



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Report 2019

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St. Mark's Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Paul Gaston: Interim Rector
W. Robert Morrison: Organist/Choirmaster
Katie Kuceyeski: Office Manager

St. Mark's 2019 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 19, 2020

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment/Speaking Rules
5. Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes (page 23)
6. Appointment of Tellers*
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Opening of Polls*
9. Interim Rector's Report
10. Warden's Reports
11. Search Committee Report
12. 2019 Financial Report and 2020 Missional Budget
13. Closing of Polls
14. Report from the Tellers*
15. Old Business
16. New Business
17. Closing Prayer
18. Adjournment

Our mission: We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

Vestry Members

Class of 2019 (serving until January 2022 Annual Meeting)

Caroline Willoughby

John Wise

Linda Deuble

Class of 2018 (serving until January 2021 Annual Meeting)

Bob Kennedy

Grace Giammarco

Beck Rand

Outgoing Vestry Members

Christy Thorley

Sara Strattan

Vestry Candidates:

Marcia Kiesling

Dave and Marcia members of St Marks for 25 years,
3 children Riley, Benjamin and Lesley who were
all acolytes

St Mark's trustee for 2 terms many years ago,
started while Dutch was still here

A 30-year employee of Aultman Hospital, currently a
Nurse Practitioner at Aultman's Waynesburg
Family Practice office providing care for patients
age 6 months to >100 with a dual role, serving as
the Lead Nurse Practitioner for Aultman and chair
of many committees at Aultman Hospital

Member Aultman Woman's Board

Former Member Stark County Board of Health

Former At-Large Councilman in North Canton 7/2001-2005 and then 2007-
12/2019 serving as chair of the community and economic development
committee, silent member of the Planning Commission, member of the
Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) and many other roles over



the 16 years, was Vice President of council for 2 terms and sat as first female president of council for 1 month



Beth Crowl

I am married to Rick and we have two children, Rachel who is in her grad school at BGSU and Justin a freshman at Kent State Tusc. I have been a member of St Marks since 1998. I was involved with the Sunday school program for about 8 years, helping with ages 4 to 8. I was previously on the vestry serving from 2016 to 2018. Since 2008 I have owned and operated a very successful independent insurance agency.

Bruce Hixon

Born in September of 1948, I am now in my 71st year. Retired, I enjoy photography, genealogy, and golf. I also serve as President of the M Club, the University of Mount Union's Varsity Letter Winner's Association.



On December 4, 1977 I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church as a member of St. Mark's. Since then I have served the parish as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Worship Leader and Lay Preacher. I have been on (I believe) five vestries and was privileged to serve as Sr. Warden in 1998, 1999, 2012 and 2013.

Looking back on my Sr. Warden Reports for those years I am struck by how much we have changed over the last 21 years. But some things remain constant; our love of God and of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our love for this Parish of St. Mark's, and our love for one another in this family of God's People.

This is a very exciting time for St. Mark's. I firmly believe that we have a great future ahead of us, and I look forward with excitement to the day when we will call our new Rector. Serving this Parish is a duty, a privilege, and a statement of faith.

2019 Parish Services – Statistics:

Total attendance at all services: 4589

Average Sunday attendance: 87

Easter attendance: 160 Christmas Eve/Day attendance: 143

Baptisms: 2 Weddings: 0 Burials: 3

Interim Rector's Report

"We will use our time well."

I began my interim appointment at St. Mark's on Palm Sunday (April 14). My priorities for what I anticipated would be a relatively brief assignment were simple: to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday, to offer a series of informal discussions, and to respond to pressing pastoral needs. On April 29, in my report to the Vestry, I wrote that "by the grace of God, this interim may be brief" and added that if the search should soon prove successful, "we will rejoice."

When it eventually became apparent that my appointment probably would not be "brief," I was glad that in that same report I had also written, "If it takes a little longer, we will use our time well." That is the emphasis of this annual report. I believe we have used our time well and that we continue to do so. Rather than attempt to offer a comprehensive accounting, I will instead list highlights of the past nine (or so) months.

- Thanks to tactful guidance from members of the altar guild and from Eucharistic ministers, we maintained continuity in worship during our "high holy days" of Palm Sunday, Easter, and Pentecost. It was helpful that I had once served at St. Mark's, but the prompts of the faithful kept me on track.
- The long season of Pentecost began with a festive Evensong featuring the choirs of St. Mark's, St. Paul's Canton, and St. Timothy Massillon. A picnic followed.
- The experiment with a single service in the summer at 9:00, supported by the results of a preliminary survey of the congregation, was on the whole well received. One benefit was the renewed acquaintance between

members of the 8:00 and 10:00 congregations! A series of well attended “informal discussions” complemented the worship experience and emphasized the point that summer programming, while different, can offer its own rewards. We are planning for an even more vigorous summer in 2020.

