

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Annual Report 2021



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# **St. Mark's Clergy and Staff**

Fr. RJ

W. Robert Morrison: Organist/Choirmaster

Katie Kuceyeski: Office Manager

## **St. Mark's 2021 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 2022**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment/Speaking Rules
5. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (page 19)
6. Appointment of Tellers\*
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Opening of Polls\*
9. Rector's Report
10. Warden's Reports
11. 2021 Financial Report and 2022 Missional Budget
12. Closing of Polls
13. Report from the Tellers\*
14. Old Business
15. New Business
16. Closing Prayer
17. 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 2021** (serving until January 2024 Annual Meeting)

Carol Hayn

Gene Little

Mandy Pelger

**Class of 2020** (serving until January 2023 Annual Meeting)

Marcia Kiesling

Beth Crowl

Bruce Hixon

## **Outgoing Vestry Members**

Caroline Willoughby

John Wise

Linda Deuble

## **Vestry Candidates:**

### **Sara Strattan**

My husband and I have been retired for about four years now. We have two sons, Matthew (who is married to Allison and has two children of his own -- Caroline (9), and Connor (5)) and Edward (who has a lovely girlfriend, Brianne).

We joined St. Mark's when our boys attended preschool, and I am surprised to realize that it was forty years ago. When the boys were young I taught Sunday School and have since served as a Eucharistic Minister and as a member of Altar Guild, Finance Committee, Knitting Group, and Vestry.

I would be honored to serve as a Vestry member.





**John Willoughby** - As a member of St. Mark's for almost 35 years, I have experienced many high and low points of parish experiences. I have served on the vestry on 2 or 3 prior occasions, including as warden. I have also served as Trustee for the St. Mark's Endowment Trust, as a member of St. Mark's Finance Committee, and as an Usher and Greeter. All four of my children grew up at St. Mark's and served as acolytes (I even helped teach Sunday Church School!).

As a former corporate executive, my interests at St. Mark's tend to involve administrative matters. My hope is that despite the recent extended period of "transitions" at St. Mark's (exacerbated by COVID), the arrival of Father RJ will begin to enable the stability, growth, and community we all seek in our faith. I would welcome the opportunity to work with him to achieve his objectives as a member of the vestry.

John Willoughby

**Leslie Redmon**- I've been a member of St. Mark's for over 40 years now and have served on Altar Guild, Sunday School teacher, and past vestry member over the years and currently enjoy singing with the choir.

I've been retired now for five years, after working for 31 years at the J.M. Smucker Company. Retirement has allowed me to pursue long-time interests in piano (learning!), gardening projects with the North Canton Garden Club and recently volunteering at Stark County Library - Friends of the Library gift shop. Reading, golf, and quilting are favorite pastimes when not spending time with family and two totally adorable grandsons.



On vestry, I would hope to encourage further growth of St. Mark's and engage the participation of youth and newer members in activities to expand that growth, in our church and our community.

In a typical year, this is the spot where we would indicate parish statistics. Much of our audience was online this year, and those statistics are both difficult to tabulate and not particularly accurate.

Burials: 4

## **Rector's Report**

2021 was another challenging year. We began the year by continuing virtual services and meetings. When the COVID vaccines were finally available to the majority of our population, the Vestry and I decided that it was time to resume in-person services. The first Sunday we resumed in-person services was May 2. Although we have resumed our in-person services, we continue to limit some of the gatherings we would like to have. I look forward to the time when we can once again have a coffee hour and gather for meals and receptions in the church.

In addition to returning to in-person services, we have been able to gather for some other functions. The MOD Squad has gathered for dinners at various restaurants. The same is true for our cluster dinners. We have resumed Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. The Vestry and I will continue to monitor the COVID numbers to discern how we should be gathering in person.

Our Parish Administrator, Katie Kuceyeski, and I are grateful to have moved our offices to the area that was formerly used as the Coat Room and Nursery. The old Rector's Office is being transformed into the nursery. The primary reason for making this move was to have a place where I could meet with members of the parish in a quiet setting and can work without listening to the kindergarten lessons through the wall. Although this move was proposed by Interim Rectors, the decision to make the move was postponed until my arrival so I could have input in the final decision. The move has created a much more productive workspace.

Going forward, I have set five goals for St. Mark's to achieve. The first is to establish an Outreach Committee. By the end of the year, I hope that this Committee will lead us to at least one outreach program that any member of the parish can be involved with. We have many people engaged in various outreach programs, and I am encouraged by their efforts. At the same time, I believe it will increase the health of St. Mark's if we have an outreach program in which we can all work side by side.

Second, I hope to build a stronger relationship with Weaver Child Development Center. The Director of the School, Susie Maioriello, and I have begun a dialogue to explore how St. Mark's might minister to the students and/or faculty. Engaging in some way with the formation of the children at the school is an excellent way to reach the next generation. It may also open opportunities for us to get to know some of the families who are involved with the school.

