

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Report



**for the year
2014**

St. Mark's 2014 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 18, 2015

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules
5. Reading of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes
6. Appointment of Tellers
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Opening of Polls
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 Sunday, January 26, 2014

- 1) **Call to Order:** Father Berg opened the meeting with a prayer at 11:25am
 - a) **Present Vestry Members:** Charlie Kiesling, Barrie Thorp, Emily Gordon, Bruce Hixon, Grace Giammarco, Tom Temelkoff, Alex Violand, Kirk Bletzacker, Sue Little, Bert Heisser, Dick Croasdaile, Carol Popovich.
- 2) **Determinations of a Quorum:** Father Berg stated that a quorum was established.
- 3) **Adoption of time allotment/speaking rules:** Father Berg explained the rules including that there would be 30 minutes for discussion and a motion would need to be made for an extended time frame. All parishioners who wish to speak are to go to the microphone. Mike Mazingo motioned to accept the rules, Louise Moore seconded, motion carried.
- 4) **Reading of 2013 annual meeting minutes:** John Willoughby motioned to approve the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes, Derek Gordon seconded, motion carried.
- 5) **Appointment of Tellers:** Since there are only four Vestry candidates for four open Vestry spots, we do not need to hold a ballot vote and will therefore not need tellers, unless

objected. Charlie Kiesling motioned to accept the above statement, Barrie Thorp seconded, motion carried.

- 6) **Nominating Committee:** For two weeks, the retiring Vestry members each put together a list of Vestry nominees along with collecting the Vestry nomination forms handed out to the congregation. This condensed timeframe worked very efficiently and resulted in more candidates. The four candidates for the four open 3 year term slots are Craig Hockman, Dave Thorley, Caroline Willoughby, and Joe Hoot. Karen Violand motioned for the slate of Vestry candidates to be elected, Mike Mozingo seconded, motion carried.
- 7) **Clergy Report:** Father Berg reviewed his report that was written in the Annual Report.
 - a) Some highlights from his report included excitement about the seven baptisms this year, a new mission statement, recommendations from the Grow my Church committee, and more.
 - b) There will always be celebrations and challenges. One challenge for the year will come up in June when the Priest-in-Charge appointment is up. We will have work to do and with the help of the Diocese, we will begin that soon.
 - c) Father Berg reminded everyone to keep doing all of the wonderful things we have been doing and to tell our story to others.
 - d) **Discussion:** Marilyn Thorp asked what it meant about the priest-in-charge appointment being up in June. Father Berg answered by noting that once a priest-in-charge (temporary position) contract is up, it is the time to decide whether or not to add that Priest-in-Charge as a permanent fixture (rector) in our church or find a new Priest-in-Charge. Tori Willoughby asked which Vestry members were going off this year. Those members are Grace Giammarco, Bruce Hixon, Charlie Kiesling, Kirk Bletzacker, and Maddie Thomas.
- 8) **Committee Reports:** All committee reports can be found in the Annual Report.
 - a) **Grow My Church committee:** Derek Gordon spoke about the three recommendations presented to the Vestry (and church) and the status of those recommendations. While some of the recommendations have had some progress, more work needs done. The Grow my Church committee is going to provide some implementation ideas for Vestry to continue their work. Father Berg thanked the committee for all of their important work.
 - b) **Treasurer Report:** Charlie Kiesling provided some insight and details about the financials of the church. Some highlights from his report include the fact that pledges for 2014 are up! Thank you to everyone who contributed. While pledges are up, please remember that we still have a deficit budget. There needs to be some long-term planning on how we can create a sustainable financial plan. The Vestry needs you to be involved.
 - i) **Discussion:** Marilyn Thorp asked if there have been any thoughts of merging the 2 Canton Episcopal churches. Charlie Kiesling responded by saying that there probably has been thought by some. We already share a financial person and this could be the first step toward that thought. It's certainly something that could be discussed.
- 9) **Old Business:** none

2014 Parish Services – Statistics:

Total attendance at all services: 6188

Easter attendance: 205

Christmas attendance: 192

Burials: 8

(Howard Summers, Dean Shepherd, Rebecca McCarty, Keith Swinehart, Bob Hochwalt, Don Little, Jane Braster, Bernice Thorp)

Average Sunday attendance: 107

REPORT FROM FATHER BERG

Greetings to the saints of God at St. Mark's!

