



# 2025 Annual Report

## Table of Contents

Annual Meeting Agenda (February 1, 2026)

### REPORTS

Annual Meeting Agenda	2	2026 Budget Summary	9
The Rector's Report	3	Finance Commission	10
Vital Statistics for 2025	4	Endowment Trust	11
Wardens and Vestry Report	5	564 Corporation	12
Diocesan Delegation	6	Building and Grounds Commission	13
Financial Reports	7	Stewardship Commission	14
		Nominee Bios	16

# Annual Meeting Agenda

February 1, 2026

## Meeting Agenda

- Calling the Meeting to Order
- Elections
  - o Vestry Nominees
  - o Deanery/Diocesan Delegates
  - o Deanery/Diocesan Alternates
  - o Endowment Trustee Confirmation
- Stewardship Report
- Treasurer's Report
  - o Presentation of 2025 Financial Reports
  - o Presentation of 2026 Budget
  - o Q&A
- Candelmas Procession

**Jonathan Luk**

**Jonathan Luk**

**Mego Tracy & Carol Scott**

**Susan Pines**

*If you have candles from home to be blessed, please come forward to the altar at the conclusion of the business meeting. After the blessing of the candles, lit votives will be distributed while the choir sings an anthem. Following the Deacon's dismissal, we will follow the choir with our lit candles in procession to the Parish Hall.*

Hymn in Procession to the Brunch

*We are marching in the light of God.*

*Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'*

*Marcharemos en la luz de Dios*

## Brunch Agenda - Part II (Parish Hall)

- Grace
- Announcements
- Ministry and Church-building Awards
- Parish Slide Show

[saint-marks.com/governance](http://saint-marks.com/governance)



## The Rector's Report

*From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)*

Grace, upon grace, upon grace. My prayers every day begin with thanksgivings for God's bounty here at St. Mark's. I am full-up, truly joyful about the start of my ministry with you all.

The welcome of the transition committee, our first Sunday together, the parish retreat, our Stewardship in-gathering, the Vestry retreat in November, the many fellowship meetings and pastoral conversations that I have had with you, leave me feeling that St. Mark's is a community alive in the Spirit. We have extraordinary staff, beautiful and well-maintained facilities, strong worship, music, financial management and governance. But I notice God's gifts most when I hear how the members of our parish are committed to doing God's work—worshipping, praying, studying, loving one another and reaching out beyond our walls to our neighbors.

I see that we are starting new ministries, and deepening our commitment to ones that define us. I love our jail ministry, our commitment to Abode and the Opportunity Center, I love our new work with the Day Workers' Center. The Becoming Beloved Community Task Force is expansive in its vision for how the work we started with Sacred Ground can continue with community forums, films and discussions. The Men's Breakfast, the Women's Tea (and planned Retreat), the Book Groups and Bible Study are all centers of connection and care. Our music program supports our joyful worship and is working on new collaborations. New ideas about parent groups, young adult fellowship and the new nursery affirm our identity as a multi-generational church where every person young and old is recognized as a beloved member of God's family.

I know God's bounty when I see the hundreds of neighbors who use our facilities, who bring music, dance, healing conversations and movement to so many neighbors. I know that I am in the right place when I pray with the people who stop by hungry for a connection and needing a grocery card or a little financial support. I know that we are not alone as I begin to meet with sister Episcopal Churches on the Peninsula and our multi-faith community who are committed to God's justice.

In our world today, there are economic, social and political forces that divide and isolate us. There is the harsh reality of injustice, poverty, climate devastation and violence. But St. Mark's is, and can continue to be, a place of hope that banishes fear, connection that overcomes isolation, and love that reflects God's love for all of God's creation.

I am so happy to be with you all and look forward to our ministry together in 2026

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rev. Kirsten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

# Vital Statistics for 2025

## Baptisms

Henry Waiman Nickodemus (March 2, 2025)  
Samuel Baker Jones (May 11, 2025)  
Arden Lydia Addy (May 11, 2025)  
Giacomo Rad Resmini (June 8, 2025)  
Augustus Leveque-Eichhorn (June 8, 2025)  
Maya Grace Leveque-Eichhorn (June 8, 2025)  
Zachary Patrick Herrmann (June 8, 2025)

## Confirmations

by The Right Rev. Austin K. Rios on May 31, 2025 at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco:

