

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Report



**for the year
2013**

St. Mark's 2013 Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules
5. Reading of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes
6. Appointment of Tellers
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Opening of Polls (open for 30 minutes)
9. Clergy Report
10. Committee Reports
11. Closing of Polls
12. Report from the Tellers
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Closing Prayer
16. Adjournment

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 27th, 2013

Call to Order: At 11:35am, Father Dustin Berg opened the meeting with a prayer. He then determined a quorum was established, and that the agenda could proceed.

The following Vestry members were present: Anne Coen, Rhonda Warren, Grace Giammarco, Bruce Hixon, Kirk Bletzacker, Mike Mozingo, Derek Gordon, Carol Popovich, Barrie Thorp, Charlie Kiesling and Bert Heisser.

Father Berg explained the voting process, and rules for speaking for the Annual meeting. Voting members must be sixteen years of age, a member of the parish and have participated in Holy Communion at least three times during the past calendar year. Speakers must approach the microphone in the middle of the isle and state their name.

Louise Moore moved to accept the rules as stated, and Pam McCarthy seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes from 2012 Annual Meeting: The minutes from the 2012 meeting were reviewed by the Congregation. The entire report is to be posted on the parish's website. John Willoughby moved to accept the 2012 minutes as printed, and Ron Brooks seconded. Motion passed.

Father Berg then read the names of the appointed tellers.

Vestry Nominations: Mike Mozingo and Kirk Bletzacker oversaw the Vestry nominations. Mike reported that there had been twenty-two nominations, and that six members had agreed to run. The Congregation will vote to fill one 1-yr. term, and four 3-yr. terms during the Annual Meeting. Father Berg declared the polls open at 11:46am for the next thirty minutes. Attendees may vote to add more time to the discussion and voting process. Ballots were then passed out to the Congregation.

Reports of Rector, Organizations and Officers: Father Berg said he was pleased to be serving St. Mark's, and praised Vestry members, committee heads and servers for their dedication. These parish ministries contribute inwardly and outwardly, and stand ready to serve. He urged the Congregation to review the goals set forth for the life of the parish. These include:

- A.) Identifying a signature outreach
- B.) Establishing a ministry and gifts inventory
- C.) Increasing diocesan support
- D.) Updating communication
- E.) Strengthening and support of parish care.

He felt the Congregation would greatly benefit by attending Christian Formation events, and asked everyone to support these efforts. Father Berg rallied the congregation to get on board, and stand strong as a parish to implement our goals.

Communicating: Father Berg stressed the importance of directly communicating with the Clergy, Wardens and Vestry in order to better serve specific needs and concerns.

Emilie Korosi extended an invitation to any woman in the parish to join the Altar Guild. She especially encouraged young ladies to join. The Altar Guild offers a mentor program for any new member.

Senior Warden: In addition to his written report, Bruce Hixon promoted the newly commissioned Growth Committee, and encouraged people to join and generate ideas.

Outgoing Vestry Members: The following members have completed their Vestry terms:

Anne Coen
Derek Gordon
Mike Mozingo
Rhonda Warren

Father Berg presented each with a gift, and thanked them for their loyal and faithful service to St. Mark's.

Finance Report: Treasurer Charlie Kiesling presented an overall picture of the Parish's accounts, expenditures and deficits. He explained to the Congregation the importance of planning for the next generation. The practice of tapping into reserve resources solves the problem at hand, but cannot continue as a way of healthy financial existence. He suggested a Strategic Planning Committee be commissioned as a support system to help implement new monetary solutions. Currently there is a \$30,000 deficit.

In asking for additional speaking time, Charlie thanked all those members and families who have pledged and supported St. Mark's this year. To date St. Mark's has received \$159,000 from 103 pledges for 2013. Charlie then reviewed the budget and cost saving ideas he has executed.

Old Business: Bruce Hixon explained that under the current Code of Regulations and By-Laws, there can only be three check signers. He said there was a need to increase that number, and made a motion to update the Code of Regulations by adding additional signers. Geoff Gordon seconded, and the motion carried. Under the new by-laws, there can be a maximum of six check signers and a minimum of four.

New Vestry: After the initial thirty minutes, the five new Vestry members were announced:

Tom Temelkoff (3yr.)
Maddie Thomas (1yr.)
Alex Violand (3yr.)
Dick Croasdaile (3yr.)
Emily Gordon (3yr.)

Father Berg thanked the Congregation for their votes, and gave a special note of appreciation to all Vestry candidates who allowed their names to be placed on the ballot.

Father Berg reminded the Vestry that they were to meet immediately after the Annual meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Judy Hixon moved to adjourn the meeting. Alex Violand seconded. Father Berg adjourned the meeting at 12:35pm.

Faithfully Submitted,
Grace Giammarco
Clerk of the Vestry

The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio www.dohio.org

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth

Assisting: The Rt. Rev. David Bowman, The Rt. Rev. Arthur Williams,
The Rt. Rev. William Persell