It is my pleasure to share with you some of the highlights of 2014. My hope is that as you consider these and many other moments in our life together, you would all be drawn together to where God would have us engaged in building his kingdom.

For a long while, as you know, St. Mark's has had, as one of its growth edges, the need to "get our hands dirty" in service to our neighbors and world. We are a generous congregation, but hands-on acts of service have been a challenge. We are taking some steps in this direction, however, in ways that have challenged our understanding of why we're here. For example, we partnered twice with Hammer & Nails, in February and November, raising funds on their behalf through our community dinners. These would not have been possible without the tireless work of Carol Popovich and her legion of volunteers.

Without a doubt, the biggest step in that direction, however, was the proposal from the Canton City Parks, to develop and partner with us in creating city park space in our back wooded area, behind the church. Beginning in very early 2014, we heard the proposal and began to pursue the possibility. After many meetings, drafts, and a contentious group of neighborhood residents at an October meeting held here, the proposal was withdrawn. Though that particular partnership did not materialize, our ability to thoughtfully discern the project indicates that *we are able to do these kinds of things*. We are not a church concerned merely with those who are already here, but with our neighborhood, city, and beyond. This is our modern day equivalent of being witnesses of God's reign, "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). That does not necessarily mean making members out of those to whom we shine God's light.

Educationally and prayerfully speaking, we had a good year. New to our life together was a women's retreat, held in February, the theme of which was knowing and sharing and speaking about the faith journeys that each of us is on. Ten Gall and Jane King were instrumental in

bringing this event together. Then, during Lent, we held our evening dinners and program on Tuesday evenings, using the series *Saving Jesus Redux*. It was a challenging series, tackling such subjects as the historical basis for the literal resurrection of Jesus, among other things. Lively (heated ?) conversations ensued. In the fall, we held a class designed especially as an overview of the Episcopal Church – a class which helped to prepare Mandy Pelger and Katie Cerrone Arnold for reception into the Episcopal Church and Chris Arnold for baptism. Chris, Katie, and Mandy were officially welcomed by Bishop Arthur Williams during his visit to St. Mark's on October 19.

We were really able to shine on September 20, with our Art & Music Fest and Ministry Fair. Parishioners' artwork, from photography to painting, quilting to sculpture, was paired with our (now annual) Ministry Fair. Representatives and displays from each of our various ministry groups were present, from Sunday School to Brew Meisters (where some of you were frequent visitors!). Rounding out the evening was an organ/piano concert entitled "Age vs. Youth", featuring our own Bob Morrison, along with guest pianist Jackson Carruthers. Around 1/3 of those in attendance that evening were St. Mark's parishioners, while the other 2/3 were our guests. In other words, many people were brought together from distinct places to see and know some of the best of who we are here. Great thanks are due to MaryAnn Kiesling and Emily Gordon, especially, for organizing the evening. As often happens when led by the Spirit, great minds think as one, and great things can happen.

Finally, this has been a momentous year for me, as your (now) rector. As you will recall, I came to St. Mark's in 2011 as priest-in-charge for a 3-year term. This year saw the discerning of those years between then and now, and of the future, for all of us. To that end, The Rev. Percy Grant, canon for ministry in our diocese, facilitated a timeline conversation, highlighting our past and hoping for our future. Around 60 of you attended that event in May. Then, Percy came again in June to lead our discernment with vestry and clergy. Vestry met again later in June, wardens and I met when I arrived home from vacation, and we agreed in July to proceed together. I continue to be humbled and thankful for your hard work, your generosity, and your trust.

All that is to say, much has transpired here in the last twelve months. But as always, there is more to do. There are places to be stretched and to grow in our knowledge and love of God and of each other. Our challenge is in finding ways to journey together into the unknown future that God has in store for us, with open and yet understandably vulnerable hearts. None of us is entirely sure what kinds of opportunities for ministry we may find. But one thing is clear: God asks us to trust him, and to take risks to follow where we discern, together, that he may be calling forth our best efforts to shine his light. We have proven that we can. We are up for it, and so is our God.

Faithfully,
Fr. Berg+

Senior Warden's Report

“But be very careful to keep the commandments and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commandments, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.”

- Joshua 22:5

“Whatever you do, work heartedly, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

- Colossians 3:23-24.