Kalea Chen  
Leilani Chen  
Aria Folkerts  
Annelise Sailer  
Nicholas Sailer

## Memorials, Burials and Commendations

Mary Marshall Wagner (March 8, 2025)  
Willis G. (Will) Haymaker (March 15, 2025)  
Carol Jean Scott (March 19, 2025)  
Elena Maria Folkerts (March 28, 2025)  
Paul Wendell Hansen Highby (May 11, 2025)  
Francis Carroll Wright (Buffy) Welch (May 31, 2025)  
Juan (John) Luna Rangel (July 25, 2025)  
Holly Matchette (September 13, 2025)  
Albert B. Klay (November 3, 2025)  
Susan Kravitz (December 11, 2025)  
David Mike Hamilton (December 12, 2025)

## Wardens and Vestry Report

The Vestry is St. Mark's governing body and working Board of Directors. The St. Mark's Vestry has 12 elected members who serve staggered three-year terms, plus the Rector. 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 upon the spiritual and practical health of St. Mark's parish and plan for the coming year.

Typically two members of the Vestry hold the office of Warden. During our rector search and transition, we have had three wardens. 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 monthly Vestry meetings. The Wardens and the Rectors make up the Vestry Executive Committee (VEC). The VEC meets weekly to review parish matters and prepare the agenda for upcoming Vestry meetings.

The current Vestry members include **Jonathan Luk (Senior Warden), Cheryl Miller (Junior Warden), Tom Jenkins (Junior Warden), Crystal Larsen, Randy Smith, Jonake Bose, Martha Chan, Marina Martin, Susan Dansker, Iain Greensides, Stuart Sailer, Tom Schnaubelt, and The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding (Rector)**. Meetings include Rev. Kirsten, Rev. Nancy, Susan Pines (Treasurer), and Martha Leveque-Eichhorn (Clerk of the Vestry).

The theme for Vestry for much of 2025 was "transition." Reflecting over the past year, it is remarkable how much good work was accomplished even as we waited and looked forward to our new rector. Continuing from Fall 2024 into the first few months of 2025, Vestry worked with the Rector Search Committee as they prepared the application materials for a new rector, including the St. Mark's parish profile based on numerous surveys and round tables. In February, the diocese published our parish profile and we awaited submission of applications. During this waiting time, Vestry continued to work with Interim Rector Rev. Nick Roosevelt to prepare for the arrival of our new rector. Plans were initiated to convert the first-floor room next to the stairs to a nursery and renovate the adjacent bathrooms. Fabrication of new way-finding signs, new landscaping of street-facing property, and updating of campus wi-fi began. We attended to creating and updating various policies, such as the Personnel Manual, and engaged in a plan to ensure completion of Safe Church Compliance Training by those parishioners for whom it was required. In March and April, the Search Committee reviewed all applications received, completed interviews and reference checks, and sent finalists to Vestry. Over several weekends in May and early June, Vestry interviewed the final candidates, culminating in the call and acceptance of our new rector, The Reverend Kirsten Snow Spalding! As we waited for her to arrive, we hosted Hotel de Zink for two months and put on an exuberant Community Fair and Jazz Eucharist.

In September, we said good-bye to Interim Rector Rev. Nick with a vestry-led, joyful "grand agape" in gratitude for his hard work and commitment to St. Mark's for over two years. Vestry formed a "transition team" to support Rev. Kirsten's arrival and beginning of her ministry, and we welcomed her with an all-parish potluck on October 5<sup>th</sup>, her first Sunday with us. And then, we were off and running—launching an earlier stewardship campaign, gathering for the parish retreat, walking to raise funds to end hunger in the Crop Walk, celebrating the in-gathering of pledges with the Stewardship Brunch, participating in

Friendsgiving, leading into Advent with Advent Eve, the Greening of the Church, and celebrating Jesus's birth with our pageant and Christmas services.

For 2026, the Vestry is focused on improving the structure and communications of our outreach and in-reach ministries so that we can do more of what matters most. We are so grateful to parishioners' continuing efforts and dedication to participating in ensuring the health and vibrancy of St. Mark's and its ministries during the transition over the past two-plus years. We are excited to see how God guides us into the future. 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.

*– Jonathan Luk, Cheryl Miller, and Tom Jenkins, Wardens*

## Diocesan Delegation

In 2025 St. Mark's was represented by the following elected delegates to Diocesan Convention: Matthew Burt, Jonathan Harvey, Romain Kang, and alternates Bert Bell, Brie Linkenhoker, and Terry Moore. Along with Rev. Kirsten and Rev. Liz Milner, Jonathan, Matthew, and Terry attended the Convention in person at Grace Cathedral on October 18—they were joined by Romain for the virtual session the evening prior.