- We renewed the tradition of the “Sermon on the Mount” on September 15 and offered two supplementary liturgies: the blessing of backpacks and the blessing of an oil stock for baptisms. Following the service, we enjoyed an end-of-summer picnic.
- St. Mark’s was highly visible in providing a significant service at the Stark County Fair in October. Carol and others coordinated and staffed a booth that offered nursing mothers privacy and a few moments of quiet.
- During the fall, confirmands and many others prepared for the episcopal visit of Mark Hollingsworth on October 10. A priority on such occasions is to avoid catastrophe! We far surpassed that low bar with an occasion that offered genuine warmth and gratitude. The reception afterwards offered an appropriate capstone, and the bishop’s meeting with the vestry was especially constructive.
- Topics chosen by the summer “informal discussion” group guided discussions every other week during the fall.
- A newly-formed Welcoming Guild is now on point to greet visitors, to follow up with those who indicate interest, and to encourage their return. Thanks to MaryAnn Kiesling in particular for her leadership. On October 6, we commissioned and blessed the ushers, the greeters, and the members of the guild.
- With the support and encouragement of the Vestry, I now offer weekday office hours at St. Mark’s. The schedule for the following week appears in the bulletin each Sunday.

The list could be longer, but these items taken together describe a parish held together by faith, blessed by grace, and committed to a vigorous future.

Every pastoral appointment is for an “interim.” We are making the most of this one. Thanks be to God.

Fr. Paul Gaston

Senior Warden’s Report

Greetings St. Mark's:

It is hard to believe it has been three years serving as your Senior Warden, but it has been a privilege to work with our Vestry to lead us through this transition. There is plenty of work to be done and our Search Committee is working tirelessly to find us our next Rector. However, we are in great hands with Fr. Gaston and as Bishop Hollingsworth stated during his visit, "there has never been a better time to invite someone to St. Mark's."

Our Annual Meeting has an unique item on the agenda and it is something that was discussed thoroughly among the Vestry. A change to the by-laws, even for a temporary measure, is not something to be taken lightly. Given the need for continuity and stability during this transition the Vestry felt it was prudent to ask the parish for our Wardens to continue in their current roles until a new Rector is hired. We appreciate your consideration of this matter and hope that the leadership we have shown to date will give you confidence to move forward with this edit to the by-laws.

Regardless of the decision, I would like to thank our current Vestry and particularly our Jr. Warden, Rhonda Warren and our Treasurer, Charlie Kiesling for a remarkable level of teamwork, leadership and support over the past three years. I have been truly fortunate to have them by my side during this transition period.

Again, it has been an honor to serve as your Sr. Warden and I look forward to what 2020 holds for St. Mark's.

Thanks,

Derek Gordon

Junior Warden's Report

Greetings from St. Mark's Junior Warden,

2019 was a very good year for St. Mark's. On March 17 we bid farewell to our Interim Rector Rev. Beth Frank and Vicar Leo. Our farewell luncheon for Rev. Beth was quite a party. There was special music by the Choir, a parting prayer by Bruce Hixon, the Sunday School Class gave her a special carrying bag with all their photos and our teens provided a few kind words along with Chef Carol's fine food and the many volunteers who made it happen. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. Rev. Beth started the program to confirm our youth this fall and it was highly successful. She had some unusual requests! Did you know that when the acolytes and lectors walked down the aisle for the Gospel reading that she wouldn't start until everyone smiled at her?

St. Mark's then welcomed Rev. Paul Gaston, our current Interim Rector. I personally appreciate his spirituality and vast knowledge of religious literature and quotes from many past and present theologians. Rev. Paul has guided us through the search process for a new full-time Rector. I am sure whoever the search committee, led by Joe Hoot, recommends to us will be spirit driven.

On December 8 St. Mark's celebrated our 65th anniversary of the founding of St Mark's and the 60th anniversary of our building. How wonderful it was to see Rev. Dr. Carey E. Sloan and his wife Kathy present along with Rev. Barbara Bond and her husband Norm and Rev. Paul Gaston. I was sorry that Rev. Erv Smuda and his wife Jan, Rev. Dustin Berg and Sherry Ackerman, our long-time administrative assistant, were unable to attend. We had a full house in the undercroft of current and past parishioners. Thank you to the planning committee including Charlie Kiesling, Sara Strattan, Derek Gordon, Chef Carol, Bill Rand and Katie Kuceyeski.

Finally, as liaison to Weaver School, I want to tell you that I appreciate them being our tenant. They have added new life into our building. The choir room was transformed into a third-grade class. Although it was hard for the choir to give up the room, it helped Weaver School realize their potential

and made them stick to their goal of wonderful faith-based education and not increase their enrollment size.

Best regards to our parish family as we enter a new year,
Rhonda Warren

Parish Musician's Report

My 22nd year as organist/director here at St. Mark's - a church which is a model of devotional excellence in rich liturgical practice.

Appreciation first and foremost is extended to our choir personnel: Beck Rand (librarian), Caroline Willoughby, Sandi Kaustinen, Leslie Redmon, Pam McCarthy, Louise Moore, John Werren, Ken Jaeb, Dr. Norman Warren, Chuck Violand, Barrie Thorp, and Frances Swinehart.