Growing up in the Methodist faith I was a regular attendee. This was probably because of my parents and grandparents and not me. I don't recall ever being actively involved in the ministries of the church.

When Christy and I got married in 1977 her only request was that we get married in her church – St. Timothy's, Massillon. After our marriage we could find our own faith, it did not have to be Episcopalian. However, as I had become a regular attendee, I fell in love with the Episcopal faith. There is that word again – attendee. We started attending St. Mark's in the late 1970's. I was confirmed in 1982.

In the 1980's Christy and I were the leaders of the youth group for 5-6 years. Christy also taught 6th grade for some of that time. I served on the Vestry. My current term is my third tour of duty. We have always been faithful attendees but have never moved beyond what I've mentioned to become actively involved in the ministries of St. Mark's. Why is that? I have struggled with this question on and off for the 30 plus years I have been a member of the parish.

As the saying goes in many ways I am “Preaching to the choir” as we have some very dedicated parishioners. They are the ones that we always turn to when something needs to be done. At the risk of offending some (and I certainly don't mean to) are we doing all that we can in the service of St. Mark's. I know that I am not.

I am asking each of you to reflect and discern with me what our roles should be at St. Mark's. Each one of us possesses unique gifts. As stated in 1Peter 4:10:

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”

There are many opportunities to use our talents at St. Mark's. In the coming year there will be a new ministry focusing on the preservation of our heritage. This ministry will be chaired by Caroline Willoughby. Please look forward to announcements in the near future.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a member of your Vestry.

Dave Thorley
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

What a year it has been here at St. Mark's! I love traditions but welcome change all at the same time. We have kept such a great balance of both at St. Mark's over the last year. As your Junior Warden I truly think it's been a very progressive year. Best of all in my eyes? Gaining a rector! With Father Berg officially our rector now, the church feels even stronger and more stable than before and we are truly becoming a family and gaining some positive momentum.

As the warden of the people, I feel I have gotten to know quite a few of you even more and hope to continue to do so! I have also really gotten involved with different things this year. Making big decisions on behalf of the church is a challenge...and boy did we have some this year! From considering a campaign through the Diocese to creating a park in our own backyard to deciding the future of our leadership. Of course, along with all of this your Vestry still has the everyday to think about. Remember those Grow My Church goals presented to us last year? We have not forgotten those and while it's a slow process to get some new things going, I can see some great things happening. One of our first steps was holding ministry meetings. Father Berg, Dave Thorley (senior warden) and I met with all of the ministries here at St. Mark's to find out what the biggest needs are. I personally learned a lot through these meetings and have a new appreciation for what many parishioners do for St. Mark's. I hope to now get the momentum going to create a plan for our church that incorporates the needs that came out of the ministry meetings and the Grow My Church goals.

In the meantime, let's keep doing what we are doing and continue to evolve! One of the greatest aspects at St. Mark's is the talents and treasures we share with one another. We see it through the Puppet Gang performances, the Art and Music Fest, Ministry Fairs, Sunday services, Cluster Dinners and so much more! As Junior Warden, I say keep that positive spirit and fellowship alive as we head into what will probably be an even greater year.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Gordon
Junior Warden

Acolyte Report

The ministry of acolytes goes back to the third century AD. It would be hard to imagine the services, procession, lighting and extinguishing of candles at St. Mark's without acolytes. All know that St. Mark's is very thankful for those who serve as acolytes – and especially for their sense of purpose and dedication. At St. Mark's, the acolytes set the tone for reverence and solemnity.

Our acolytes participated in 110 services in 2014. The acolytes for 2015 are: Marilyn Thorp, Charlie Kiesling, Joe Hoot, Karen Violand, Susie Hines, Delaney Ryan, Sharon Ryan, Rachel Crawl, Justin Crawl, Morgan Wilson, Alexis Wilson, Ben Kiesling, Lesley Kiesling, Evan Jenkins, Colin Jenkins, Lauren Hoot, Nathaniel Clark, and Cody Popovich.

I sincerely thank all the parents who bring the young acolytes early to serve on the Sundays that they are scheduled.