The major focus of the Convention was the launch of the diocesan Strategic Vision Plan, which was presented by various members of the committee that developed it, including our own (now Rev.) Debie Thomas. The plan identified seven focus areas for work across the diocese in the next three years: Christian Formation & Leadership Development, Congregational Development, Mission Congregations, Finances, Multicultural & Multilingual Ministries, Repair & Healing, and Experiencing & Embodying the Love of Jesus Beyond Our Church Doors. More information is available on the diocesan website: [diocal.org](http://diocal.org).

Additionally, the Convention passed several canon changes, elected nominees to offices within the diocese, including our deputation to General Convention (our churchwide governing body), and passed the budget and financial resolutions. Four topical resolutions were also passed, forming an assessment formula task force, advocating for social justice and affordable housing, and mandating pension participation for non-stipendiary clergy.

As always, I and my fellow delegates welcome questions and suggestions for our participation not only in Diocesan Convention but also in the Peninsula Deanery.

*– Matthew Burt*

## Financial Reports

### Treasurer's Report

#### St. Mark's Episcopal Church Statement of Financial Position

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2025
<b>Assets</b>		
Operating Cash & Investments	862,835	802,669
Receivables/Prepaid	4,293	4,742
Endowment Trust Cash & Investments (1)	1,571,135	1,783,469
564 Colorado Corporation	93,260	93,260
Real Property	7,837,760	7,837,760
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10,369,283</b>	<b>10,521,900</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	129,251	115,600
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>129,251</b>	<b>115,600</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Operating Fund	402,246	315,905
Dedicated Operating Funds	335,631	375,906
Property Fund	7,931,020	7,931,020
Endowment Fund	1,571,135	1,783,469
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>10,240,032</b>	<b>10,406,300</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances</b>	<b>10,369,283</b>	<b>10,521,900</b>

#### Notes:

1. Endowment Trust is valued as of September 30, the fiscal year end; the 1 year return was +12.7%  
The prior 1 year return was 24.5%; the 5 year return was 8.2%

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**Operating Fund**

	<b>Year Ending</b>		<b>Year Ending</b>
	<b>12/31/25</b>		<b>12/31/24</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Pledge Contributions (1)	623,000	658,566	695,137
Gifts (2)	29,000	41,629	34,669
Space Use Fees (3)	150,000	158,000	110,000
Rental Unit Income			29,365
Endowment Gen Fund Draw (4)	6,000		
Interest & Dividends (5)	68,000	21,378	20,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>876,000</b>	<b>879,573</b>	<b>889,171</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Personnel	581,790	584,389	522,711
Diocesan Assessment	118,650	118,398	113,793
Property	107,260	108,606	103,167
Administration	32,100	36,290	33,376
Christian Formation	6,000	2,787	3,631
Worship	20,100	17,929	27,403
Communications	7,300	9,760	9,410
Membership/Stewardship	2,800	1,220	1,642
		-	-
<b>Total Expense (6)</b>	<b>876,000</b>	<b>879,379</b>	<b>815,133</b>
<b>Excess Revenue Over Expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>74,038</b>

**Notes:**

1. There were late pledges made after the budget was finalized.
2. This includes Non-pledge gifts, weddings, funerals, memorials.
3. Space Use Rentals are in high demand.
4. The Draw was not needed, so not taken.
5. Interest and Dividends excludes the 564 Colorado Corp Dividend that was allocated to the B&G reserve.
6. In addition to Operating Expenses, the following expenses were funded through designated funds:

	<b>2025 Revenue</b>	<b>2025 Expense</b>
Property	195,749	190,786
Outreach	61,181	54,526
Christian Formation	33,375	24,404
Worship	64,848	39,786
Personnel & Sabbatical		
<b>Total</b>	<b>355,153</b>	<b>309,502</b>