Because of the Weaver Child Development Center expansion, the Kathleen Morrison Choir Room re-located to a smaller space since we are now rehearsing primarily in the chancel. Beck and Bill Rand, Pam McCarthy, Bob Kennedy, and Charlie Kiesling cleaned, re-decorated and refurbished the new space and moved the cabinets, robes, music, books, wall decor, chairs, and the Charles R. Walter piano (in memory of Jim Baines). Our interim Rector, Dr. Paul Gaston, prepared a dedicatory liturgy which took place after a September service. Photographer Bill Rand has captured these moments in vibrant colors with his camera expertise.

We joined with the choirs of St. Paul's and St. Tim's for an Epiphany event and a recent Evensong, and hosted a gala Pentecost service June 9th for the three churches with Dr. Steve Grimo, timpani, and Chef Carol Popovich's outdoor cookout. Ron Hill has continued to be our resident pianist as health issues permit, and his loan of an electronic keyboard has filled the sanctuary with harpsichord effects during Communion, and selected orchestral voices played by Bruce Schutrum. Our resident timpanist John Gregory is still recovering from physical issues. Handbells and Choir Chimes have been used at festive events. My caregiver Ray Slinger has loaned a keyboard for the outdoor service. Norm Warren and Ken Jaeb are our Cantors, and guests have included Danny Reiman, Gail Martin, Catherine Dillon, David J.White, and pianist Joyce Elaine Corbett.

It is a distinct pleasure to make music in such a healthy environment in this corner of God's vineyard called St. Mark's.

And, finally: an invitation to consider singing with us. We rehearse Sunday mornings before the 10:00 service. If you have a blending voice and a desire to render significant service to our Lord, what better way?

Respectfully submitted,
W. Robert Morrison

Rector Search Committee

Your Search Committee has been meeting for over a year. We celebrated by going out to dinner in September. The committee is dedicated to finding St. Mark's next rector. There has not been a lot of movement in getting candidates to the committee. Therefore, we have been looking outside the box in getting St. Mark's name out there. In working with the Diocese and your Vestry we have and will continue to look at ways this can be done. Maybe you attended an Episcopal church in another city or state and really liked the rector. Reach out to them or your search committee, there are ways to contact them to see if they are interested.

Thanks,
Joseph Hoot

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Acolytes

We had another successful acolyte year! In June we graduated four seniors and sent them on to higher education. Justin Crowl is attending KSU Tuscarawas, Colin Jenkins is at Syracuse University, Lesley Kiesling at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and Alexis Wilson is attending KSU. There are six additional acolytes who have provided coverage at both services for the remainder of the 2019 year. They are: Susie Hines, Sharon Ryan, Karen Violand, Marilyn Thorp, Joe Hoot and Lauren Hoot. We truly appreciate their service and commitment!

Since the October Confirmation Service, we have acquired three young acolytes to serve. They are: Fletcher Clark, Brooks Deuble and Danny Holihan. It is good to see young people step up and want to be part of the acolyte ministry.

My view may be a bit biased, but I think we have the finest acolytes in the diocese. May we continue to grow and represent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary L. Giammarco

Altar Guild

The eight members of Altar Guild worked faithfully throughout the year to ensure that we were prepared for worship services by ordering and maintaining the things we use in our services and by preparing the sanctuary and Columbarium for Sunday mornings. We particularly appreciated the help from others this year on our work days and from those who made flower dedications thereby supporting the cost of flowers at the altar each week. In addition, we have supported the cost of maintaining the water service in the Family Room for the past two years. Sadly, we will be losing a member next year as Sharon Ryan will be attending church in Akron with her children.

We are hopeful that in 2020, we will be able to attract a few new members. Setting up for the services involves a commitment of an hour or so on Saturday morning to work with a partner. It is a wonderful experience to work in the quiet of the church and to make ready for the next morning. Often, we get to listen to Bob rehearsing the music for the next day. After each service it takes about 15 minutes to put everything away. There are some special tasks involved with Christmas and Easter which we undertake as a group. There is great fellowship in the group which meets three or four times a year. If you have an interest in serving, any member of Altar Guild would be happy to talk to you about it, and you are welcome to come and visit with us on a Saturday to see what this ministry entails.

We are pleased that Cathy Cowgill has not increased the cost of our weekly altar flowers and hope to be able to continue to offer flower dedications for \$15.00 each during 2020.

Sara Strattan

Brew Meister's

2019 is turning out to be the year of loafing for the Brew Meisters. You read that right—we have been loafing! And not just your everyday, kick-back-on-a-sunny-afternoon, take-in-a-ballgame loafing. I'm talking about just-this-side-of-slothfulness loafing. I'm talking about bag-over-your-head-because-you're-too-embarrassed-to-be-seen, too-lazy-to-get-your-cakes-in-the-kitchen-to-brew-beer loafing. You know you're guilty of some serious loafing when you're a brewer and you're too lazy to brew beer.