Our third goal is to add at least six households to our parish this year. A household may be a single person, a married couple, or a family with children. To some, this may seem like a small number. New members bring more new members. Perhaps the best way to start moving toward this goal is for every current member to begin praying that the Holy Spirit will open their hearts and minds to see who they might invite to join us and to pray for friends, neighbors, and family members who do not currently attend a church. Prayer changes the world, and prayer changes us.

The final two goals are longer-term goals. The fourth goal is to have an average Sunday attendance of at least one hundred people within five years. St. Mark's is a wonderful community. What we have here is worth sharing with others.

Finally, within five years our budget will not need to include money from the principal of the endowment funds. It is not bad to have to rely on the principal from the endowment for a time to rebuild. However, it is not a sustainable strategy in the long run to spend more than our income. If we achieve the first four goals, this fifth goal should be a natural byproduct.

I am grateful for the community of St. Mark's, and for the strong lay leadership that is here. I believe that God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, has good things in store for this parish. As people re-engage the world following the pandemic, many people are looking for deeper personal connections. This is something we have to offer. This is an authentic community that is willing to integrate people with various viewpoints. That is something our world desperately needs now. That is the gift we can give to people from Canton and the surrounding communities.

Fr. RJ

### **Senior Warden's Report**

Having completed my first year as senior warden I can truly appreciate the hard work of all the members of our vestry and many committees of St. Mark's. 2021 has once again presented us with many challenges. Our most serious, of course, is our COVID 19 pandemic. I am very proud of how our church has responded to that challenge. Thanks to the hard work of our "highly skilled technology team" (Thanks to Geoff, Joe, and Bruce.) we have been able to keep St. Mark's services and Father RJ 's sermons available to those members who have been unable to attend services in person. We continue to monitor the level of COVID-19 concern in Stark county and, with guidance from the Diocese and our local health department, we have done our best to keep St. Mark's open to live services in the safest and least restrictive manner. I appreciate the understanding and patience from all of you as we have navigated our way through the COVID challenge.

Thanks to the generosity and donations of many of our members, we have been able to make numerous repairs and replace equipment that no longer worked.

I am always amazed at the hard work our “Maestro” Robert Morrison does for our services. There is always a history and purpose behind his selections each Sunday. Thank you, Maestro!

It is always difficult to thank everyone individually for their contributions to St. Mark’s because there are so many of you. So let me just say “Thank you to everyone”.

Stewardship comes in many forms: volunteers, financial contributions, and prayers for those in need. St. Mark’s has done a wonderful job in all those areas and many more. 2022 will present many of the same and many new challenges, all of which I know will be met with the same commitment and hard work that I saw this past year.

I have learned much this year and I know I will learn more this coming year. It’s a privilege to serve as Senior Warden. Special thanks to Father RJ for his support and guidance.

John Wise, Senior Warden

### **Junior Warden’s Report**

As we continue to struggle to regain some semblance of normalcy during this time of pandemic illness, I am happy to report that our in-person attendance has been steady and the Live Streaming of our services has been well received by those unable to, or uncomfortable with, attending in person. We are even reaching parishioners who no longer live in the area.

Under the capable leadership of Fr. RJ, (about whom I have heard only positive comments) we are doing our very best to make things as “normal” as possible. The last few weeks we have returned to singing hymns and singing the “Glory to God” and the “Sanctus”. Please continue hoping and fervently praying for the day when we can say this horrible pandemic is finally behind us.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hixon

Jr. Warden

### **Parish Musician’s Report**

One of my teachers frequently said that progress was achieved by a return to fundamental principles. As I read Father RJ's Lion's Pause columns, he is doing just that by analysis of the

Articles of Religion, the saints' days, liturgical knowledge, and his exegesis of the Bible. With pulpit leadership like this, it's a pleasure to select music to buttress theological thought.

Cantor Ken Jaeb has carried us through the pandemic so well. Ron Hill has contributed his synthesizer and skills for communion music. Beck Rand is a master organizer: our choral library has never been so neat. Leslie Redmon, Frances Swinehart, Sandi Kaustinen, Beck Rand, Pam McCarthy, Caroline Willoughby, Barrie Thorp, Chuck Violand, John Werren, and Louise Moore have all played significant roles in our music, and Bobbi, Emily Cathryn, and Derek Gordon, Karen Violand, and Tom Turner have proved to be well-coordinated handbell ringers, playing selected notes of our 25 Schulmerich handbells, the gift of June Lockhart in memory of her physician husband.

When my caregiver Ray developed health issues, St. Mark's ladies came through with sumptuous meals; and Tony's "Men's Out Dining" has been a way to connect.

Bruce Schutrum played a two-piano piece by Franck with me – it's quite special to have two pianos in the chancel. Our organ, functioning so well since 2002, had a two-week respite in the Fall because of a faulty computer board, ably repaired by our organ men, Jon, and Greg Lester.

International musician Steve Grimo loaned us his timpani and his talents and those of his friend Jan Baftrchy for several festive services. Guests Catherine Elsass Dillon and her teacher Jean Couchie Burnquist have sung special solos.