St. Mark's Vestry

Bruce Hixon, Senior Warden

Grace Giammarco, Junior Warden

Emily Gordon, Clerk

Bert Heisser

Sue Little

Kirk Bletzacker

Charles Kiesling

Carol Popovich

Barrie Thorp

Maddie Thomas

Alex Violand

Dick Croasdaile

Tom Temelkoff

Staff and Ministry Leaders

W. Robert Morrison

Sue Little

Louise Moore

Craig Hockman

Bruce Hixon

Gary Giammarco

Charlie Kiesling

Kirk Bletzacker

Sandy Paradis & Jan Hudson

Carol Popovich and Susie Hines

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

Pamela Clark, Livvy Mull

Derek & Emily Gordon, Kate Mozingo

Kelli Mossgrove

Stephanie Stallman

Riley Kiesling

Organist/Choirmaster

Episcopal Church Women President

Altar Guild President

Head Usher

Head Lay Reader

Acolyte Advisor

Treasurer

Building and Grounds

Puppet Directors

Wedding Coordinators

Sunday School Committee

Youth Ministry Leaders

Financial and Bookkeeping Assistant

Office Assistant

Nursery Attendant

2013 Parish Services – Statistics:

Total attendance at all services: 6618

Easter attendance: 177

Christmas attendance: 183

Burials: 8

(Nancy McPeek; Norman Peterson; Alice Little; Bill King; Hugh Pratt; Phil Stern; Jeanine Helmkamp; Marvyn Touse)

Average Sunday attendance: 107

REPORT FROM FATHER BERG

Baptism formally inaugurates our Christian journeys. Together with sponsors or godparents, family, friends, and our Church, we enter into a relationship with Jesus and promise to “follow and obey him as [our] Lord” (BCP 303). And every time the Church witnesses another baptism, its members renew and recommit to those promises they made or that were made on their behalf. It is with great joy, then, that when I consider our ministry together here at St. Mark’s over the past year, much of it is marked by *seven* – yes, **seven** – baptisms! Baptism calls us into that growing relationship with God that is at the heart of what it means to be the Church.

I am also pleased to say that we are oriented in the right direction – with our hearts and hands and spirits looking to grow. You will read more about our church’s efforts at growing elsewhere in this report. It is hard for me to overstate, however, how the work of our *Grow My Church* program and our Growth Committee has been, and continues to be, truly extraordinary.

In our formational life, we spent the Wednesday evenings of Lent with potluck dinners and with the brand new DVD series called *Animate*. This series featured several contemporary voices and fresh perspectives on basic concepts of our faith such as, simply, “salvation”. One of my benchmarks for the success of a program like this is to have at least 10% of our average Sunday attendance represented. With one of those evenings numbering 27 people, we significantly surpassed the 10% mark.

On September 29, we held our first Ministry Fair between and after services. This was a chance for all of us to see and hear of the many ways we participate in parish life. It was also an opportunity to have in one place the names and contact information for the persons responsible for each of those ministries, on a half-page handout. There is now no longer any excuse for not participating on the grounds of not knowing who to contact!

Besides becoming more aware of the many ways to be involved in growing together, we have begun to grow outwardly, toward some of our neighbors beyond our front doors. As part of our Friday community dinners, we have begun to partner with local organizations in fundraising, on their behalf. This both exposes us to our neighbors and builds relationships of outreach in the community. You will also see and hear more details of these dinners elsewhere.

Look around. Is the parking lot more filled? How many young children are in the nursery? These, too, are signs of growth and life. As far as the nursery was concerned, we saw in 2013 the departure of Jenny Bierman, who began her student teaching; and in the late summer, Riley Kiesling came on board as our nursery caregiver. On Sunday mornings she can be seen playing with, often several of those who were baptized this year. Ask any parent of young children and they will tell you how important it is to have her there!

Certainly 2013 brought many challenges. These will always be part of our life together. A roof will leak sometimes. Budgets are tight. Boilers explode (trust me – I know!). But I have to say

that one of the signs of growth and life in these challenges is that they do not define us. They are not the first things that come to mind when we think of St. Mark's.

As you all know, our work continues. We have room to grow. But that's one of the beautiful things of Christian faith and life. We have *room to grow*. We recognize that we will fall from time to time. But the good news – the Gospel – is that there is redemption and new life. As we “repent and return to the Lord” (BCP 304), we know the direction we must turn again when we stray from it. So let our prayers be that God continues to “send [us] into the world in witness to [his] love” (BCP 306).

Faithfully,
Fr. Berg+

Senior Warden's Report

2013 has been a very good year for St. Mark's.

We have reached out to the community through our church dinners, and through our traditional outreach activities, and we have formed a new Outreach Committee whose charge it is to identify and bring before the Vestry new ways for St. Mark's to reach out and be a blessing to the people of Stark County.

We have continued to enjoy each other's company through the Church\Community Dinner, the new St. Mark's Brewmeisters, and our Cluster Dinners.

We have found a new sense of peace, and a greater love for one another. We have put in place new ways to greet visitors and we will continue to add new ways of welcome.

We have developed a new sense of mission. We have turned outward. Confidence and giving have increased.

My special thanks to the members of the Growth Committee, the Grow My Church Committee, the Hospitality Committee, the Outreach Committee, The Way Forward Campaign, and the Vestry for all your hard work. And thank you to each and every member of this congregation for pitching in when needed, for your support of our activities and for your generosity.

We still have much to do, we are not out of the financial woods as yet, but we have turned the corner. We are ready to grow again. So spread the word. Tell your friends and neighbors that you are happy to be a part of a Christian fellowship that seeks to include rather than exclude, to love rather than to judge. Invite them to St. Mark's!

Bruce A. Hixon
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

In the Winter Quarterly of Church Life, Bishop Hollingsworth mentions a poem by John Masefield in which the Poet Laureate speaks of hope:

“Eighty years have brought such change as even a generous heart could scarcely have expected or even hoped; and here we are now, like Shakespeare, in some doubt saying, ‘What’s to come is still unsure.’ To most of us it seems very unsure, but then it always has been; and we, who have seen great changes, must have high hopes. ‘Hope is a jewel,’ somebody said. But Hope is not stolen, like so many jewels. Hope is a thing given, so that a more lovely thing can be.”