## St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2026 Budget Summary

	2025	2025	2026
	Actual	Budget	Budget
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Pledged Giving (1)	658,566	623,000	632,000
Non Pledge Gifts & Memorials	41,629	29,000	37,000
Space Use Fees (2)	158,000	150,000	210,000
Rental of Church Apartment (3)			-
Endowment General Fund Draw (4)		6,000	20,000
Interest & Dividends	21,378	20,000	30,000
564 Colorado Corp Dividend		48,000	48,000
<b>Total Revenue (6)</b>	<b>879,573</b>	<b>876,000</b>	<b>977,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Personnel (5)	584,389	581,790	660,358
Diocesan Assessment (6)	118,398	118,650	143,397
Property	108,606	107,260	112,200
Administration	36,290	32,100	33,405
Christian Formation	2,787	6,000	6,000
Membership /Stewardship	1,220	2,800	2,800
Worship	17,929	20,100	11,200
Communications	9,760	7,300	7,640
<b>Total Expense (6)</b>	<b>879,379</b>	<b>876,000</b>	<b>977,000</b>
<b>Excess Revenue over Expense</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0)</b>

### Notes on 2026 Annual Budget:

1. Pledge increase of 1.4%
2. Space Use has increased tremendously with more usage by non profit groups.
3. The Sexton is using the Church Apartment, in return for a lower salary.
4. The draw is from the General (unrestricted) Endowment
5. Includes Diocese Cost of Living increase of 1.5%
5. Assessment is up based on new formula.
6. Overall budget increase of 11.5%

-Susan Pines, Treasurer

# Finance Commission

## Who are we

The Rev. Kirsten Spalding (Rector), Beth Janopaul, Susan Pines (Treasurer), Maureen Kennedy (Treasurer Emeritus, 564 Business Manager), Jonathan Luk, (Sr. Warden, 564 President) Mary Murphy (Maintenance Funding), 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.

## 2025 Highlights

Finance commission meetings continued to be an excellent forum for the rector and former interim 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 and matters. Here are a few key items:

- Supported Treasurer in Development of St. Mark's Annual Budget that included revisions
- Monitored adaptation to a changing parish demographic and declining pledging units
- Jonathan Luk continued as Vestry Liaison
- Supported 564 Colorado Corp Management that had full occupancy through 2024
  - Maureen Kennedy continues as Business Manager
  - Continued dividend to St. Mark's of \$4K per month for 2025
- Maintenance Funding: Mary Murphy provided reporting to Finance
- Offered New Vestry Financial Training as needed
- Maintained a Balanced Budget by Effective Monitoring
- Completed quarterly reviews with Endowment Trust
- Planned Giving: David Kennedy continued to lead the initiative

## 2026 Objectives

- Adaptation to a changing parish demographic and declining pledging units
  - Propose alternate models, as appropriate, to meet changing needs of Parish
- Recruit one new member
- 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 Lead Peter Kidder
- Monitor Donation Options: non cash alternatives, e.g. Tithely
- 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 each Meeting

*–Paul Milo, Chair*

## Endowment Trust

### Who are we

Peter Kidder (Chair, Trustee), Julie Hartung (Trustee), David Kennedy (Trustee), Mary Esther Schnaubelt (Trustee)

### Purpose

The Trustees of the Endowment Trust are responsible for the administration and governance of the assets held in the Endowment Trust. The purpose of the Trust is to provide and encourage gifts to the endowment fund of St. Mark's.

### 2025 Highlights

- Elected three new Trustees in February 2025
- Monitored performance of the endowment portfolio; the portfolio increased by 12.7% for the FYE 9/30/25, with total assets increasing from \$1,571,136 to \$1,783,469
- Managed interaction with the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the missionary organization and corporate body of the Episcopal Church, which is responsible for investing the endowment funds
- Maintained quarterly financial reporting of the portfolio performance, distributable amounts, cumulative draw amounts, and withdrawals and contributions
- Provided periodic updates to Finance Committee
- With Vestry, managed a \$40,000 withdrawal from the Major Maintenance Fund, used for rectory repairs
- With Vestry, managed two contributions, aggregating \$65,000, into the General Fund; the funds were gifts from the estates of Carol Cook and Buffy Welch
- Created a "Key Facts and Processes" document which provides background information on the Endowment Trust, DFMS, and a summary of the Endowment Trust's key responsibilities

## 2026 Objectives

- Continue to provide monitoring of the endowment portfolio performance and maintenance of quarterly financial reporting, distributable amounts, cumulative draw amounts, and withdrawals and contributions
- Continue to provide periodic updates to the Finance Committee
- Ensure new Trustees are familiar with Endowment Trust responsibilities
- Create standard forms with gifting instructions for future contributions
- Increase parish awareness of legacy gifting
- Update our processes, including clearer guidance on processing of contributions

— Peter Kidder, Chair

## 564 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. Maureen Kennedy handles the financial and administrative work for 564. Paul Milo provides primary tenant management. 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 dividend to St. Mark's Church.