As you might imagine, some of us did more loafing than others. While I don't like to point fingers or mention people by name, let's take Al Korosi for example. It appears that the swill he and his group have been passing off as beer for the past couple years has had a nasty, time-delayed side effect. Loafing. Not only has his loafing interfered with making timely posts to his Facebook page, but he's practically nonexistent on his Twitter account! How are POTUS and the people at St. Mark's supposed to know what he's up to if he doesn't stay current on social media?

On a more positive note, we did have a nice little visit to Lockport Brewery in Bolivar back in April. About two dozen cicerones-in-training made the journey and joined in the fun. We had a great time sampling beers and enjoying each other's company. Charlie Becker even rolled down the hill from his house (literally; it was quite the sight) to join us. I imagine he's gotten the grass stains out of his pants by now.

Prior to arriving, I warned the lovely couple who own the craft brewery that a group of church-going beer connoisseurs would be visiting them. While they struggled with wrapping their heads around that concept, they appreciated the heads up.

As in years past, all of us in the Brew Meisters group always welcome new members. We're eagerly looking forward to another great brewing year in 2020, especially if we can get over our loafing. And we'll continue to look for that elusive measure of respectability that once again evaded us in 2019.

Irreverently submitted,
Chuck Violand, Head Brew Meister

Building & Grounds

In 2019 we continued to update our Building & Grounds. New St. Marks signs were designed and installed, LED lighting installed in old choir room, additional thermostat in the sanctuary to better control the heat level. Made repairs to the flat roof over education wing, and repaired chimney and roof over family room after tree fell on it. Took down a total of 8 trees after Canton City arborist inspection. The choir room was moved and new room was cleaned and painted by dedicated volunteers. The Kitchen, Undercroft, entrance, and Family room floors professionally cleaned along with counter tops and cabinets. Updated handicapped parking spots and parking lot striping. We replaced a state required back flow valve installed on main water line.

These and countless little deeds that come up throughout the year. Just like your home our house has surprises, clogged sinks, lights needing replaced, etc. These things are handled by many volunteers and without them they don't get done. Many thanks to all who volunteer a helping hand throughout the year.

Thanks,
Joseph Hoot

Cluster Dinners

Our Cluster Dinner groups continue to be an ongoing fellowship opportunity. Adult singles and couples sign up to be part of a potluck meal in parishioners' homes. This year included an impromptu New Year's Eve gathering, a pontoon boat ride & picnic, and a baked potato bar following the 10 o'clock service. There were 3 groups of 8 – 11 folks who met in spring/summer and 2 groups in the autumn, once a month for 3 months. Then a new signup sheet is posted and groups are reshuffled.

Occasionally GRATITUDE cards, provided by our former interim Rev Beth, were used to spark thoughtful and lively conversation.

Thank you to the hosts and participants – the acts of offering hospitality and accepting it provide a bridge of connection for us parishioners away from our often quick encounters on Sunday mornings.

First time participants are always welcome. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in early March.

Respectfully submitted
MaryAnn Kiesling, Coordinator

Community Christmas

Community Christmas - I think we have participated for well over 40 years of providing personal gifts and food vouchers for families in our community. At our peak, we provided for seven families. This year we supported three. As the years go by, the gift request changes. No longer are bigger items on the wish list. There is a great need for basics- underwear, socks, blankets, towels, cleaning supplies, things that we take for granted. The need is great, and it is a time of giving.

Sue Little

Convention

The 203rd Annual Diocesan Convention was held on November 9th in Sandusky, Ohio. Representatives from St. Mark's were Tony Keenan and Bob Kennedy with Kathy Kennedy in attendance as a visitor. On the agenda was the election for the following positions, most of which were uncontested: Diocesan Trustee, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Episcopal Community Services (ECS) Development Council, Diocesan Disciplinary Board, and General Convention Deputy .

Election results can be found through the following link.

<https://dohio.org/our-diocese/about/convention-2019/election-results-from-the-203rd-annual-convention>

Four resolutions were voted upon and passed. There included:

- 1) Clergy Compensation and Pension
- 2) Financial Investment Divesting
- 3) Policy for Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse
- 4) The closing of St. Alban's parish in Cleveland Heights

Various reports given included a moving talk by the director of Bellwether Farm, Brandon Gooch, on the daily operation and summer camp there. Our own parishioner, Delaney Ryan, served as a camp counselor during the inaugural camp sessions.

Also moving was the convention address delivered by Bishop Mark Hollingworth regarding the political climate. The link to the written and audio text can be found at the following:

<https://dohio.org/blog/november-2019/the-bishop-s-episcopal-address-203rd-convention?viewmode=0>

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Kennedy]

Cooking with Care

In 2019, Cooking with Care got together in small groups for each of the Lenten Series suppers to make soup, salad, and bread. Thank you to those that contributed their time to this. As of right now, Cooking with Care is inactive, due to lack of interest after Lent and the summer months.