John Wise, Joe Hoot, Bruce Hixon, and Geoff Gordon have pooled their talents to permit streaming of our services online. I love playing bell introductions since our organ is equipped with lots of percussion. Thanks to Bruce Kennedy, who videoed an organ improv at my house in early December, and Anthony Montagno, parish musician at Trinity UCC and editor of our Canton Organ Guild publication, a YouTube of this Christmas Medley is available on the internet. This is my 24th year at St. Mark's – a place of warm Christian fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Robert Morrison

### **MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*2021 was, again, a particularly difficult year for many of our groups.  
Many ministries were unable to meet and do not have reports for this  
Annual Meeting.*

### **Acolytes**

The acolyte members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church is as follows: Joe Hoot, Karen Violand, Fletcher Clark, Brooks Deuble, Danny Holihan, Marilyn Thorp, and Susie Hines.

Due to COVID, we did not use acolytes until in-person services began in the Spring. Since then, there has been one acolyte at the 10 a.m. service to process in and out and serve the altar. The exception to this was the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service, where we had a contingent of five acolytes. The acolyte group deserves much credit for always being present and on time when assigned. This group of acolytes adds much dignity and support while serving at the Eucharist and morning prayer services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary L. Giammarco  
Acolyte Adviser

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in his House by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels, altar linens, and vestments, and serving the clergy and parish.

In 2021 Louise Moore retired from the Altar Guild after many years of faithful service and leadership. Our six remaining members Diana Cornell, Paulette Frech, Susie Hines, Eloise Hochwalt, Carol Popovich, and Sara Strattanfaithfully continued our work. Once again, we are most grateful to all those who helped to decorate the church for the Christmas season as there is much to do, and we no longer do ladders.....!

Altar Guild receives the money from flower dedications and uses it to pay for weekly flowers, various supplies, and, when appropriate, makes a gift to the church. In 2021, we have provided funding for the water cooler in the Family Room.

Sara Strattan

### **Building & Grounds**

This is too long of a list to include everybody, but many hands make easy work, so thanks to all!

What a great group of dedicated people we have! From cleaning-up, fixing all kinds of things, getting on the roof to clear leaves and checking for leaks, meeting with contractors, fixing leaking toilets & dripping faucets, to responding to ADT alarms, and responding quickly to texts and emails, this year was another busy one.

We removed dead trees from the Betty Fortney Sanctuary and replaced a couple of benches.

The kitchen was fully cleaned in hopes that it would be used by the end of 2021. Every dish, plate, bowl, cup, you name it, it was cleaned. It's ready to go with a new refrigerator since the two we had would have cost more to repair than to replace.

We had to put in a new air handler for the sanctuary (this pushes the heat and cool air into the sanctuary. We also have had to replace a couple of motors that move hot water so we can have heat, but these things happen.

We also moved the offices to help with sound and privacy, not to mention keeping people healthy.

If you have a talent the church could use, please let me know. We save a lot of money fixing many things ourselves.

Thanks,  
Joseph Hoot

### **Cluster Dinners**

As with all things during the pandemic, the casual, small group fellowship of Cluster Dinners was sorely missed in 2020. Typically, the groups are on hiatus during the winter.

In mid April, 2021, an afternoon and an evening group ZOOMED, with a few beverages, but no food. As with much of technology, it was satisfying for some and not for others. But at least we came together to catch up with each other and to see each other w/o masks!!! We ZOOMED another two times in June.

Then in July, 2 groups met at a restaurant in the evening. And one group met in October and November. It was so good to be together, as carefully as we could be. Fr RJ joined us and many of us had our first times to visit with him. The hospitality of hosting and being a guest in each others' homes was missed, but some of us commented that we didn't have to clean our homes and still had good fellowship!!!!

Zooming during the winter of 2022 is in the planning stages. If interested, please contact me or the church office.

Respectfully submitted,  
MaryAnn Kiesling, Coordinator

### **Community Christmas**

Again, the shoppers and I decided that we would send the donated funds to Community Christmas vs shopping for presents. COVID seemed to be increasing by leaps and bounds, and we were not willing to put ourselves at risk. You were very generous.

Sue Little

**E.C.W.**

Our major project this year was Easter Baskets for the Y.W.C.A. homeless shelter. This entails baskets for 42 women, their custodial children, and any man or boy living in the 4 -unit apartment building which they own. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to not only provide for the baskets, but I bought several sheet sets, some blankets, and 20 sets of bath towels which I took down later in the year. Usually, I post thank-you notes from the Y and several recipients, but there weren't any this year.

This year, between now and through April, we need to knit hats and scarves for the Seamen's Church Institute's Christmas-at-Sea program. The Province V Big Provincial Gathering will be at the end of April in South Bend. The focus is on the Seamen's Church Institute. Patterns are online or you can contact me.

Sue Little

**Greeters/Welcome Guild**

With the suspension of in-person services until the month of May, greeters were not needed. Then services were begun in our outdoor chapel, which our congregation is thankful to have.

As previously done in 2020, under the direction of Katie Kuceyeski, our administrative assistant, a welcome table was set up outside, weather permitting. These directives were followed by a handful of faithful, masked volunteers who staffed the table each Sunday during the summer. They kept a contact-tracing list, supplied masks if needed, and encouraged folks to use hand sanitizer, all while providing a friendly greeting and reminders to wear a name tag!