### 2025 Highlights

2025 was a stable year for 564 Colorado Corp. with the tenant continuing, and minor maintenance needs for the property.

- The corporation provided a monthly dividend of \$4000 to St. Mark's.
- The corporation updated its cash reserve goal to, and has been able to maintain, a minimum of nine months operating expenses as vacancy reserve, a \$25,000 operating maintenance reserve (for ongoing upkeep or refurbishment), and a capital reserve for near-term expected major maintenance needs (current significant example of roof replacement expected within a few years, estimated at \$45,000).
- Property maintenance in 2025 included pest control, sprinkler system repair, and minor door repair.
- The current tenant, who moved in November 2021, continued with a term through May 2026. A small pet amendment was added.

## Hopes for 2026

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 nine months operating expenses in cash reserves, as well as sufficient operating maintenance and major capital maintenance reserves.

*– Jonathan Luk, Director*

## Building and Grounds Commission

### Mission and Activities

The Building and Grounds Commission's mission is to provide a clean, safe, attractive, and functional environment for worship and community 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.

### Membership

The Rev. Kirsten Spalding (Rector), Mary Murphy and Marius Milner (co-chairs), Bruce Anderson, Simon Binns, John Frankfurt, Burt Bell, Jane Piller-Wilson, Bruce Wilson, Ramesh Azariah, Crystal Larsen (Vestry Liaison).

### 2025 Highlights

- Researched possibilities for both HVAC and Parish Hall acoustics.
- Performed necessary work in Rectory for handover from Rev. Nick to Rev. Kirsten.
- Added windows to office doors per insurance company safety report.
- Repaired or replaced problematic campus doors.
- Updated the 2025 Reserve Analysis.
- Improved the lighting situation in the Chancel.
- Installed new wayfinding signage on campus, including labels for doorways.
- Replaced fragmented Wi-Fi networks with a uniformly available campus-wide network.
- Renovated bathrooms and Children's Nursery within the Church.

## 2026 Plans

- Fix lighting and audio issues in the gallery.
- Continue researching options for both HVAC and Parish Hall acoustics.
- Research painting/plaster plan for inside of Church.
- Review stained glass windows with a new vendor.
- Update the 2026 Reserve Analysis.

– Marius Milner & Mary Murphy, Co-Chairs

## Stewardship Commission

Our mission is to invite all parishioners to be good stewards, i.e., to tend to, or be caretakers, of our faith community.

To fulfill this mission, the Stewardship Commission's plan of activity includes three phases. First, we tend to, or care for, each member of the parish through a personal contact in August by phone if possible to check in and invite everyone to participate in the new church program year. This early phone call also allows us to update contact information and learn of any moves, etc. so that our parish roster is more accurate. Second, in late October through November, we invite all parishioners to care for the parish as a whole by making a promise of support in terms of time, talent, and financial resources for the coming year. Finally, in May, at the end of the year, we call once again to thank parishioners for being part of our community and to invite them to the annual church picnic to celebrate another year of blessings at St. Mark's.

## 2025 Activities and Results

In line with this time of transition to a new rector, the theme for 2025-2026 was "A Future with Hope." This theme was narrowed down by Rev. Nick through a pre-bought package and chosen by Rev. Kirsten before her official start. Our stewardship campaign is focused on gratitude for all that we receive from being part of the St. Mark's community. We seek broad participation among parishioners at whatever level of support is possible for each person. Every pledge, regardless of amount, is welcome as an important symbol of commitment to St. Mark's – a pledge of time, talent, and treasure.

- This year's campaign piloted three new changes, meant to address recent challenges with the pledge campaign.
  - The first change was the addition of Pledge Ingathering Sunday, held on November 2, wherein parishioners were invited to bring their pledges forward to be blessed. This change led to having 86% of our pledge goal raised with 101 pledges in hand.
  - The second change was a formal deadline of pledges to be included in the parish budget. This year the deadline proved to be more of a stimulus than last year. While pledges are welcome at any time of year, shifting our pledging habits to a deadline left a clear picture for the vestry, budget committee, and the parish.