Emily Gordon

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

All women of the church are ECW (Episcopal Church Women). We support the YWCA residents each year by filling their Somebunny basket at Easter. ECW also supports the Puppet Gang in providing new materials for their programs. We have not been very active the past few years. If you have a project that could involve the ECW, please let me know.

Sue Little

Fellowship

Fellowship started off slow this year. In March, we had our pancake supper celebrating Shrove Tuesday, which was held on a Sunday. Rev. Beth was reassigned to a new church, so we had a very nice going away dinner for her. Lenten services were had on a Wednesday with soup and salad.

Father Paul Gaston joined us at Easter and things picked up. On June 9, we had a beautiful musical concert joined by St. Tim's and St. Paul's. Following the concert, we had a great picnic with 85+ congregation in attendance. This year's fair booth was great. We were moved to a better location, used less help, and finished with our 2nd highest attendance of 168 mothers using the facility.

On September 15th we had our church picnic. On October 20th the Bishop joined us and a luncheon was served.

November 5th we brought back the bake sale on voting day.

Our biggest event was our church's 65th Anniversary. Many parishioners came back for our celebration, including Father Sloan and wife Kathy. We finished with a big bang.

Respectfully, Carol Popovich

Greeters/Welcome Guild

A hearty THANK YOU to all the GREETERS this past year for wearing the GREETER badge/sash and offering a smile and a handshake to fellow parishioners and visitors alike. There are 2 Greeters prior to the 10 o'clock service each Sunday. What an opportunity to extend frontline hospitality in God's house!

On October 6, Fr. Paul Gaston lead a dedication ceremony for the Welcoming Guild as an expansion of the GREETER MINISTRY. Greeters and future Greeters publicly showed their intention to be part of this ministry. Many of our parishioners have been interviewed for the weekly Lion's Pause. When asked what they like about or what is important to St. Mark's, overwhelmingly the comment is "it's the people" here. As part of this Welcoming Guild, we Greeters will continue to convey the love for our church by assisting visitors to become more acquainted with St. Mark's and to be included in the fellowship. Currently there are "Welcome Visitor" cards in the pews, a guest book on the table near the front door, and VISITOR BAGS also on that table. Another way to bring visitors into our fellowship is to accompany them to coffee hour.

In addition to the expansion of the Welcoming Guild ministry, a hearty THANK YOU to Judy Hixon, Pat Silagy Wesson, and Tory Willoughby for answering the call to be part of the Welcoming Guild as "recruiters" of

greeters. Perhaps you are called to serve in this ministry. If so, please sign up on the bulletin board, contact one of the 4 of us, or say an enthusiastic “YES” when asked to greet!

During 2019, 8 visitors signed the guest book. Approximately that same number of visitors attended without signing the guest book.

Respectfully submitted
MaryAnn Kiesling
Tory Willoughby
Co-chairs

Health and Wellness Ministry

This was the first year of testing out a ministry to promote health and wellness and we hope to pursue additional offerings in 2020. Samantha Abraham of Zen Den Shala has led monthly beginner yoga and chair yoga sessions for \$10.00 per class. We have held the classes in both the family room and the undercroft. We have also met for several walks on local trails, including Hoover Trail and the Gervasi/Middlebranch Trail. In 2020, we’d like to visit some of the other trails that Stark Parks offers. Health coach Michael Durbin (the husband of Susie Maioriello, director of Weaver) led a talk “It’s Never too Late to Feel Great”.

Our events are open to the public. If you have any ideas for classes, bring them our way!

Katie Kuceyeski

Knitting

The knitters, a small but inviting group, meet on the second and fourth Mondays from 1-3 in the family room. We knit our own projects but also prayer shawls and items for the Seamen’s Church Institute. Our Seamen’s items are blessed at the ECW Annual Meeting and sent to New Jersey for winter distribution to seamen who need hats and scarves once they hit the cold weather. This year we donated 55 items. Simple patterns and inexpensive yarn are used. Winter is a good time to take up a little knitting while you sit by the fire or watch TV. Please consider joining us!

Sue Little

Lay Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, and Worship Leaders

Saint Mark's continues to be blessed by Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers who strive to put meaning and clarity in their reading of the Word of the Lord. I am thankful for the time and effort they put in to making our services special each Sunday morning.

Tom Turner, Anne Coen, Rhonda Warren, Bruce Schutrum, Bob Kennedy, Pam McCarthy, John Werren, Mark Nadel, Kim Nadel, Judy Hixon, and Bruce Hixon serve the 10 O'Clock Congregation, while Sara Strattan, Paul Sack, and Diana Cornell, serve at 8 O'Clock. All serve from time to time at special services during the Church Year. I cannot thank them enough.

This year we are pleased to welcome a new Lector, Fletcher Clark!

We are always happy to welcome new members to our ministry. If you feel called to the service of Christ through the reading of the Word and/or the administration of the Chalice, please speak to Fr. Gaston or Bruce Hixon.