It has been a privilege for me to be Jr. Warden and to see for myself the great hope this parish holds. As the “peoples” warden I have tried to be among the congregation in worship, outreach, and social gatherings. In each instance I’ve seen a parish full of optimism and commitment to carry out what God plans. But along the way what has affected me most is knowing so many of the personal and individual cares and ministries I’ve seen revealed. I will leave this job remembering that in our warm and holy sanctuary, each prayer matters and every hope is heard.

Faithfully Submitted,
Grace Giammarco,
Jr. Warden

Acolyte Report

At St. Mark’s the acolytes and crucifers set the tone of reverence and solemnity. The ministry of acolytes dates back to the third century AD. It would be hard to imagine the services, processions and lighting and extinguishing of candles at St. Marks without our acolytes .All of us should be thankful for those who serve as acolytes for their sense of purpose and dedication. Also, a big thank you to the parents who bring the young acolytes early on Sundays they are scheduled.

This past year our acolytes served 110 services. The acolytes for 2014 are: Joe Hoot, Charlie Kiesling, Karen Violand, Marilyn Thorp, Susie Hines, Evelyn Otani, Angelica Otani, Rachel Crawl, Justin Crawl, Morgan Wilson, Alexis Wilson, Nathaniel Clark, Ben Kiesling, Tim Turner, Jeff Turner, Evan Jenkins, Colin Jenkins, Austin Ryan and Delaney Ryan.

This year we will lose four of our student acolytes: Angelica Otani, Austin Ryan, Tim Turner and Jeff Turner. All will graduate and go off to college.

As with any group, there is always turnover. We would be glad to welcome any new member, seventh grade and beyond, to join our acolyte group.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary L. Giammarco
Acolyte Advisor

Building & Grounds Report

Many thanks for donations of the parking lot painted lines, the new "St. Mark's Church" sign on front of church, a new kiosk, and partial payment of our new boiler from parishioners that were completed in 2013. Other jobs/work orders that were completed in 2013 are as follows: interior and exterior painting, several new ballasts were installed to repair interior lights, 2 new skylights (along with additional roof repairs), several issues with security system have been resolved, and parking lot lights. New battery for emergency exit light was installed, and the remainder of batteries coming in 2014. Spring and fall cleanups were attended by parishioners and were greatly appreciated.

Thank You

Kirk Bletzacker, Building and Grounds

Altar Guild Report

St Mark's Altar Guild has 10 active and 3 part time members dedicated to preparing the rites of the Church. They include two Sunday Services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, decorating for Christmas and any other celebrations as needed. This also includes care of the silver, brass and linens. The altar is set up each Saturday for the next day's services. Our members work quietly behind the scenes and are not always visible, but their efforts are much appreciated.

The Altar flowers are from monies gifted as memorials to family, friends or other loved ones in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions.

We always welcome anyone who would like to join the Altar Guild regardless of gender. Our many thanks to our unseen heroes!

Louise Moore, Altar Guild President

Lay Readers Report

St. Mark's continues to be well served by a dedicated group of laymen and laywomen serving as Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors and we always have room for more.

Any member of the congregation, high school age or older who is looking for an opportunity to utilize their talents in the service of the church, should talk to Father Berg or Bruce Hixon about becoming a member of this group.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce A. Hixon

Head Lay Reader

Ushers Report

During 2013, the dedicated usher teams continued to support Saint Mark's in our services and funerals. We had several changes to the members of the teams this year for various reasons. We continue to hold at 8 teams with between 3 and 5 members, and have 33 ushers. I continue to look for new ushers and welcome anyone that would like to serve the church in this capacity. We no longer have sufficient numbers to have five members on teams, and have one team with only three members. The teams that do have five members have one member that is not here year round, or has other obligations such that we need to have more than four members for those teams. Please note that ushering is open to both men and women of St. Mark's, and I will encourage and welcome all who wish to serve the church as an usher.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Hockman – Head Usher

Community Christmas Report

Thanks to the generosity of our church family we were able to provide Christmas gifts and food vouchers for six families of four members. Some of the families' needs were great as the mothers appeared to be starting over again. We received letters of thanks expressing their great appreciation for assistance in their time of need.

St. Mark's has participated in this community outreach project for some four decades, before we were asked to buy new items, as this might be the only time of year that the recipients would receive something new. We also give food vouchers instead of shopping with a grocery cart. One fond memory (and my first physical participation) is having been asked by Thelma Baines to go to the grocery shopping with her and Marcia Tirpak. We started filling our cart with 5# flour, 5# sugar, a box of salt.....I wonder how many will shop that way today.

Knitting and Prayer Shawl Ministry Report

We continue to meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 1-3pm in the family room. Anyone is welcome to join. We donated a large box of scarves and hats to the Seamen's Church Institute in NY and NJ. They are collected each May at the E.C.W. Annual Meeting. We have distributed 3 prayer shawls, a lap robe, and a child's prayer blanket this year. If you prefer to knit from home, please do so.

With the moving from Deaneries to Mission Areas, the Central East and Summit Area E.C.W.s have merged. This fall's project was collecting underwear for women and children in Les Cayes, Haiti. We sent 46# of underwear and clothing. Our spring project is sewing Hospice Pillows for the 5-county area.

President of the Mission Area E.C.W. is Sue Little.

Episcopal Church Women Report

We are pretty much an invisible group until there is an event and we come out of the woodwork, so to speak. Many women prefer “tell me when to show up and what to do” rather than attend a planning session. We do our planning while we knit on the second and fourth Mondays at the church.