We four of the WELCOMING GUILD have reinstated the recruitment of weekly greeters for the 10 a.m. service. Fellow parishioners are happy to be part of this ministry. Currently, masks are to be worn, but we no longer are keeping contact tracing lists. Greeters can direct visitors around our building, offer them a VISITOR BAG, suggest that they sign the guest book, and introduce them to Fr RJ. We may not see each others' smiles nor shake hands, but our eyes and words can offer a hearty welcome to all who attend our services

Our mission is to welcome fellow parishioners as well as visitors. Hospitality is a gracious Christian attribute. We are welcoming folks into God's home, as we would welcome family and friends into our own.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hixon  
MaryAnn Kiesling  
Pat Silagy Wesson  
Tory Willoughby

### **Hope Outreach Ministry**

#### **OUTREACH: Blessing Box at Hope Outreach Ministry**

St. Mark's continued its long relationship with Hope Outreach Ministry this year by operating a collection center for Hope's Blessing Box Project. The Blessing Box at Hope is stocked with personal care items and emergency food items and is open to the homeless 24 hours a day. St. Mark's collects these items in its own "Hope Chest" located by Katie's new office, and then delivers them to Hope. About 30% of the families served by Hope are homeless, including children. We also collect any used clothing items to deliver as well. This year something special happened when the Weaver School at St. Mark's did outreach for Hope also. The children made "care bags" to hand out to the homeless and made Thanksgiving cards to pass out as well. Thank you, Weaver School.

### **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 into their reading of the Word of the Lord. I am thankful for the time and effort they put into making our services special each Sunday morning.

Tom Turner, Anne Coen, Carol Hayn, Derek Gordon, Bruce Schutrum, Bob Kennedy, Pam McCarthy, Fletcher Clark, Mark Nadel, Kim Nadel, Judy Hixon, and Bruce Hixon serve the 10 a.m. congregation, while Sara Strattan, Paul Sack, and Diana Cornell, serve at 8 a.m.. All serve from time to time at special services during the Church Year. I cannot thank them enough.

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. RJ or Bruce Hixon.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bruce Hixon

*Our Eucharistic Visitors were inactive in 2021.*

### **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. This year two families have interred loved ones in the St. Mark's columbarium.

The cost today is \$1,000. This covers the niche, maintenance, and gold lettering. Not only is this considered a bargain in funeral costs, but it also eliminates worry and expense at the time of your funeral. 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.

The placement of your remains is an important part of your funeral planning, but not the only part. We also recommend you spend time with the priest outlining your funeral wishes.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charlie Kiesling

### **Lunch Bunch**

We try to meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday @1 p.m. at various local restaurants. This is mainly a drop-in; however, you are welcome to call me to let me know you are coming, so we have a large enough table. Restaurant suggestions are welcome. In January we will be eating at LaLoma, the new Mexican restaurant in the strip mall just south of Olive Garden. It opened just a few months ago.

Sue Little, 330-704-4501

### **Men Out Dining (MOD) Squad**

The MOD Squad met May through December at various restaurants and had from eight to fourteen attendees at our meetings. Earlier in the year, meetings were canceled because of Covid concerns.

Continuing in 2022 are on hold pending the outcome of the current Covid outbreak.

Tony (last name?)

### **One-Stop Service Shop (OSSS)/Meal Train**

St. Mark's MealTrains have now been incorporated with OSSS.

We had 14 cooks/delivery people who participated in 2021. These caring parishioners provided and delivered meals to five different people/families that just needed some extra

help to get them through a little patch in their lives. Some consisted of just a few days or a few weeks. Very rewarding ministry, indeed!

Know of a fellow parishioner who could use a meal or two? Please contact me at: [KirkAndBeth@yahoo.com](mailto:KirkAndBeth@yahoo.com)

Respectfully submitted to HelpUs-HelpYou!  
Beth Bletzacker  
Service Engineer/Coordinator

## **Outreach**

<b>Ministry:</b>	<b>Money Raised:</b>
Community Christmas	\$2, 417.50
Thanksgiving Baskets	\$1,584.32
Gibbs School	\$520.00

Additionally, several meal trains were set up throughout the year for parishioners dealing with COVID-19 and quarantine.

## **Parish Notecards**

The inside inscription of our parish notecards reads: *Your family of St. Mark's is thinking of you*". The notecards are sent 3 – 4 times a year, at non-holiday times. Recipients typically are *parishioners only* and include those who are shut-ins, on our prayer list from the bulletin, and who are experiencing challenges in their lives. There are a variety of reasons that folks are not able to attend our Sunday services. The Parish Notecard Ministry is an opportunity to let them know that they continue to be part of our St. Mark's family.

The first "round" was sent in mid-February to 11; the second "round" with 12 sent in mid-July; the third "round" with 18 sent in late November.