- The third change was initiated by Rev. Kirsten and it was an early kickoff on September 21st. Due to other food-related events we opted for a Stewardship Kick off Agape that was a huge success! We also shortened the time the pledge season ran to six weeks with an unofficial deadline a few weeks later.
- In the fall, the Finance Commission, Vestry, and clergy set a pledge goal of \$634,400, which represented a 3% increase over our pledge budget for 2025.
- Stewardship materials created by the clergy to provide clear and comprehensive information about the financial needs for 2025 were mailed in mid-October.
- Parishioner Brie Linkenhoker delivered an inspiring stewardship sermon where she shared her background and love of this community.
- The annual Stewardship Brunch was held on November 2nd, to celebrate the Pledge Ingathering service. Approximately 110 parishioners attended the brunch which was prepared and served by over 17 parishioners and six vestry members. We again served soup and salad with some of the soup and the salad coming from Ada's.
- Mego Tracy wrote the articles in the *Messenger* that appeared over the first five weeks of the stewardship campaign. Announcements were also made each Sunday with updates on progress and encouragement.
- Over 30 volunteers, Vestry members, and Stewardship Commission members followed up by phone and email with each parishioner to be sure stewardship materials had been received and to answer any questions about the budget and stewardship process.
- Once again we leaned heavily on our office manager, Wenjing Li, to keep us up-to-date on the number of pledges and on progress toward our financial goals. Wenjing did an amazing job of learning the various databases, processing all of the articles and reminder messages included in the weekly St. Mark's *Messenger*, and sending email communications to the parish. We could not have managed the stewardship effort without her as an amazingly capable and cheerful partner.
- Thank you cards were created, then addressed by the office, signed by the Rectors, and sent by Wenjing, to every parishioner who pledged.
- Our 2026 Pledge Campaign ended with 113 pledges totaling \$631,782.00 or 99.6% of our pledge goal. On another positive note, we received pledges from 11 new families and 58 parishioners were able to increase their pledges as a positive sign of the generosity of our parish. St. Mark's is truly remarkable in that a large percent of our active parishioners make some level of financial commitment each year. **We give thanks to everyone in the parish who pledged their participation in church activities and/or financial support for 2026.**

### **Volunteer Participation in Stewardship Activities**

Good stewardship requires the dedicated efforts of a large number of people. We deeply appreciate the efforts of everyone who participated this year. The campaign could not be done without their support, 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.

In particular, we are looking for a co-chair of the commission for next year, and for someone to work on the management of various parish membership lists and the calling efforts. Please consider joining this team next year!

Thanks to everyone who pledged, preached, cooked and served, wrote, called, and reminded. We are honored to have served on the Stewardship Commission.

*– Mego Tracy and Carol Scott, Co-chairs*

## Nominee Bios

### Vestry Member Candidates

#### Debbie Clark



St. Mark's has been my church family since I moved to Palo Alto in 1998. The clergy and community have supported me during difficult times and celebrated with me during joyful times. My daughter was raised here. St. Mark's is truly my church home.

If elected, this will be my second time on the vestry, having also served as senior warden many years ago. Over the years, I have had the joy of teaching Sunday school, directing many Christmas pageants, serving on the Outreach Commission, and chairing the Adult Education Commission. In more recent years, I have had fun telling stories and co-hosting the variety show with Randy at the parish retreat.

In my non-church life, my business partner and I sold our audiology practice, Pacific Hearing Service, to our younger audiologists, and I am now working part-time as co-director of offsite services. I co-founded Pacific Hearing Connection, a nonprofit audiology clinic, in 2016 and continue to be involved with that, serving as board president.

For the last 10 years, I have traveled to Zambia and other countries on audiology humanitarian trips. Working with teams of audiologists to provide the gift of hearing, both in the private practice world and with humanitarian efforts, has been an honor and a joy.

As a vestry member, I would utilize the skills and knowledge I have gained over the years as a member of this parish family, through my work in healthcare as a business owner, and as a team leader on local and international humanitarian projects.

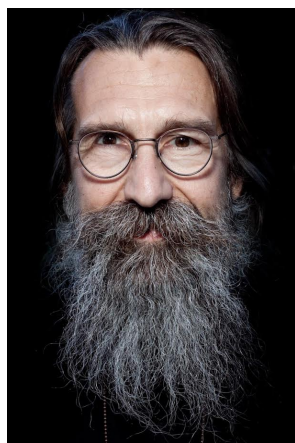


## Alan Twhigg



I'm relatively new to St. Mark's, having started attending just after Easter 2023. Though I'm still getting to know the community, I may be able to bring a fresh perspective to some of the questions the Vestry deals with. I have experience with other Episcopal parishes, having spent my childhood at Holy Innocents in San Francisco and a more recent period at St. Timothy's, Mountain View. I have also explored other faith communities. I'm retired from a professional career as a technical writer/editor with several Silicon Valley companies and now spend my time teaching and performing Scottish country dancing, practicing yoga, doing volunteer work, and keeping up with hobbies. I share a townhouse in Mountain View with a cat and too many books.