We filled about 70 baskets for Easter for the Y.W.C.A. homeless shelter with items we purchased and your donated items. The residents appreciate what is basically a surprise gift. We have given baskets for about 25 years.

Our December lunch was well attended. New this year was a smaller raffle with fuller baskets. Megan Walton reviewed her experience working and visiting in Tanga, Tanzania in the summer. She had a full agenda. The money raised at the luncheon helps pay our Diocesan and Mission Area dues, partially fund the Puppet Gang, assisted Maddie Thomas on her mission trip, and buy some yarn for the prayer shawls.

Parish Care Report

Parish Care is composed of a group of women who arrange funeral receptions at the church. We provide beverages and cookies, and depending on the family’s needs, may also provide tea sandwiches or assist the family with serving their catered dinner. Arrangements need to be made with Sue Little, Grace Giammarco, or Cindy Brown. Anyone wishing to help is welcome. We ask for donations of cookies, etc, but other items need to be purchased. It is appreciated if the family of the deceased makes a donation to Parish Care to assist us in future receptions. This year we served the families of Dr. Bill King, Jeannie Helmkamp, and Norman Peterson.

United Thank Offering Report

United Thank Offering was begun 200 years ago by two Episcopal women as a way to show our thankfulness to God. It is a daily opportunity to acknowledge God’s blessings in our lives. Throughout the years, individuals have put a coin into a Blue Box while saying a daily “thank you, God” prayer. Twice a year, Ingatherings are held, people open the boxes, count the coins, and write a check. Perhaps, we could write our blessings on a scrap of paper daily – then open the Blue Box and see all of our blessings! Then make a contribution. In addition to our blessings, let us always be mindful of the recipients and the difference that our combined offerings make in their lives.

Totals from our Ingatherings are: Spring - \$610.89; Fall - \$461.85.

Respectfully submitted
MaryAnn Kiesling

Grow My Church Report

The Grow My Church group was originally formed to take part in the Grow My Church strategic planning process. The vestry accepted the recommendations that resulted from this process and requested that the group check back in with the vestry in six months to evaluate the progress and determine whether a new Grow My Church group should be appointed to restart the process as an ongoing strategic planning initiative. The following details outline the progress made on each of the Grow My Church recommendations.

1. Commit to community service activities that engage our hospitality, facility, and inherent talents

- Partner with a handful of local charities to receive support from our Community Dinners
- Build additional service opportunities with these charities
- Identify three charities for community dinners over the next year
- Assign this to the Outreach Committee and task them to partner with Fellowship Committee

Status: This recommendation has received the most attention of the three. Many members of the congregation have been involved with the community dinners and have already completed a dinner with one charitable organization and have another charity committed to our February dinner. Additional opportunities with these organizations have not yet emerged, but it is still early in the process. There is still room for improvement in each area with particular focus needed on engaging our inherent talents in areas of need throughout existing church programs.

2. Develop Relevant Educational Programming

- Personal and Spiritual Growth

Potential Topics

- Parenting Mental Health Substance Abuse
- Youth and Young Adults
- Sexuality Peer Pressure Life Skills
- How to Extend an Invitation to Church
- How to Greet Newcomers
- What's Happening in the Episcopal Church

Status: This recommendation has proven to be the most difficult to implement. Historically, St. Mark's educational programs have experienced erratic attendance and as a result we have struggled to sustain these programs. Father Berg continues to research successful programs in other congregations to help identify new opportunities for St. Mark's. The goal is to select programming that peaks the interest of our parishioners while providing participants with tools to handle pertinent issues facing Christians today.

3. Juice up the Worship

- Reform and charge worship committee with:
 - Working with clergy and music director to broaden musical styles and genres
 - Making the bulletin more user friendly
 - Focusing on improving the pace of service
 - Providing feedback on sermons
 - Expanding opportunities for congregational involvement
 - i.e. Prayers of the People

Status: The congregation has likely noticed a few incremental changes to the service. Streamlined bulletin details to help visitors follow the service, increased parish participation in prayers of the people, and making announcements from the lectern have all been steady and subtle changes. A worship committee has been established and has begun to meet to review how our worship is conducted and determine if there are any ways to improve the service for our members and visitors.

Summary:

While some recommendations have been more productive than others, progress has been made. To help facilitate progress where elements of some of these recommendations have stalled, the vestry has requested that the original Grow My Church group reconvene to provide a formal implementation strategy for each recommendation. This group will be meeting soon to brainstorm strategies and provide a strategy report to the vestry which will include a recommendation about how to continue with the Grow My Church process in the future as an ongoing strategic planning initiative.

Wednesday 10:30 AM Study Group Report

Wednesday mornings find 6 dedicated ladies around the parlor table reading and discussing the latest book chosen by the group. This past year we have read a variety of books with us sharing Rabbi Jesus with the Friday group when we had finished it.

We are always happy to have others join us when it fits their schedule. Wednesday 10:30 to Noon.

Annual Report from the Music Director

With a musically trained priest, dedicated volunteers, outstanding instruments, and a celebrative atmosphere, your Parish Musician has enjoyed his sixteen years of service. The choir room, dedicated to S. Kathleen Morrison, is a welcoming rehearsal space.

Professional and semi-professional volunteers have been a significant aid: *Pianists* Carolyn Louise Bee, Sandra Morehead Carnes, Charles A. Reiman; *Percussion* John Gregory (playing timpani on loan from the Canton Concert Band); *Trumpet* R. Chris Hall; *Violin* Katie Hockman; *Voice* David J. White; Sandi Kaustinen, Ken Jaeb, Frances Swinehart, Dr. Norman Warren, Caroline Willoughby.