Due to the pandemic, we three ladies wrote them at our respective homes. (Previously we met at church and all signed each one.). We handwrite a sentiment chosen by us – often a Bible verse or phrase from The Book of Common Prayer– unique to the recipient. Our sentiments are heartfelt and are intended to be inspirational and supportive.

We each said a prayer for each recipient prior to passing them on to Fr RJ. He signs and mails them.

We look forward to continuing this “behind the scenes” ministry and hope that we can soon resume writing them together at our church.

As a side note, the 4 p.m. Wednesday zoom Evening Prayer is an opportunity for an interactive, corporate worship service that can be “attended” from anywhere with WiFi.

Respectfully submitted,  
Grace Giammarco  
Pat Kapper  
MaryAnn Kiesling

### **Photography**

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus, there is not much to report this year.

I did manage to photograph and share my photos of our Christmas Eve service with Katie and many parishioners.

I also photographed and shared many photos of my little backyard bluebird friends. I hope it helped to lift our spirits from time to time as we walk through this pandemic together. I am hoping for a healthy and more active 2022.

Thank you,  
Bill Rand

### **Prayer Chain**

This past year of 2021 has provided plenty of work for our Prayer Warriors. Unfortunately, our Prayer Chain list seems to grow in length a little each year. We are currently praying for 63 people. Prayer Concerns in the bulletin and Lion's Pause reflects only about 40 of those same people, the rest wish to be prayed for privately. I am often cheered and encouraged by our St. Mark's "pray-ers" who support this ministry and remind me how important it is. Thank you for your dedication.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Gordon

### **Stewardship Committee**

Members include:

Father RJ  
Linda Deuble  
Pam McCarthy  
Joseph Hoot

PLEASE don't be afraid when this committee approaches you. We are a new committee looking to help St. Mark's thrive. You will be hearing from us soon as we had been trying to meet near the end of last year. However, COVID hit two of us and made it difficult to meet. This year we are going to get going. Please help us when asked, come to gatherings, give your feedback (both positive and negative). We are in this together as a family to help St. Mark's. We look forward to 2022!

Thanks, Joseph Hoot

### **Sunday School**

In 2021 the Sunday School returned to meeting in-person in the Spring when St. Mark's returned to in-person services. We met outside for a month and then were off for the summer. Fall 2021 kicked off a new school year, where our students were back to in-person lessons. Our volunteer teachers are amazing, as always, coming up with meaningful and fun lessons! For the first time in a few years, we put together a traditional Christmas pageant that we hope everyone enjoyed! We gave the children a tough task of memorizing a few short lines and they blew us away!

As always, Sunday School would be nothing without our teachers. A huge thank you to those that volunteer with our Sunday School:

Katie Cerrone  
Mandy Pelger  
Sara Schaub  
Kathy Wise

Submitted with joy,  
Emily Gordon

### **Ushers**

This year has been another transitional one for the Usher group. We were shuffled and sorted and had minimal duties for the Sunday services.

There were several notable funerals that required our participation and the veterans of the Ushers stepped up.

We have several of our group that have expressed the desire to step back from participating as Ushers, including myself, as I have issues that will require a new “cloud to follow”. New teams will need to be organized and a new schedule begins at the start of Lent. I leave the group with a schedule through February. I am sure that God’s hand will guide the community of faithful to determine who will accept the call

Thank you,  
Bob Kennedy

## **St. Mark’s Annual Meeting Minutes January 17, 2021**

### **1. Call to Order**

- The Annual Meeting was held virtually via Zoom in compliance with prohibitions on in-person gathering from the Diocese and the State of Ohio in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Parishioners began logging into the Zoom meeting at 10:03 a.m., introducing themselves to Fr. RJ.
- The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. when a quorum was attained.

### **2. Opening Prayer**

- Fr. RJ Johnson opened the meeting with a prayer.

### **3. Determination of a Quorum**

- A quorum was declared, with 38 eligible parishioner logins to the Zoom meeting.

### **4. Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules**

- Speaking rules were declared and adopted with a **motion** by Kathy Kennedy, seconded by Carol Hayn, and approved unanimously.
- Old and New Business item discussions are limited to 30 minutes and remarks are limited to 3 minutes each.

### **5. Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were included in the Annual Meeting packet.
- There were no corrections or discussions, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **6. Appointment of Tellers**

- Tellers were not needed, as the candidates were running unopposed.

### **7. Report of the Nominating Committee**

- Nominees for the Vestry Class of 2021 are Carol Hayn, Gene Little, and Mandy Pelger.

## 8. Opening of Polls

- Pam McCarthy made a **motion** to accept the Report of the Nominating Committee and elect the three candidates by voice vote. Louise Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and all three candidates were elected unanimously.

## 9. Rector's Report

- Fr. RJ's first day at St. Mark's was November 1, 2020. His report is included in the Annual Meeting packet. Fr. RJ thanked Derek for his leadership as Senior Warden during the period of time when there was no permanent rector present. He also thanked the Search Committee for their work during the difficult circumstances created by the pandemic.
- Interim Rector Fr. Gaston's report is included in the Annual Meeting packet.