Eucharistic Visitors are trained to take Communion to those unable to attend Sunday services. Eucharistic Visitors function under the supervision of the Rector.

Tom Turner, Anne Coen, John Werren and Bruce Hixon are Saint Mark's Licensed Eucharistic Visitors.

If you or someone you know is unable to attend services and would like to have the Eucharist brought to them in their home or in the hospital please contact the church office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Hixon

Lazarus Committee

The Columbarium is a wonderful gift that past and present parishioners have given to the St. Mark's Family. Many parishioners have reserved a place for themselves and their immediate families. Sixty eight of the 152 niches have been sold. The cost today is \$1000. This covers the niche,

maintenance and the gold lettering. Not only is this considered a bargain in funeral costs, it eliminates worry and expense at the time of your funeral. The placement of your remains is an important part of your funeral planning. But not the only part, we also recommend you spent time with the priest outlining your funeral wishes.

Niches are sold as single units and are designed to accommodate both husband's and wife's ashes (if care is taken selecting the urn). Engraving is a standard design for all niches and there are no variations.

Respectfully Submitted
Charlie Kiesling

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch meets at 1pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month. We select various restaurants in the Canton/North Canton area. No reservation is necessary and all are welcome. Our table varies from 4 -8, but we can hold more.

Sue Little

Men Out Dining (MOD) Squad

St Marks' men meet the third Wednesday evening of every month at a local restaurant for dinner, fellowship and informal discussions. There is no agenda. The group is known as the MOD Squad, Men Out Dining. The original group of ten has grown to 17 at the last several meetings. Up to now every restaurant has been different and in 2020 we will begin repeating to locations which we found most desirable.

Reservations are requested so that the restaurant can prepare for our arrival and an email notice and reservation request is sent the weekend prior to all who have indicated an interest in the program. If you haven't received this email reservation request please indicate your interest and you will be added to the list. All St. Marks' men and guests are welcome.

Tony Keenan

One Stop Service Shop (OSSS)

St. Mark's OneStopServiceShop (OSSS) continues to grow as this ministry moves forward into 2020!

We've only had a few services completed in 2019 that have included some transportation needs, downed tree limbs removed, altar flower deliveries, and moving of light furniture.

This report is a good reminder to all parishioners that the OSSS is here to help you! Look for our brochure in our church pews for more information.

HelpUs-HelpYou!

Beth Bletzacker, ServiceEngineer

St. Mark's OneStopServiceShop

Parish Care

Parish Care is an outreach to assist parishioners during their bereavement. We provide coffee, punch, cookies and finger sandwiches, etc in the family room and library following the funeral/memorial service. Many items are donated, but the family is asked to make a donation to Parish Care to keep us in the black.

Sue Little

Parish Notecards

The window of opportunity to attend Sunday services is often very narrow. Several of our family of St. Mark's are just not able or available to attend during that narrow time slot. In addition to writing to those "missing in the pews", notecards may be mailed to those experiencing life transitions – new/loss of job, illness of family members, change in living arrangements, addition/loss of family members.

"Your family of St. Mark's is thinking of you" is printed on the inside of the card. Often a Bible verse, a paragraph from the Book of Common Prayer or inspirational readings, or a heartfelt message composed by one of the signers is included. Parish notecards are sent to our members to assure them that they are remembered in thoughts and prayers, even if they are not with us in

body. Each of the 3 of us sign each notecard. The notecards are then spread on the table and prayers for the recipients are offered. We 3 in turn are blessed to be part of this ministry. If anyone is interested in being a part of this ministry, please inform one of us.

Notecards were mailed in April, July, and October to between 12 – 20 parishioners. Our next mailing will be in early spring 2020.

Respectfully submitted
Grace Giammarco
Pat Kapper
MaryAnn Kiesling

Photography

It has been my pleasure again this year to document some of the events at St. Marks and to supply photos to Katie and many of the wonderful friends at St. Mark's. Here is a list of those of those events.

Annual Meeting

Baptism of Ava Marie Nadel

Bob Morrison's 90th Birthday

Choir Party- Oct. 12

Choir Party- June 2

Choir Room Dedication- Oct. 22

Commissioning of ushers, greeters, and welcome guild. Oct. 6

Commissioning of Wardens & Vestry- Feb. 25

Communion- March 31

Conformation with Bishop Hollingsworth- Oct. 20

Confirmands in Service- March 3

Easter Sunday Service- April 21

Baptism of Evan Michael Thake- July 22

Evensong on Pentecost- June 9

Emilie & Alex Korosi's Anniversary prayer and blessing- June 2

New Choir Room

Norm & Rhonda Warren's Anniversary prayer and blessing- Oct. 13

Palm Sunday- April 14

Pancake Breakfast Feast and Fun- March 3

Rev. Beth Frank and Leo- March 10

Rev. Beth Frank's Farewell- March 17
Senior Acolytes- May 13
Solemn Evensong at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with St. Timothy's Ep. –
Nov. 3
St. Mark's Expansive Liturgy discussion- July 14
St. Mark's Stark County Fair Booth- 2019
St. Mark's Brew Meisters at Lockport Brewing- April 27
St. Mark's and Weaver School Clean Up Day- April 23
Fallen Tree damage- April 28th
St. Mark's 65th Anniversary Celebration- December 8
Father Sloan's benediction December 8th
Donna Brooks Memorial Photo- September 18
I will also be photographing our Christmas Eve service that will complete
this 2019 year of photography.
I look forward to 2020.
Thank you one and all!
Bill Rand