## Chip Camden



Christian mystic and quasi-monastic solitary, paying the bills by contributing to the destruction of humanity as we know it through software. Served previously on St. Mark's Vestry 2016-2017. Headed up St. Mark's InReach ministry 2014-2017. St. Mark's Choir 2013-2017 and 2025-present (and sporadically in between). On the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church in Gretna, Virginia 2017-2022 (Senior Warden 2019-2022). On the vestry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Sitka, Alaska 2022-2026. Served on the board of the Sitka Homeless Coalition 2023-2025, building tiny homes for the unhoused in Sitka Alaska, as well as providing food and other services to Sitka's less fortunate. Strong believer in the harmonic and mutually empowering combination of the Way of the Cross (self-emptying), contemplation, and social action. Touchstones: beginner's mind, humility, love of God and others—not that I do any of that well.

## Martha Leveque-Eichhorn



I was born and raised in Minnesota, but left at 18 to the West Coast for college and have lived on this side of the country for my whole adult life thus far. I studied math and physics in Portland, OR where I met my husband, Gus. Growing up, I was a few different denominations (Lutheran and Methodist mostly) but Gus and I found the Episcopal Church together in Oregon and have been members ever since. Eventually, we made our way to the Bay Area in the midst of the pandemic in 2020. We found St. Mark's during the outdoor service portion of our history and loved the sense of community and joy that we experienced. In March of last year, 2025, we had our daughter, Maya Grace, and there has been no greater joy in our lives than being her parents! I have been a math and science teacher for more than 10 years now and I am currently at Sequoia High School in Redwood City and Gus is an oncology nurse at Stanford which allows for a lot of flexibility

with scheduling and hanging out with Maya. On Vestry, I am hoping to bring a new parent perspective and look forward to working with and on the children's and family ministries.

## Candidates for Diocesan Convention and Deanery

### Cheryl Miller



My husband John and I moved to California 40 years ago. Though we moved to California from Chicago where we had attended graduate school, we both had grown up in the eastern US, including Vermont, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Virginia. I have been retired now for three years, having spent my career first as a speech and language pathologist working in hospitals, clinics and schools, and then as a learning specialist and administrator in a community college program providing services to students with disabilities. My husband is an architect with his own business which primarily provides architectural services to religious communities and non-profit institutions. We have a daughter who lives in the East Bay.

I grew up in the Episcopal Church and came to St. Mark's about 15 years ago. At my previous parish, I was a Godly Play teacher, participated in youth group activities, and led a "Covenant Group," a small group that met weekly to discuss the week's scriptures and our take-aways. I took some time before serving at St. Mark's. Then, I began to get involved in small ways: cooking dinners for Hotel de Zink, delivering meals to fellow parishioners, helping with flower arrangements for Sunday services, attending All Parish and Women's retreats, and participating in parish workdays. In recent years, I have served on the Vestry, and will complete my third year in May 2026. I am serving as a Junior Warden this year. I am chair of the Flower Guild and a member of the Becoming Beloved Community Task Force after completing the year-long Sacred Ground program.

I am honored to be nominated to serve as a Deanery Delegate to the Peninsula Deanery in 2026-2027. My experiences these past three years on Vestry have given me a solid education in everything from St. Mark's finances to the processes of searching and calling a new rector. I look forward to collaborating with other parishes in our Deanery and to representing St. Mark's at the Diocesan Convention.

With gratitude for this opportunity--Cheryl

### Matthew Burt



Matthew Burt is an organist, choir director, and liturgist with twenty years' experience of musical leadership in Episcopal congregations, and has been Music Director at St. Mark's since 2021. He holds master's degrees in theology and music from Oxford, Harvard, and Boston Universities, and is active in the American Guild of Organists, serving as Coordinator of its 2024 National Convention. Matthew has been active in Diocesan Convention for over fifteen years, and last year was a member of the Dispatch of Business Committee and Co-Chair of the Committee on Elections. In the past, he has also served as President of the Peninsula Deanery and Chair of the diocesan Executive Council.