## 10. Wardens' Reports

- Senior Warden Derek Gordon expressed his gratitude for the support of the congregation and the leadership of the Vestry during the challenges the parish faced in the time when we had no permanent rector. We continued through with the Restoration Campaign, brought Weaver School into our building, had two interim rectors, coped with the pandemic and its restrictions, and completed our search for and transition to a new rector.
- Derek's full report is included in the Annual Report packet.
- Junior Warden Grace Giammarco's report is included in the Annual Report packet.

## 11. Search Committee Report

- The Search Committee report is included in the Annual Meeting packet.

## 12. 2020 Financial Report and 2021 Missional Operating Budget

- Treasurer Charlie Kiesling explained the various Financial Reports that are included in the Annual Meeting packet.
- The Trustee's Report is included with the Financial Reports in the Annual Meeting packet.

## 13. Closing of Polls

- Not needed.

## 14. Report from the Tellers

- None needed.

## 15. Old Business

- There was no Old Business.

## 16. New Business

- There was no New Business.
- There were several remarks from parishioners:
  - Carol Hayn thanked Derek, Grace, and Charlie for their hard work during this period of transition.

- John Werren noted that many churches have festivals, dinners, etc. that bring in additional funds to the parish. We have done this in the past and John suggested that we think about doing it again. He also asked Fr. RJ to close with a special prayer for Fr. Carey Sloan and Fr. Erv Smuda, who both passed away last year.
- Tom Turner thanked the congregation for their support of the workers at Mercy and Aultman Hospitals, especially those who sewed all the masks.
- Judy Hixon asked if many people are using the online pledge payment service provided by the Diocese. Charlie said several parishioners are using it for pledge payments as well as special remembrances. Derek and Charlie affirmed that 100% of the payments go to the parish, as the Diocese is absorbing the fees associated with this service. Many parishioners also use automatic bill pay through their banks, which has no fees.
- Kathy Kennedy thanked Emily Gordon for the excellent job she has been doing leading the Sunday School, especially the creative video of the virtual Christmas Pageant. Kim Nadel also expressed her appreciation, as she had been Superintendent of Sunday School herself for so many years.
- Marcia Kiesling echoed Tom Turner's appreciation for the masks that were sewn by St. Mark's parishioners for the workers at the area hospitals.
- Grace Giammarco thanked Katie for all the extra work she has done for the church during the pandemic.
- John Werren recognized Bob Morrison for his considerable talent and that he hasn't missed a single service. He deserves a lot of credit and love.
- Pam McCarthy expressed her appreciation for the support she received from parishioners when Ken passed away.

### 17. Closing Prayer

- Fr. RJ closed the meeting with a prayer, including a special prayer in remembrance of Fr. Carey Sloan and Fr. Erv Smuda.

### 18. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am with a **motion** by Emily, seconded by Joe, and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Karen Violand, Clerk  
 Trustees Report

The Trustees of St. Mark's manage all endowment funds for the church. Endowment Funds are made up of bequests and donations which generous parishioners and friends have given to St. Mark's to ensure the longevity and well-being of the parish. With the creation of the trust,

past parishioners wanted to set up a tool to benefit the church and a vehicle to provide funds for projects and needs beyond normal operating requirements.

There are five Trustees who serve five-year terms (maximum two consecutive terms) and who oversees the investment and distribution of the funds. Trustees for 2021 were:

- Maggie Holihan (Chairman)
- Geoff Gordon (Treasurer)
- Rick Crowl (Secretary)
- Drew Pelger
- Charlie Kiesling

Maggie Holihan assumed the chairmanship and Charlie Kiesling joined the board in 2021.

Assets are currently invested in equities, income funds, and money market funds. A small portion of the assets, church library, and music program, are restricted to disperse only income. The balance of the fund is available to be used for the benefit of the church with the approval of the Trustees and Vestry.

Maggie Holihan



## **2021 Financial Report and 2022 Missional Budget**

### **Missional Operating Budget**

St. Mark's mission statement reflects this community's discernment of God's call as members of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement. Mission statements do not reflect where we are, rather where we feel called to go. A budget reflects where we are financially. Income and revenue speak to how we as the St. Mark's community value our mission and are willing and able to financially support our mission. Expenses reflect how we utilize that bounty of funds to pursue God's call. Allocation of expenditures to each of our four mission areas allows us to reflect on how we are fulfilling the various aspects of our mission and to determine if

adjustments should be made. This examination is not just about money, but also the energy, time, and gifts of St. Mark's clergy, staff, and laypersons.

The Finance Committee offers this 2021 Financial Report and 2022 Missional Budget not only as a tool to analyze our financial realities, but more importantly to launch consideration of how we are responding to God's call for us as a community to pursue both "inward-focused aspects of mission (worship; teaching; pastoral care; fellowship), and ... outward aspects (evangelism; outreach; advocacy)." Susan Snook, *Aligning Money with Mission*, March 2017 [http://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/612/aligning-money-with-mission#\\_ftn1](http://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/612/aligning-money-with-mission#_ftn1)

## **The mission of St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

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

## 2021 Financial Reports

Dear Parishioners,

Throughout 2021 I have worked closely with the Finance Committee, the Trustees, the Vestry, and Father RJ. to receive, care for, and properly distribute the financial resources you have provided to support the mission of St. Mark's. This report has been designed to provide you with a clear and accessible picture of what resources have been received and how they have been used to further our work. Please do not hesitate to ask me or any member of the Finance Committee about this report or any other financial matter.