Prayer Chain

It has been another busy year for our Prayer Chain Team. Unfortunately, our list sits at a record number of 60+ people in need of prayers, many of them ongoing. This ministry is very important to the recipients of our prayers, as well as to their loved ones. Although we often hear little follow-up, it is most gratifying and rewarding when I learn someone can be removed from our prayer lists because they are healed and then share their gratitude for our efforts. God gets the glory, but we in turn can take pride in being his Prayer Warriors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bobbi Gordon

Puppet Ministry

St. Mark's Episcopal Church's "Puppet Gang" is in its twenty-second year. Father Sloan encouraged its beginning after seeing broom and mop puppets at a church in the Caribbean Islands. The program promoted Christian values. Our program has evolved into large head muppet type puppets.

Sixth through high school age young adults are part of our group. They study stories about our Christian faith, providing them with real life experiences exemplifying good Christian behavior. Five St. Mark's members are three community members comprise our team.

The Sunday School students join our production to present the original Christmas story as an integral part of our Christmas show.

Our Christmas show is "Cookin' up Christmas" as our TV cooking shows are huge now. In our show the great cooks on TV collect recipes, cook together, and wrap gifts. They learn the real ingredient in Christmas, that is God's Love!

With support of our puppeteers parents, the Sunday School teachers, the monetary gifts of the ECW and our wonderful students, we are able to give the congregation a warm, enlightening and entertaining show this 2019 Christmas season on December 22 after the 10am service.

Directors: Sandy Paradis and Jan Hudson

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a great start this school year! A big thank you to Sharon Ryan for leading our Sunday School program the last several years and for helping transition Kathy Kennedy and I into the leadership role. We have 10 total Sunday School students this year ranging from ages 3-8. We have 6 volunteer teachers, along with 4 assistants – thank you to all of you! We ended the calendar year with our participation in the Puppet Gang Christmas show and a Sunday School sponsored inter-generational Advent event making angels and singing carols. Thanks to all who joined us! We look forward to the rest of our school year and hope you'll join us for more inter-generational events!

With joy,
Emily Gordon

Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown

Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown is a community project of assisting the underserved with a large shopping bag of food to help them enjoy the holiday. Over 600 applications were received at our sister church, St. Paul's, which is the gathering site. This year there were 17 churches involved. We were asked to donate applesauce and we gave over 700 jars.

There is also a need to help pack the bags and schlep them from the basement to the main level for pickup. Distribution is the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Sue Little

Thankful Thursdays

So far for the 2019-2020 school year St. Mark's has provided food for 5 families on a monthly basis. This food is able to feed the entire family several meals. For the Christmas season we also provided gift cards for Giant Eagle. These students and their families, who are part of our local community, often do not know where their next meal is going to come from and with your continued support we are able to provide not only meals, but also hope. Thank you for your donations!

Mandy Pelger

Ushers

At the beginning of 2019 we had 21 ushers (7 teams of 3) who rotated weekly per the published schedule. In addition to the 10 o'clock service and Gene Little who faithfully covered the 8 o'clock service each week, we served at funerals and special eucharistic non-Sunday services.

Looking ahead to 2020 we have 19 people currently willing to serve. We always welcome new recruits as the schedule is flexible and team members have always been accommodating when it comes to trading dates or filling in. Let us continue to serve as God's servants to provide guidance and direction in the Lord's House.

With Thanksgiving and in His service,

Bob Kennedy

United Thank Offering

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a small way to say thank you to God and be part of a larger gifting process. We are asked to save our change in a little blue box each time saying a prayer of thanksgiving for a blessing received. Through United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we

recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. United Thank Offering is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

St. Mark's participated in the 2019 Spring Ingathering in a unique way this year by using "Giving" calendars customized for adults and children. Coins were deposited in the box by counting a variety of things for which we were thankful. Contributions for Spring totaled \$462.02. Fall Ingathering was a traditional one with \$425.50 collected.

Thanking you for your continued support and response,

Kathy Kennedy and Amelia Rowland, Co-Chairs

Wedding Coordinator

Wednesday Study Group

The Wednesday morning study group is now meeting from 9:30 to 11. This is a small group that welcomes all who like to read, listen, think, and talk about inspirational matters. Reading is done taking turns reading aloud with discussion as we go along.