As with any group, there is always turnover. We will lose two acolytes this year: Rachel Crowl and Cody Popovich. Both are high school seniors and will graduate and head for college. We would be glad to welcome any new acolyte – seventh grade and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary L. Giammarco
Acolyte Advisor

Altar Guild Report

St Mark's Altar Guild has 9 active members dedicated to preparing the rites of the Church. They include two Sunday Services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, decorating with poinsettias for Christmas and lilies for Easter 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

Building & Grounds Report

This year we had a proposal from the City of Canton for use of some of our land. This was not welcomed by our neighbors, but did bring up issues with our play ground equipment, which was removed in early December do to safety issues. We need to talk about this space, and what we can, or what we want to do with it. In talking with the neighbors during this time they look out for our house when were not home.

We have some issues yet with the roof in spots and they are being addressed. There are some upcoming projects that I believe can be done in house, and with the help of volunteers of course. I'm looking forward to a great 2015 as we grow our family.

Thanks!
Joe Hoot
Building and Grounds

Ushers Report

During 2014, the dedicated usher teams continued to support Saint Mark's in our services and funerals.

As with most years, we had changes to the members of the usher teams for various reasons. Please welcome Kirk Bletzacker and Bob Kennedy to the usher teams. We continue to hold at 8 teams all with at least 4 team members, and have 34 total ushers. I continue to look for new ushers and welcome anyone that would like to serve the church in this capacity. 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

This outreach project is not just a donation of money to this organization. We have parishioners willing to shop and wrap the family gifts. Gary Mull has been active for many years in boxing, sealing, and delivering the gifts to the distribution site. A big thank you to all who give of themselves during this busy time of year.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Little

Knitting and Prayer Shawl Ministry Report

If you like to knit, please join us. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 1-3 pm in the family room. We knit hats and scarves for Seamen's Church Institute, prayer shawls, and even our own personal items. Yarn and instruction can be provided. Last year we took 30 items to the Annual Meeting. They were blessed and send on to the Institute for cold weather distribution.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Little

Episcopal Church Women Report

The ECW is quite invisible at St. Mark's until we schedule an event and the helpers arise like the Phoenix to ensure that all work is completed. This past year our main service project was collecting and distributing 66 buckets of toiletries and personal items plus some food and diapers to the YWCA homeless shelter during Holy Week. We also served a dinner with a basket raffle on December 14 following the services and profited over \$600.00 We sent used Christmas card fronts to St. Jude's. Along with the mission area churches, we donated new and slightly worn bras to an Akron hospital and gathered 55 pounds of underwear and infant clothing sent to Pere Ajax in Haiti for distribution in an orphanage. Comfort pillows and pillowcases were sewn and distributed to hospices in 5 county area. Our Diocesan and Mission Area dues were paid and we made a donation of \$300.00 in support of the St. Mark's Puppet Gang.

I attend the Mission Area meetings as president, and also attend the Diocesan board meeting held in various churches around the diocese. In 2015 the diocese will host the Province V ECW meeting in April in Toledo. Our Annual Meeting will be in Cleveland in May.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Little

Parish Care Report

This group of women, with the muscle from some of our men, provides a reception for the family members and guests following a funeral or memorial service held in the church. We customarily serve finger sandwiches, cookies, cheese and crackers, and punch and coffee. Adjustments can be made to meet the needs of the particular family. It is customary for the family being served to make a donation to Parish Care so that we can continue this service. The families served in 2004 were those of Don Little, Jane Braster, and Robert Hochwalt.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Little

United Thank Offering Report

United Thank Offering, celebrating its official beginnings 125 years ago, was founded to enable the missionary work of the church. UTO promotes and receives thank offerings and distributes the monies for mission and ministry around the world. Thanking God for our daily blessings leads to generosity, which benefits others. Every penny donated is granted. Spring and Fall Ingatherings are held within the Episcopal/Anglican communion internationally. Our donations reflect our thankfulness and enable our family of St. Mark's to carry forth our mission beyond our community and into the world.

Totals from the Ingatherings are: Spring, \$719.25; Fall, \$556.19.

In our daily thanksgivings, let us also prayerfully remember the grant recipients.

Respectfully submitted

Co-chairs

Kathy Kennedy

MaryAnn Kiesling

Annual Report from the Music Director

With a musically trained priest, dedicated volunteers, fine instruments, and a celebrative atmosphere, your parish musician has enjoyed seventeen years of service here. The choir room, dedicated to S. Kathleen Morrison, is a welcoming rehearsal space used on Sunday mornings at 8:30, replacing the Thursday night meetings. A new radio-controlled clock is in place, given by Pam McCarthy.