A special thank you to John Willoughby, Sara Strattan, Kathy Kennedy and Geoff Gordon for their support and work on the Finance Committee, as we worked through our first full year with a full-time rector, surprise HVAC issues, and relocating the church offices. It is important to recognize the significant amount of work done by Katie Kuceyeski, our office manager, and by John Wise and Bruce Hixon, our wardens. Due to COVID, the number of offering counters was reduced. Joe Hoot and Geoff Gordon handled most weeks with some help from Bob Kocab, Christy Thorley, and Rick Werren.

As expected, operating expenses exceeded operating income in 2021. In March, monthly withdrawals of \$4,000 were transferred for the St. Mark's Trust to support operation expenses. The use of Trust funds was reviewed and approved by the Vestry and the Trustees in 2019 to support the hiring of a full-time rector.

After reviewing the year, we find that there are a number of things which stand out. Among them are:

- Operating Costs: Operating costs are expected to exceed operating income for the next several years. As we break free from the COVID pandemic, we need to develop plans to increase the overall participation in the spiritual gifts offered here at St. Mark's.
- Donations: The COVID-19 crises continued to have a significant financial impact on donations in 2021. Again, this year we obtained a \$18,700 SBA PPP loan and successfully filed for forgiveness. With the SBA PPP loan, a special donation, and some parishioners exceeding their pledge donation, total revenue exceeded the budget by \$26,472.
- Outreach Activities: COVID-19 also had a significant impact on our Outreach activities. Personal involvement was limited, if any. Thanksgiving Baskets and Community Christmas asked for only cash donations again this year. In 2021, parishioners donated \$4,475 to be sent to outside organizations.
- Capital Improvements: In late summer, our 40-year-old sanctuary air conditioner decided to retire. A special thank you to the many parishioners who contributed to the special AC fund (\$15,500 was donated). Following the recommendation of our interim rectors, the church offices have been moved. For a complete list of 2021 Capital Projects and funding, see the attached 2021 Capital Reserve Financials sheet attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

## 2021 Missional Operating Budget Performance

		2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Variation		
<b>Revenue and reserves</b>						
1	Plate Offering	\$ 800	\$ 273	\$ (527)	COVID - Lack of in-person services	
2	Pledge Payments	\$ 165,880	\$ 163,676	\$ (2,204)	COVID - Lack of in-person services	
3	Non-Pledged Income	\$ 5,000	\$ 30,231	\$ 25,231	Special gift, Pledge over payment	
4	Miscellaneous/Interest	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,750	\$ 1,750	Rent - refunds	
5	Weaver Rent	\$ 33,850	\$ 33,600	\$ (250)	Calculation error last year.	
6	Service/Outreach Donations	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,472	\$ 2,472	Funds that are donated for special outreach projects.	
7	<b>Total Budget Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 209,530</b>	<b>\$ 236,002</b>	<b>\$ 26,472</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>						
1	Clergy	\$ 122,137	\$ 124,087	\$ 1,950	First full year with full time rector	
2	Music	\$ 17,104	\$ 16,299	\$ (805)	Salary, music, and instrument maintenance	
3	Office/Administration	\$ 44,454	\$ 42,407	\$ (2,047)	Salary and office administration cost	
4	Paid Nursery Attendant	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ (300)	Parents covered when required	
5	Altar Supplies	\$ 550	\$ 353	\$ (197)	Supplies, does not include flowers	
6	Christian Education	\$ 1,200	\$ 229	\$ (971)	Adult and youth	
7	Diocesan Assessment	\$ 29,418	\$ 30,914	\$ 1,496	Higher expense higher assessment	
8	Hospitality/Fellowship	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ (2,000)	No events do to COVID	
9	Marketing/ Advertising	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,615	\$ 615	Social media and newspaper	
10	Evangelism/Mission Outreach	\$ 3,000	\$ 513.00	\$ (2,487)	Evangelism and outreach programs - no fair booth in 2020	
12	Building Maintenance	\$ 55,526	\$ 46,926	\$ (8,600)	Building maintenance under budget.	
13	Service/Outreach Distribution	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,472	\$ 2,472	Donations collected and forwarded for special causes	
14	Capital Reserve Funding	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	See Capital Reserve next page.	
15	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 286,689</b>	<b>\$ 275,815</b>	<b>\$ (10,874)</b>		
16	<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (77,159)</b>	<b>\$ (39,813)</b>			
<b>Funding:</b>						
17	Operating Reserve	\$ 21,953	\$ -		\$18,700 PPP loan held for 2022 operating reserve	
18	Funds from St. Mark's Trust	\$ 55,206	\$ 40,000		\$43,040 transferred from Trust. \$40,000 operation, 3,040 Operation reserve for 2022	
<b>Mission Area Review</b>						
		<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>Mission Percent</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>Mission Percent</b>	
1	Worship	\$ 110,883	39%	\$ 106,135	38%	Clergy, music, office, nursery, marketing building
2	Fellowship	\$ 29,195	10%	\$ 26,296	10%	Clergy, music, office, hospitality, marketing, building
3	Education	\$ 29,103	10%	\$ 27,863	10%	Clergy, music, office, marketing, building
4	Service	\$ 117,509	41%	\$ 115,521	42%	Clergy, office, diocesan support, building, outreach passthroughs
5	Totals	\$ 286,689	100%	\$ 275,815	100%	