Instruments: Four pianos - Kawai Grand purchased from private owner during Father Sloan's ministry; Yamaha Studio already in place; Charles R. Walter upright in the choir room given in memory of beloved choirmaster Jim Baines; and Cable-Nelson spinet, gift of the Wilber family in the undercroft. Three of these pianos employ a "piano-saver system" which adds humidity to protect the sound board and lessen the need for frequent tunings. Distilled water is added every few weeks, and in humid weather, the system reduces moisture. Our piano technician is Fred Balzer.

The organ started life as a nine-rank Schantz (Orrville OH) in 1970, a memorial to Syd Partridge to which were added four Antiphonal ranks at the sanctuary rear 1978 by Robert J. Wervey. A complete refurbishing spearheaded by donations of the Boyd family and the congregation in 2001 by the Cornell Zimmer Company of North Carolina added a new three-manual console, and fifty digital ranks by Walker Technical. A four-bell Zimbelstern was given in memory of S. Kathleen Morrison. After Hector Olivera's April 2012 recital, we added a sound module of his design which tripled our available tonalities. The organ is serviced by Jon and Greg Lester. Temperature is a major factor in keeping organ pipes in tune, and Finney Refrigeration (and Charles Kiesling's raising of funds for a new boiler) has been of great benefit, Grounds and building supervisor Kirk Bletzacher has been significantly helpful.

Our choir roster: Sandi Kaustinen, Frances Swinehart, Leslie Redmon, Barbara Siegfried, Pam McCarthy, Louise Moore (handbells), Beck Rand (librarian), Barrie W. Thorp, Ken Jaeb, Dr. Norman Warren, Charles Violand, Caroline Willoughby. Emeritae: Howard and Georgeene Summers and John Werren. We will miss Robert Karl Bortz (who took a position as choirmaster at a Massillon Lutheran church) and Candy Wallace who was unable to continue singing with us.

We have 25 Schulmerich handbells, the gift of June Lockhart in memory of Walter Shealor. With encouragement from Louise Moore, the bells have been used increasingly, e.g., music for the outdoor chapel services and special numbers in church and an appearance at Mercy Medical Center. Participants have included Louise, Derek and Emily Gordon, Tom and Jeff Turner, Karen Violand, and Ken Jaeb. New springs have been installed in all 25 handbells.

Your organist/director is responsible for hymn selection and music notes and writes a monthly column in St. Mark's newsletter *The Lion's Tale*. Topics this past year: *January*, music critique; *February*, Brookes; *March*, McCarthy/Pakenham; *April*, Maddie Thomas; *May*, Alex Violand; *June*, Temelkoffs; *July*, Derek and Emily Gordon; *August*, Organ Historical Society Convention in Vermont; *September*, Don Lovgren; *October*, Olivia and Gary Mull; *November*, Stephanie Stallman (church secretary); and *December*, Kelli Mossgrove. (*January* will be Riley Kiesling, nursery attendant).

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

Due to budget constraints, we have not bought any new choir music for a while. Here is an invitation for donors to purchase a new title. The average cost is \$40.00.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Robert Morrison

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. There are five Trustees who serve five year terms (maximum two consecutive terms) and who oversee the investment and distribution of the funds. Trustees for 2013 were Rick Werren (Chairman), Bob Kocab (Treasurer), Marcia Kiesling (Secretary), Mark Nadel, and Tim Giammarco. Assets are currently invested in equities, income funds, and money market funds. A small portion of the assets have been designated by the donors to use only the income for the church library and the church music program. The balance is available to be used for the benefit of the church, subject to request and approval of the Vestry.

Rick Werren

Lazarus Committee Report: Columbarium

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

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

Charlie Kiesling

The Wedding Coordinators Report

In the year of 2013, there were no marriages performed, so our services were not needed. We will be reviewing our Wedding Guideline Booklet this year to go over any changes or additions.

Respectfully,
Carol Popovich and Susie Hines

Cluster Dinner Report

Cluster Dinner Groups continue to be a lively, sharing opportunity for fellowship. Adult parishioners sign up and are assigned to groups of 6 – 9 people. The groups are reshuffled 3 times a year. Most gatherings are potluck suppers in each other's home; and a couple of groups have met in local restaurants then have driven to someone's home for dessert. The giving and receiving of hospitality is an example of Christian sharing. A new sign-up sheet will be posted the end of January; groups will be assigned and begin in March. First-times are always welcome to this casual, fun activity.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryAnn Kiesling

The Growth Committee Report

The Growth Committee has accomplished much in the 15 months that it has been operational. The broad goal of the committee is to identify needs at our parish and to match the interests and skills of parishioners to carry out those needs. Here is a list of specific accomplishments:

- Greeters (wearing a badge/sash and a smile) for the 10 o'clock service
- Photos of church life on the library windows
- Visitor Bags, Welcome Bags containing items imprinted with St. Mark's name, and cards with a paragraph from Fr. Berg and Bruce Hixon, Sr. Warden, and spiritual/instructional leaflets
- Laminated pew inserts and perforated Welcome info cards
- Presentation by Max Millender about his community program
- Packets for children who remain in the pews during a service for ushers to give out
- Nursery coverage
- Trifold leaflet with new photo of the church, updated map, and a list of 15 "opportunities for service"
- Updated list of active parishioners and pictorial directory.

Pictorial Directory: A big thank you is due to several people. First, to Karen Violand for her early gathering of printing costs to get the project started. To Bruce Hixon for his photographer knowledge as the idea began to form. To Barb Siegfried for calling people who had not had their photos taken the first 3 Sundays. Then, a huge thanks to Pam McCarthy for her tireless expertise of formatting such a document and developing the forms for our personal data. And lastly, a "can't thank you enough" to Bill Rand for his willingness, his equipment, and his vast time commitment to photograph almost 100 St. Mark's members/family units.