## Linda Gerra



My husband, Ralph, our cat Gus, and I moved from New York to Palo Alto a little over three years ago to be closer to our son, daughter-in-law, and twin granddaughters. While the transition was a significant one (made easier by the beautiful weather), we have integrated well into the community. I recently retired after many years of work with blind and visually impaired children and am eager to deepen my involvement at St. Mark's. I have been an Episcopalian for many years and was actively involved at Christ Church in New York through the choir and various committees. After exploring several virtual church services in the Palo Alto area, we attended St. Mark's in person and were warmly welcomed. The strong music program immediately drew me in, and I joined the choir soon thereafter.

Some of you may also know me as the St. Mark's representative for Community Response to Overcoming Poverty (CROP).

## Candidates for Deanery and Alternates for Diocesan Convention

### Jonathan Harvey



I came to St. Mark's in December of 2015, happily returning to the Episcopal Church after a 20 year absence. I have been on the Deanery since late 2016, and have enjoyed the insights it has given me into what goes on behind the scenes. I have been especially delighted by St. Mark's combination of programs about personal spirituality and social engagement and its combination of progressive thinking and traditional liturgy.

I worked for 21 years of my professional life as a software engineer, mainly for medical or aerospace companies. Later, I went to seminary, but decided I was not fully suited for professional ministry. For the last 12 years, I have worked several educational jobs simultaneously, mainly as a private math tutor, but also as a teacher at a science summer camp, and a substitute teacher. My first college degree was in History, which I never used professionally, but I have no regrets about having gotten it.

### Romain Kang



I grew up in Richmond, Virginia, plus some time in New Jersey. My family was mainly associated with the Southern Baptists, though I attended a high school affiliated with the Episcopal Church, which broadened my exposure to mission and worship, as well as music in service to those goals. During this time, I also formed lasting friendships with several teachers, including one who eventually went to Church Hymnal Corporation (as it was called back then) as the General Editor for the Hymnal 1982. By the time I headed to college, I had thrown in my lot with the Episcopalians.

Some years later, I was a young professional working for a computer company, when I was assigned to work with the engineering group in Mountain View headquarters for a few months. I took the opportunity to visit several churches in the area, and eventually arrived at St. Mark's in 1988 during a period of experiential study of ancient church liturgies in the Sunday services. Not only did this fascinate me, but on my first visit, one of the matrons of the church made sure I met the circle of post-college members who frequently gathered for activities outside of church. Months later, when my friend at Church Hymnal mentioned interesting things happening at St. Mark's, I immediately replied that I knew the congregation well.

Thus, when my employer permanently transferred me to California the next year, I had an extended family already in place here. In the passing decades, that original circle has mostly but not completely dispersed, but St. Mark's has remained an anchor during this time. I have served numerous roles including ones in music, liturgy, and lay governance. Since the pandemic, I've been part of the tech team that puts Sunday services on YouTube, worked on the parish music director search, and served on our delegation to the Diocesan conventions.

## **Terry Moore**



I joined St. Mark's in 1972, but moved to Trinity when Joe Doss was rector, returning when he departed. I've been a Deanery representative for several decades and enjoy learning about and voting on our role in the wider Episcopal Church beyond St. Mark's. I currently participate in Choir, Altar Guild, 8am lector/greeter, Compline, Men's Group, various weekday evening groups, homeless meals, and plan to resume as a eucharistic visitor and acolyte when those ministries are re-established. I participated in the Sacred Ground series a few years ago and am peripherally involved in its continuation. Outside of St. Mark's, I sing with about a half-dozen groups. (Yes, I love to blend my voice with others in song.)

## **Endowment Trustee Nominee**

### **Peter Kidder**



Peter and his wife Lynn have been members of St. Mark's since 2014. Peter has served one four-year term as a Trustee of the Endowment Trust. Peter has previously served on the Vestry, been Senior Warden, chair of the Outreach Commission, and a member of the Children and Family Commission. Professionally, he has worked in banking, finance, and the public sector over the past 40 years. He has held senior management positions in credit and relationship management, served as CFO of a financial consulting firm, been a financial analyst in the budget office of a state human services agency, and been a field coordinator on national, state, and local political campaigns. He is currently the global head of Credit for Innovation Banking at HSBC, a global bank with operations in around 60 countries. He is also a board member of the Episcopal Impact Fund and Board

member and Treasurer of Pacific Hearing Connection. He holds an MBA from the University of Virginia and a BA from Dartmouth College.