner to provide a special sermon on stewardship. We give thanks to **Katie Fantin.**
- Providing follow-up reminders via email, announcements at Sunday services, articles in the weekly Messenger Lite, and if necessary, personal phone calls to encourage parishioners to submit their pledges in a timely way. We give thanks to **LeeAnne McDermott** for keeping meticulous records and providing timely updates as to our progress.
- Creating thank you notes to be sent promptly upon receipt of pledges. Thanks to **Anne Vosti** for doing the mailing of these notes on a timely basis.
- Praying ceaselessly that our needs will be met and that we will make wise use of the resources entrusted to the Church's care.

The most recent update on 12/15/22 is: we have received 128 pledges (74% of pledging units) for 2022, meeting 86% (\$627,910) of our ambitious goal of \$728,300. By comparison in 2021, we had received 146 pledges (81% of pledging units) for 2022, meeting 93% (\$665,501) of our ambitious goal of \$707,100. St. Mark's is truly remarkable in that typically at least 85 percent or more of our active parishioners make some level of financial commitment. We give thanks to everyone in the parish who pledged their participation in church activities and/or financial support for 2023.

Good stewardship requires the dedicated efforts of a large number of people. This year **Carol Scott** stepped back in to assist us, we could not have done it without her! The campaign could not be done without the support of all parishioners and we encourage everyone to become involved and share the responsibility for caring for the parish. It is a great way to minister to our community and to get to know others outside the comfort of your immediate circle of friends. The official members of the Commission this year were Mego Tracy and Brent Welch, co-chairs, and outstanding vestry liaison **Andrew Bridges** for his insight, point of view and encouragement. It was his idea to track only the percentage of pledges for the first half of the drive. We are deeply grateful for all of the many participants in this effort. Join us next year!

— *Mego Tracy, Carol Scott and Brent Welch*
Stewardship Co-chairs

Technology for Streaming

Purpose

To make worship and other events accessible to anyone who is unable to attend in person.

Members

Nikky Wood, Jonathan Guillen, Asa Degeller, Marius Milner, Romain Kang, Kristen Good, Don Bennett, Zareen Ahmad

What we did in 2022

- We streamed 60 events, which were viewed live over 3200 times over 1900 hours in real time. Playbacks brought this total to nearly 8100 views and 2500 hours.
- We hired Jonathan Guillen and Asa Degeller as technical producers.
- We assisted hybrid forums/meetings (with in-person and remote attendees).

Goals and hopes for 2023

- Move control desk to St Nicholas Chapel, pending delivery of hardware that has been on order since 2021. The new location and improved hardware will allow additional video and audio inputs for better sharing of our experiences with remote users.
- Hire an additional technical producer to operate the livestream in alternation with Asa, as our other producer Jonathan has moved to Fresno, but continues to do some of the most time-consuming livestream preparation tasks.
- Continue to keep technology out of the way: if you notice it, we're doing it wrong.
- Adapt to the ongoing changing situation with the pandemic.

Women's Commission

The Saint Mark's Women's Commission is chaired by **LeeAnne McDermott** and co-chaired by **Melodie Shubat**. The commission's goal is to foster increased fellowship and spiritual growth among the women of St. Mark's, as well as to provide pastoral care and support to the women of the Parish as needed.

Current Activities

- Women's Teas - this past year weekly via Zoom!
- Annual Women's Retreat
- Sponsorship of the Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Women of St. Mark's on Facebook

Goals

This past year we were forced to cancel the Women's Retreat due to the pandemic, but were able to find new ways to connect with one another virtually. We look forward to being able to gather together again in person, and will continue to support one another as best we can until we are able to do so.

— *LeeAnne McDermott, Chair*

A St. Mark's Review Of The Last Twenty Years

LOOK WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER! (AS OF JANUARY, 2023)

- Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. (four classes: infant, toddler, pre-school, K-1, 2-3, 4-5)
- Expanded Lenten Series
- Teen Confirmation Class
- Adult Confirmation Program (Inquirer's Classes)
- Parish Prayer Calendar
- Jubilee Committee (50th Celebration)
- Sunday Junior and Senior High Youth Group Program
- Parenting Classes
- Faith-Full Families Programs
- Women's Ministry (Retreats, Book Group, Xmas Tea, etc.)
- Men's Breakfasts
- Parish Retreats
- Leadership Task Force
- Long-Range Vision Task Force and Plan
- Sexual Abuse/Misconduct Awareness Training and Policy
- Jordan Middle School Homework Center
- Peninsula Interfaith Action Events
- 20's & 30's Young Adult Events
- New Presenters for Adult Forum
- Healing Ministry
- Bright Lights Children's Music Outreach
- Successful Capital Campaign
- Capital Campaign Completion
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors Ministry
- Construction Committee for new Program Space
- Construction complete – remodeling and new building
- 50-Minute Forum
- Liturgical Arts Team
- Benefit Concerts
- Godly Play Curriculum
- Meditation/Centering Prayer
- Mezzanine (Young Adult Program)
- Hosting Diocesan Events
- Teen Core Leadership
- New Creative "Hands On" Outreach Efforts
- Adult Outreach Mission trips
- Youth Commission
- Youth Mission Trips
- Communication Committee
- Commission for the Environment
- Companions Small Groups
- Parish Dinners
- Advent Eve Dinner
- Advent Series
- Youth Advocacy Outreach
- Contemplative Prayer Workshops/Retreats
- Emergency Preparation Task Force
- Landscape Renovation
- New Church Management Software
- Support of Amélie's Angels
- Children's Chapel
- Parish Book Read
- Elmwood Jail Ministry
- New Website Development
- Virtual Streaming Services/Programs
- Living the Questions' Adult Formation Class

Personnel Changes

- Addition of Youth Ministers
- Addition of Paid Nursery Care Providers
- Addition of Seminarians and Pre-Seminarian Interns
- Addition of Deacons
- Addition of Full-time Associate Rector
- Addition of Part-time Assisting clergy
- Addition of Ordination candidate in Seminary
- Addition of Part-time Sexton
- Addition of three part-time staff for Children, Family and Youth Ministries
- Addition of Part-time Office Administrators
- Addition of Part-time Business Administrator

Vital Statistics for 2022

Baptisms:

Edward Williams, Anders Joseph Giovanola, Juliette Milo-Mohajer

Marriages :

Zareen Bos Ahmad and Spencer Joseph Brock
Sherin Susan Thampi and Pooya Shareghi Arnane

Memorials and Burials:

Claude Madden, Cynthia Miller, Freeman Bradford, Joseph Manganaro, Cosette Dudley, Bernadine Einloth, Shirley Ely, Sandra Gill

Parish Pledging History

YEAR	TOTAL BUDGET	PLEGDED AMOUNT	# OF PLEDGE UNITS
1996	\$219,636	\$159,950	98
1997	\$223,269	\$163,000	106
1998	\$268,200	\$210,000	115
1999	\$328,200	\$233,000	123
2000	\$381,144	\$270,000	133
2001	\$424,400	\$296,200	142
2002	\$430,385	\$328,900	150
2003	\$442,210	\$353,952	162
2004	\$483,100	\$378,892	167
2005	\$503,600	\$408,021	182
2006	\$540,500	\$437,118	192
2007	\$579,500	\$453,000	190
2008	\$627,600	\$508,000	191
2009	\$641,600	\$512,000	196
2010	\$636,800	\$511,000	196
2011	\$646,600	\$522,801	193
2012	\$665,000	\$545,715	190
2013	\$681,400	\$567,195	202
2014	\$714,400	\$583,561	201
2015	\$729,000	\$598,000	198
2016	\$749,000	\$616,000	198
2017	\$763,000	\$630,000	194
2018	\$776,600	\$644,000	180
2019	\$806,800	\$677,903	182
2020	\$825,000	\$690,300	185
2021	\$791,900	\$705,661	177
2022	\$796,000	\$707,609	177

Vestry Strategic Long Range Plan

2015-2020

Three Areas of Opportunities will help St. Mark's to become a more engaged, faithful, meaningful, and vibrant faith community *

Opportunities for Connection & Growth

We are inspired to create measurable plans and strategies to increase opportunities for people to gather and connect to each other in small groups, one-off gatherings or special events. These gatherings vary and may include social events as well as program groups (small groups, classes or forums) and Ministry Teams (Commissions, working groups or task forces)

Opportunities to Discern Spiritual Gifts & Talents

We are inspired to develop and support efforts to increase the discernment of our parishioner's gifts/talents and encourage the sharing of these gifts and talents with the community so that our ministries are strengthened and our parishioners and leaders are nourished spiritually by their contributions. These myriad gifts and talents are both spiritual and practical in nature in that all gifts shared serve to strengthen both the individuals offering them and the community as a whole.

Membership and Leadership Expectations

We are inspired to define and communicate to the parish the expectations of (general) parish membership and the expectations of any participation in the life of the parish, especially participation in Ministry Teams and any leadership roles for both Ministry Teams and the Vestry.

* Inspired by the research and tenants of the book "Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop "Doing Church" and Start Being the Church Again" by Albert L. Winsman, we commit to employing a Long Range Plan in order to establish comprehensive action plans and detailed strategies for each year following.