In addition to having recognizable photos of us, there was a dire need for an updated "active" member list with correct contact information. After several months of somewhat daunting discussions, a subcommittee began honing the previous directories. This will be the list used by all parishioners.

More thanks are in order to parishioners who respond with "Yes" when asked (especially greeters). And, thank you to Stephanie for all your assistance.

Goals includes completion of the directory (target date Lent 2014), having parishioners make a personal contact visit with new members, accompanied by a Welcome Bag, drivers so folks can attend evening events.

Committee members include: Fr. Dustin Berg, Jesse Childers, Anne Coen, Ten Gall, Bruce Hixon, MaryAnn Kiesling, Sharon Ryan, Jennifer Tessanne, Karen Violand, and Rhonda Warren. They have great follow up and focus.

Respectfully submitted
MaryAnn Kiesling

Fellowship Committee Report

This year we started our Community Dinners held on the 3rd Friday of the month. I believe we can claim we were successful in our endeavor to reach out in our community.

We also held Lenten Pot Luck Suppers with the fellowship contributing the main meat dish and parishioners filling in side dishes and dessert. There were two Sunday brunches (Palm Sunday & All Saints Sunday) and both were very successful.

In addition, we had two Voting Day bake sales, our church picnic and our German Oktoberfest. I think we can agree that everyone who attended had a bang up time with music, good traditional German food, and our beer sampling and dessert contests.

We held our first Community Fundraiser Dinner for Solid Rock and are looking forward to doing one in February 2014 for Hammer and Nails, Inc.

We were able to set up a fellowship seed fund for 2014, set aside money to purchase needed items for the kitchen and contributed money to the general fund.

Looking forward to another encouraging year and hoping many more of the congregation will volunteer to help in the kitchen with our projects through the New Year. We can only be successful when everyone helps. No matter how small the task, with your help and God's help (and blessing) all things are possible.

With much love to all,
Carol Popovich
Fellowship Coordinator

Men's Prayer Group Report

The Men's Prayer Group meets in the church library the first Wednesday of the month. It's an informal gathering for fellowship and prayers for family, friends, and church members, distressed or deceased, followed by a general interest program rotated among the members. A dutch continental breakfast is served.

Occasional outreach visits to infirm former Prayer Group members have been worthwhile and the group is considering expanding visits to any infirm church men that would like visits. These visits would be short and informal, a few prayers and some fellowship.

Puppet Gang Report

The Puppet Gang is able to continue its ministry with funds from ECW and the Vestry. Two to three hundred dollars a year keeps us in business.

The Puppet Gang is comprised of directors Sandy Paradis and Jan Hudson. We have eleven talented, active middle school and high school students: Jeff and Tim Turner, Maddie Thomas, J.T. Weaver, Morgan Wilson, Evan Jenkins, Colin Jenkins, Alexis Wilson, Nathaniel Clark, Lauren Hoot, and Sean Goe.

We meet at 9:30 on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the puppet practice room downstairs. We provide a wonderful egg casserole breakfast and beverages so that the puppeteers are full of energy to have an enthusiastic practice. The Puppet Gang performed twice this year (January 2013-December 2013). In the spring of 2013, we performed "Ethan Cole: Agent of T.R.U.T.H." Ethan Cole, special agent, was confronted with an evil master mind who wanted to do away with 'truthfulness'. There were rocket ships and robots with lots of flashing lights, huge mountains to scale, and lots of action. But, in the end, Ethan Cole, agent of truth, succeeded to prove that everyone can become agents of truth, understanding that God helps us when we tell the truth.

In the fall we regrouped, after a Summer recess, in September introducing the new show "Great Big Story." In this show, the puppets had a 'tell-a-thon' as each Sunday school class member explained parts of the Christmas story. As each puppet explained their part (Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, and the Three Kings), we asked the Sunday school to portray the parts in the Nativity. Linda Deuble, Sharon Ryan, Livvy Mull, and Pam Clark helped in making this happen. We had Skyler Hudson, Bradley Mull, Malaina Paradis, Allie Ries, Fletcher Clark, Megan Peck, Carter Peck, Natie Hudson, Nyah Hudson, Brooks Dueble, and Si Mozingo play parts of the Christmas story.

Beautiful costumes from the pageant were used and the Sunday school children were absolutely "Oscar winners!"

We had a huge turnout thanks to announcements made and reminders in the bulletin. Many parishioners felt that the combination of the Puppet Gang teens and the Sunday school children was a good idea and were very moved by the performance. It was performed on December 22, after the 10:00am service.

All our hearts were warmed by the meaningful program, knowing our great puppeteers and adorable Sunday school children worked so hard, giving of themselves to St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Brew Meisters Report

With more than 2500 microbreweries and brewpubs in the United States a few enterprising members of St. Mark's church felt there was a pressing need for at least one more. So, on May 5, 2013 a group of 25 parishioners and friends of St. Mark's with nothing better to do with their time gathered at the global headquarters of Violand Management Associates, LLC to launch St. Mark's Brew Meisters Group.

As a result of this meeting the Brew Meisters brewed their first ale that was sampled later last summer after a 10:00 am Sunday service. To everyone's delight (and a little surprise) it was great! Now it was time for some serious brewing competition.

The Brew Meisters divided themselves into 5 brew teams to compete for best beer at last year's St. Mark's Oktoberfest and Craft Brew contest. After much sampling and a little judge rigging the ladies brew team walked away with first place for their Red Lioness Ale entry.