John Gregory has volunteered his percussion services on timpani which are on loan from the Canton Concert Band. Guest pianists Sandra Carnes, Carolyn Bee, Chad Pittman, Jackson Carruthers, Charles Reiman. Other soloists: Pat Newell (flute, voice, recorder); Katie Hockman (violin); Jeff Turner (baritone); David J. White (tenor). From the choir ranks, solos by Sandi Kaustinen, Frances Swinehart, Ken Jaeb (especially as cantor for the Responsorial Psalms), and Caroline Willoughby.

Instruments include the sanctuary Kawai Grand and Yamaha Studio pianos; choir room Charles R. Walter upright in memory of beloved choirmaster Jim Baines; Cable-Nelson spinet, gift of the Wilber family. Technician Fred Balzer tunes these and has upgraded the humidifier piano saver system.

The organ began as a nine-rank Schantz (Orrville OH) in 1970, a memorial to Syd Partridge, to which were added four antiphonal ranks in 1978 by Robert J. Wervey. The Boyd family and congregational participation in 2001 enabled a complete refurbishing by Cornell Zimmer organ builders of NC. A four-bell Zimbelstern was given in memory of S. Kathleen Morrison. Following Hector Olivera's April 2012 recital we added a sound module of his design which

continues to amaze with its array of possible sounds. The organ is well serviced by Jon and Greg Lester.

Our choir roster: Sandi Kaustinen, Frances Swinehart, Leslie Redmon, Barbara Siegfried, Pam McCarthy, Louise Moore (handbell specialist), Beck Rand (librarian), Barrie W. Thorp, Ken Jaeb (cantor), Dr. Norman Warren, Charles Violand, Caroline Willoughby, Robert Karl Bortz, John Werren (spring and fall).

Our 25 Schulmerich Handbells, the gift of June Lockhart in memory of Walter Shealor were completely refurbished in January. Ray E. Slinger repaired the 37 Malmark ChoirChimes, given in memory of Wm. E. and Anna M. Morrison. Ray also constructed a handbell table in the fourth choir pew and as a result we have used the bells increasingly, especially at Easter, Christmas, and two outdoor services. Plans are being formulated for the addition of music risers (four needed @ \$50) and sixteen mallets (approximately \$300). [Contributions for our choir library are also welcomed @ \$40 per anthem]. Louise Moore is our coordinator of all bell activities. Players have included Louise Moore; Karen, Moose, Adrienne Violand; Tom, Jeff, Tim Turner; Emily Cathryn and Derek Gordon; Sandi Kaustinen; Ken Jaeb; Caroline Willoughby; Ray Slinger; John Gregory.

Your organist/director is responsible for hymn selection in consultation with Father Berg, music notes, and a column in *The Lion's Tale*. Topics this year: *Jan*, Riley Kiesling; *Feb*, Norm/Rhonda Warren; *Mar*, Grace/Gary Giammarco; *Apr*, Joe Hoot; *May*, Caroline Willoughby; *June/July*, Dave/Christy Thorley; *Aug*, John/Joan Werren; *Sept*, Organ Historical Convention report; *Oct/Nov*, Charlie/MaryAnn Kiesling; *Dec*, Susie Hines.

Your musician enjoyed six cluster dinners in parishioner's homes and played background piano for a number of Carol Popovich's community dinners. Our Palm Sunday anthem, *The Donkey* was of more than routine interest, as was the September 20 concert with guest pianist Jackson Carruthers as part of the Ministry Fair. We are looking forward to a January 16 dinner and organ duet concert by Chad Pittman and Mark Thewes.

Our 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."

A recent letter from former member (and now Florida dweller) June Lockhart declares "You were so kind to write and tell me about the handbells at St. Mark's. I know Walt is probably enjoying them from his vantage point (in heaven). He always loved watching the people work together to make the music...St. Mark's was a very important part of our family life. Walt (Walter Shealor, June's first husband) was the first signature on the request to the Bishop to start a mission church and we grew with the church." (June gave St. Mark's the handbells in Walter's memory. Her second husband, Dr. George Lockhart, is also deceased.) June continues: "How fortunate I was to have shared my life with two of the nicest people I ever knew. ...I am still

comforted by the memories of our intertwined lives." June says that when she came to Ft. Myers FL she joined Iona-Hope Episcopal, a mission church and, using her pottery skills, provided communion vessels and altar pieces. The pottery vessels she made for St. Mark's we use at the outdoor services. June says she has provided vessels for six churches!