The group is currently reading Richard Rohr's "Great Themes of Scripture" Vol 1, Old Testament. This past year we finished Joan Chittister's "In Search of Belief" and then Pratt and Honan's "Radical Hospitality". Melinda Gates' "The Moment of Lift" and Hans Rosling's "Factfulness".

Eloise Hochwalt

Bylaws Change: Proposed Language

- a. In the time of transition where a permanent rector is not in place, the Vestry may choose to temporarily appoint the Senior and Junior Warden beyond their respective terms by a majority vote. The duration of this temporary appointment should last no more than three months beyond the start date of the new rector. These positions shall be in addition to the normal number of Vestry members and shall not reduce the number seats available for new Vestry members. These positions shall retain voting rights during their temporary appointment.

St. Mark's Annual Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2019

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:15am following the service at 9:00am.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Rev. Beth opened with a prayer and a video introduction to Bishop Curry's *The Way of Love* program.
3. **Determination of a Quorum** – A quorum was declared.
4. **Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules**
 - Speaking rules were declared and adopted. Old and New Business item discussions were limited to 30 minutes and remarks were limited to 3 minutes each.
 - Bob Kennedy motioned to accept the Speaking Rules. The motion was seconded by Louise Moore and the motion was approved.
5. **Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes (handout)**
 - Geoff Gordon made a motion to waive the reading of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Kennedy and the motion was approved.
 - Geoff Gordon made a motion to accept the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Kennedy and the motion was approved.
6. **Approval of Minutes of December 2, 2018, Special Meeting (handout)**
 - A Special Meeting of the Parish was held on December 2, 2018, in which changes to the By-laws were approved as follows:
 - Vestry Size: Reduce the number of Vestry members from 12 to 9, thus electing 3 members annually instead of 4.
 - Vestry Meeting Quorum: Reduce the Vestry quorum requirement from 7 to 5.
 - Special Meeting of the Parish: Reduce the number of Qualified Electors to call a Special Meeting of the Parish from 40 to 20.
 - Joe Hoot motioned to accept the Minutes of the December 2, 2018, Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Chuck Violand and the motion was approved.
7. **Appointment of Tellers** – Tellers were not needed, as candidates were running unopposed.
8. **Report of the Nominating Committee (Bruce Hixon)**
 - The members of the Nominating Committee were outgoing Vestry members Beth Crowl, Bruce Hixon, and Charlie Kiesling.
 - Beck Rand was appointed to fill the remaining two years of the Class of 2018 vacancy.
 - Nominees for the Class of 2019 are Linda Deuble, Caroline Willoughby, and John Wise.
9. **Opening of Polls**
 - Anne Coen made a motion to elect the three candidates by voice vote. Judy Hixon seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and all three candidates were elected unanimously.
10. **Interim Rector's Report and Introduction to *The Way of Love* Lenten Program**
 - Rev. Beth's report was covered in her sermon and is included in the handout with the Annual Committee Reports.
 - Our Lenten Program in 2019 will be Bishop Curry's *The Way of Love Program* which promotes reflection, discernment, and commitment around the practices of "Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest".
 - Rev. Beth thanked Bob Morrison and Ron Hill for sharing their musical gifts with our parish.
 - Rev. Beth thanked the Finance Committee and the Trustees for creating the 5-year Financial Plan, ensuring that we will be able to afford a full-time rector.
11. **Wardens' Reports**
 - Senior Warden Derek Gordon thanked the ongoing and outgoing Vestry members, as well as the new Vestry members for their dedication and service. Derek expressed his appreciation of Rev. Beth for her organizational skills and responsiveness that will set us up for success with a new rector. The full report is in the printed Annual Report handout.

- Junior Warden Rhonda Warren’s report is included in the printed Annual Report handout.

12. Ministry Committee Reports (handout)

- Ministry Committee Reports are in the printed Annual Report handout. Bob Kennedy made a motion to accept the Committee Reports as submitted. Tory Willoughby seconded the motion and the motion passed.

13. Weaver School Video

- Weaver School provided an informational video of the school that they created to help with their fundraisers. It was shown to the congregation to convey the positive energy and activity that is in the building during the week. Classrooms were left open so parishioners could visit the rooms after the meeting.

14. Search Committee Report (Joe Hoot)

- Members of the Search Committee were recognized: Joe Hoot, Chairman; Anne Coen, Grace Giammarco, Ken Jaeb, Mandy Pelger, and Paul Sack.
- A parish profile has been completed, and we are actively looking for a new rector.

15. 2018 Financial Report and 2019 Missional Budget (handout)

- Finance Committee member Sara Strattan presented the 2018 Financial Report and the 2019 Missional Budget as outlined in the handouts.

16. Closing of Polls – Not needed

17. Reports from the Tellers – None needed

18. Old Business – None

19. New Business – None

20. Closing Prayer – Rev. Beth closed the meeting with a prayer.

21. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:50am after a motion by Tom Turner that was seconded by Caroline Willoughby.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand
Clerk



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