To send 2013 out on a positive note the Brew Meisters hosted an Ugly Sweater and Holiday Brew tasting after the 10:00 Sunday service on December 29th. This event was anticipated with great enthusiasm due to the weekly installments of the poem "A Holiday Visit From The Brew Meister", written by Kelsey Kaustinen.

Next up—Suds and Songs—a sing along and brew tasting just before Lent begins. Staying true to the Brew Meisters' core value of "no long range planning" the exact date for this event is yet to be determined. Stay tuned.

The group has grown to about 30 brewers. If you're interested in joining simply add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or contact me at cvioland@violand.com. No brewing experience necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Violand
BrewMeister

Vestry Candidates for 2014

Joseph Hoot
Caroline Willoughby
Dave Thorley
Craig Hockman

Vestry Candidates

Joseph Hoot:



My name is Joseph Hoot, I'm the proud father of Lauren Hoot whom I enjoy spending time with. I live in Louisville, Oh and have been a lifelong resident of Stark County. I work full-time as a sales Rep. for LKQ Corporation out of Akron, Oh. I also work for Charlie Browns Catering for more than 20 years part-time. My hobbies are fishing, playing cards, and corn hole. I also enjoy NASCAR racing and traveling. I came from St. Paul's Canton in 2009 and have been an Episcopalian my whole life. I'm looking forward to growing with Christ, and you, my church family. I enjoy being an acolyte, greeter, brewing beer, and have recently joined the Worship Committee.

Caroline Willoughby:



I've grown up in St. Mark's, attending for roughly 25 years. I attended Sunday School, was confirmed at St. Mark's, served as an acolyte, was a member Teen Forum (former Youth Group), and am currently a member of the choir. I've also assisted with Community Christmas, and with our Community Dinners. Even living outside of Canton, I always looked for an Episcopal church: when I attended Miami University, I was a part of a young Episcopalian's meeting group, and a choir member at Holy Trinity; in New York City I attended Christ & St. Stephen's on the Upper West Side, and St. John's when I moved to Brooklyn. Now that I'm living in Canton again full time, I look forward help serve the church in any way I can. I appreciate the fellowship and community of St. Mark's very much, and I'm hoping to help grow that sense of community and increase fellowship. We're fun people!

Dave Thorley:



When Christy and I became engaged in 1976 the only request that she had concerning our wedding was that we be married in her church, St. Timothy's - Massillon. She is a cradle Episcopalian. I was raised United Methodist. I immediately fell in love with the Episcopal faith, it's history, liturgy and of course "The Book of Common Prayer." Living in Louisville we found it difficult to become involved in a church in Massillon. We found St. Mark's in the early 1980's and have been a part of the " family of St. Mark's" ever since. I have had the opportunity to serve on the vestry for two complete terms and have finished one other. These were under the direction of Father Sloan and Father Hawkins. The future of St. Mark's is very bright. However, as we all know, there are challenges confronting us. I believe that my experience in the legal profession plus the more than 30 years that I've spent at St. Mark's will help me better serve you as we move forward together. Since I know that this is, unfortunately, not a contested election, if there is anything that I need to know or can do for you, please do not hesitate to share your thoughts and concerns with me. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Craig Hockman:



I grew up Episcopalian and have been with St. Mark’s church for about 20 years since I moved to Canton Ohio. My past vestry experience was with the building and grounds role. I have been the head usher for many years and enjoy working with the men and women that serve with me. I also handle the sound system for the church. I look forward to joining the vestry again to help this church continue as a place where we all feel comfortable to worship as a strong parish family. I would like to see St. Mark’s grow both internally, and in membership to sustain our parish for many years to come.

Financial Overview

Let’s start with a special thanks to all the parishioners that supported the Community Dinners and the Boiler Replacement Campaign. After expenses and some seed money for 2014 the Community Dinners delivered over \$4,100 to the bottom line and some new kitchen equipment. The special Boiler Fund contributions totaled \$10,247.

Our expenses continue to exceed income. There are positive signs – 2014 pledged income is up over \$3,600 from 2012 and 40 of the 96 pledges are increases.

Including the additional revenues and the cost of the new boiler the 2013 deficient was \$23,104.

For the fifth (5) consecutive year the shortfall was covered by transferring funds from our Operating Reserve and Reserve for Capital Improvements funds.

The projected deficient for 2014 is \$30,952.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2013 Financials as of December 31, 2013

	Year 2010 Actual	Year 2011 Actual	Year 2012 Actual	Year 2013 Budget	Year 2013 Actual	Year 2014 Budget	
4000 Plate Offering	\$2,439	\$2,169	\$2,168	\$1,500	\$2,696	\$2,000	
4005 Pledges	\$196,638	\$205,343	\$178,629	\$175,000	\$178,991	\$180,000	NOTE A
4010 Interest	\$32	\$16	\$3	\$0	\$0	\$0	
4015 Misc Income			\$3,281		\$6,326	\$0	NOTE B
4200 Offerings for Cap Imp.(Boiler)			\$9,725		\$10,357	\$0	NOTE C
Income	\$199,110	\$207,528	\$193,806	\$176,500	\$198,370	\$182,000	
5000 Diocesan Assessment	\$36,149	\$27,864	\$26,158	\$23,112	\$16,758	\$23,000	NOTE 1
5055 Salary Rector	\$42,725	\$59,171	\$62,100	\$62,100	\$57,492	\$62,100	NOTE 2
5056 Supply Clergy			\$882	\$700	\$400	\$400	
5065 Salary Organist/Music Dir	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$14,600	
5066 Substitute Organist			\$0	\$200	\$800	\$300	NOTE 3
5070 Salary Office	\$35,480	\$35,480	\$12,160	\$13,698	\$14,216	\$14,500	