<b>Capital Reserve</b>			
	<b>Status Date</b>	<b>12/31/2021</b>	
<b>2021 Capital Reserve Financials</b>			
<b>Reserve for Capital Expenses Balance December 31, 2020</b>			<b>\$ 67,432</b>
<b>2021 Donations/Receipts</b>			
2021 Restoration campaign contributions	\$	428	
Year to date JIF 205-2 Gain or Loss (December 31,2021)	\$	9,354	
AC Donations	\		
Yearly operation budget allocation	\$	8,000	
Memorial Fund Contribution AC Air Conditioner	\$	5,000	
Year end Capital Reserve donations	\$	4,300	
<b>Estimate Donations/Receipts</b>			<b>\$ 22,782</b>
<b>2021 Capital Funds Expenditures</b>			
2021 Diocese of Ohio Loan (9620) - Payments	\$	8,931	
2021 Diocese of Ohio Loan( 5523) - Interest	\$	1,069	
Boiler Pump 2/10/21 Standard Plumbing	\$	1,432	
Hot Water Tank 1st floor - 4/1/21	\$	1,183	
New Computer and System Back-up -5/14/21	\$	2,250	
Landscape, Trees and Storm Drain	\$	5,313	
New cooler in the kitchen	\$	1,300	
September New Sanctuary AC Condenser and Repair	\$	18,307	
Office Move and Upgrade	\$	10,706	
New roof over new offices	\$	6,065	
<b>Estimate Capital Funds Expenditures in 2020</b>			<b>\$ 56,556</b>
<b>Reserve for Capital Expenses 2021 Year End Forecast</b>			<b>\$ 33,658</b>
<b>Notes:</b>			
1 Capital Expense Liabilities (Payable by December 2025)			
Loan from the Diocese of Ohio (does not include interest)	\$	13,537	
Estimated Loan Interest (based on \$1,000 monthly payments)	\$	500	
<b>Total Capital Expenses Liabilities</b>			<b>\$ 14,037</b>

**2022 Missional Operating Budget**

**2022  
Budget**

**Revenue and reserves**

1	Plate offering	\$ 800	June return to normal services
2	Pledge payments	\$ 163,788	71 pledges - 8 less than 2020
3	Non-pledged income	\$ 23,000	COVID - Lack of in person services
4	Miscellaneous/interest	\$ 3,500	
5	Weaver rent	\$ 33,600	New 5-year contract August 2019 yearly increases
6	Service/outreach donations	\$ 4,000	Funds donated for special outreach projects.
<b>7</b>	<b>Total Budget Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 228,688</b>	

**Expenses**

1	Clergy	\$ 123,493	Salary and benefits
2	Music	\$ 16,970	Salary, music, and instrument maintenance
3	Office/administration	\$ 45,443	Salary and office administration cost
4	Paid nursery attendant	\$ -	Parents covered when required
5	Altar supplies	\$ 400	Supplies, does not include flowers
6	Christian education	\$ 1,000	Adult and youth
7	Diocesan assessment	\$ 29,809	Support for the wider out reach of the Episcopal Church
8	Hospitality/fellowship	\$ 250	Planned events - no charge or free-will offering
9	Marketing /advertising	\$ 2,000	Social media and newspaper
10	Evangelism /mission out	\$ 3,000	Evangelism and outreach programs - no fair booth in 2021
12	Building maintenance	\$ 53,642	Utilities, building and grounds maintenance
13	Service / outreach distrib	\$ 4,000	Donations collected and forwarded for special causes
14	Capital reserve funding	\$ 8,000	Capital reserve funding
<b>15</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 288,007</b>	
<b>16</b>	<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (59,319)</b>	

**Funding:**

17	Operating Reserve	\$ 11,319	No funds required from either source do to part time priest
18	St. Mark's Trust	\$ 48,000	Monthly withdrawals starting March 2021
		<b>\$ 59,319</b>	

**Mission Area Review**

		<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>Mission Percent</b>	
1	Worship	\$ 111,083	39%	Clergy, music, office, nursery, marketing, building
2	Fellowship	\$ 27,777	10%	Clergy, music, office, hospitality, marketing, building
3	Education	\$ 29,347	10%	Clergy, music, office, marketing, building
4	Service	\$ 119,800	42%	Clergy, office, diocesan support, building, outreach pass throughs
<b>5</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 288,007</b>	<b>100%</b>	



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