5071	Paid Nursery Attendant	\$1,875	\$1,200	\$200	\$1,040	\$935	\$1,300	NOTE 4
5074	Other Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$275	\$252	\$252	
5075	Soc Sec & Payroll Tax Professional	\$8,020	\$4,358	\$2,529	\$2,565	\$2,342	\$2,726	
5076	Development		\$1,291	\$0	\$750	\$896	\$375	
5077	Rectors Flexible Spending Act.					\$4,700	\$0	NOTE 2
5080	Pension	\$8,678	\$16,708	\$11,178	\$11,178	\$11,178	\$11,178	
5085	Medical Insurance	\$5,166	\$7,278	\$8,059	\$11,308	\$12,618	\$13,566	NOTE 5
5091	Natural Gas - Dominion				\$7,899	\$7,163	\$7,500	NOTE 6
5092	Electricity - AEP				\$9,603	\$9,149	\$9,300	NOTE 6
5053	Water/Sewer - Canton City	\$16,586	\$21,544	\$18,338	\$498	\$480	\$480	NOTE 6
5094	Trash Pick-up - Waste Mgt				\$775	\$940	\$925	NOTE 7
5095	Office Expense	\$5,308	\$6,080	\$5,038	\$3,320	\$4,516	\$3,320	
5100	Bank Service Charge	\$37	\$35	\$219	\$0	\$68	\$0	
5110	Mileage Reimbursement	\$1,070	\$692	\$29	\$200	\$297	\$200	
5122	Hospitality	\$636	\$708	\$535	\$750	\$486	\$500	
5123	Fellowship & Social	\$699	(\$102)	(\$1,143)	\$250	\$380	\$500	
5125	Telephone	\$1,605	\$1,377	\$663	\$480	\$531	\$525	
5128	Internet Service	\$833	\$999	\$1,406	\$1,440	\$1,370	\$1,500	
5129	Advertising				\$420	\$511	\$530	
5130	Altar Supplies	\$539	\$1,481	\$270	\$500	\$556	\$500	
5135	Music/Choir	\$2,816	\$1,867	\$400	\$1,000	\$1,023	\$1,000	
5140	Outside Maintenance	\$8,401	\$8,935	\$5,403	\$2,700	\$1,542	\$2,700	
5141	Lawn and Snow Service				\$3,300	\$3,040	\$3,300	NOTE 7
5145	Envelopes/Prayer Books	\$668	\$315	\$539	\$300	\$314	\$300	
5150	Inside Maintenance	\$6,554	\$4,480	\$4,269	\$7,225	\$6,825	\$7,000	
5155	Misc	\$719	\$532	\$174	\$0	\$60	\$0	
5160	Christian Education	\$6,207	\$2,400	\$1,634	\$1,000	\$1,567	\$1,500	
5165	Furniture Fixtures	\$4,376	\$3,218	\$4,764	\$2,500	\$5,367	\$5,000	
5170	Church Insurance	\$5,773	\$6,117	\$6,281	\$6,500	\$6,589	\$7,000	
5175	Contract Maintenance	\$4,988	\$5,408	\$8,736	\$5,025	\$5,290	\$5,025	
5180	Robes and Cleaning	\$370	\$214	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$250	
5185	Youth Group	\$26	\$245	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$150	
5186	Puppet Gang				\$100	\$0	\$100	NOTE 8
5190	Evangelism	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$1,022	\$1,500	
5191	Dio Conv Expenses	\$270	\$60	\$45	\$200	\$138	\$100	
5195	Audit Expense	\$1,800	\$3,301	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$1,725	\$3,000	
5200	Reserve for Cap	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,442	\$0	
5220	Cleaning Supplies	\$453	\$317	\$1,451	\$450	\$5	\$450	
5221	Church Cleaning	\$8,140	\$6,980	\$5,330	\$4,500	\$4,890	\$4,500	
	Total Exp	\$273,609	\$247,153	\$206,047	\$205,061	\$221,473	\$212,952	NOTE 9
	Assessment Expenses	\$237,435	\$219,289	\$179,889	\$181,949	\$181,834	\$189,952	
	Inc. less Exp.	(74,474.70)	(39,625.00)	(12,241.39)	(28,561.00)	(23,103.58)	(30,952.00)	

- Income Note A: Not all parishioners fulfill pledge, and some contribute more than pledge; includes member adds, member deletes, and persons who do not pledge but contribute on a regular basis.
- Income Note B: Income from unbudgeted sources; building use fees, Insurance, and community dinners
- Income Note C: Boiler Replacement Campaign.
- Expense Note 1: Diocesan Assessment reduced based on 2013 Parochial Report
- Expense Note 2: Flexible Spending Account was established for the Rector-total compensation did not change
- Expense Note 3: Supply Organist coverage under review for 2014
- Expense Note 4: Nursery staffing budgeted for 52 weeks
- Expense Note 5: Medical insurance premium increased again for 2014. St. Mark's splits cost with All Saint's
- Expense Note 6: Act.5090 Fuel Power Water split out as separate accounts
- Expense note 7: Trash and Lawn/Snow separated from Outside Maintenance
- Expense Note 8: Puppet Gang line item added based on comment at 2012 Annual Meeting.
- Expense Note 9: 2013 Budgeted Expense line items were adjusted during the year to improve reporting, but the total budgeted dollars remained the same.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Report for 2013

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