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. New Trustees for 2014 are John Willoughby and Barb Siegried who replace Marcia and Tim on the committee.

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. 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.

Charlie Kiesling

The Wedding Coordinators Report

There were no weddings in 2014. However, we are excited to say there is a wedding being planned for this fall!

In 2015, we plan to edit our present wedding information booklet. As always we would appreciate any assistance.

Respectfully,
Carol Popovich and Susie Hines

Cluster Dinner Report

The Cluster Dinner groups continue to meet for casual fellowship at pot luck suppers. There are 3 – 4 groups consisting of 7 – 12 adults, single and/or couples. The groups meet once a month for 3 months, and usually in each other's homes. After 3 months a sign-up sheet is posted and names are then reshuffled into new groups. One of the ways we get to know each other is by sharing "how did you come to St. Mark's?" and "why do you stay?"

Respectfully submitted,
MaryAnn Kiesling

The Growth Committee Report

The purpose of the Growth Committee has evolved to identifying projects to support current members and to welcome visitors and newcomers. The project ideas come from committee members and/or parishioners. The committee does not necessarily execute the projects but coordinates the ideas and the parishioners' skill sets to initiate and complete them. Often the projects are carried out by members of other committees, i.e. Fellowship, Outreach, Parish Care, etc. The pictorial directory and Art Music Ministry Fair are two examples of these projects.

The pictorial directory was completed and distributed by Palm Sunday and is a welcome resource for all members of our parish. Hearty thanks to many parishioners to get this immense undertaking complete – especially to Pam McCarthy for coordinating and creating the print layout, and to Bill Rand for photographing us to look so good! Their many hours and expertise created a beautiful, much needed document.

An Art Fair of parishioners' talents was a seed idea of the Growth Committee. Combining Bob Morrison's musical gifts and Emily Gordon's spearheading of a Ministry event, the first Art Music Ministry Fair was held in September. Bob and college student Jackson Carruthers presented a delightful concert. About 85 pieces of various art media were on display from parishioners, ages 2 to 80. Emily's organization was outstanding and lots of folks provided set-up and take-down. Parish energy was abounding. It was well attended and provided a good social event for St. Mark's family and the community.

Possible projects for 2015 include a calendar of saints and/or historical Episcopalians, initiating Eucharistic ministers/parish care visits, and parish bridges: note cards sent to parishioners “missing in the pews” to let folks know that they are remembered.

Greeters are always needed to provide a warm welcome to the 10 o’clock service. All you provide are a handshake and a smile!

Committee members: Fr Dustin Berg, Jesse Childers, Anne Coen, Ten Gall, Bruce Hixon, MaryAnn Kiesling, Sharon Ryan, Karen Violand, and Rhonda Warren.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryAnn Kiesling
Sharon Ryan
Co-chairs

Fellowship Committee Report

Fellowship had a great year in 2014. We started off the year on January 17th with a Community Dinner. In February we did a Community Fundraiser Dinner for Hammer & Nails. We had beef tips and gravy over noodles – this became our signature dinner! Following that, February 28th was Songs & Suds with our BrewMeisters.

Beginning in March, we began our Lenten season with our Sausage & Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. Lenten Potluck Suppers followed every week up to Palm Sunday when we had our brunch. Another potluck supper was held on Maundy Thursday. All commenced on Saturday night with our Easter Vigil, which we celebrated with champagne and strawberries.

We had two bake sales this year on voting day in May and November.

On May 16, we had a community dinner and sold out of food. Our next community dinner was held in June. We held our Sermon on the Mount and Annual Church Picnic on July 20th.

We did a first this year when we had a booth at the Stark County Fair in August. We did a community service by furnishing parents a clean changing & feeding area for their infant children. We have been asked to return and hope to be able to do so.

Fellowship furnished refreshments for the Arts & Music Festival/Ministry Fair in September. One of our big highlights of the year was our Annual Traditional German Oktoberfest which was held on Saturday, October 4th. Fun was had by all!

November became a busy month, starting with our All Saints brunch, followed by the voting day bake sale and ending the month with our 2nd fundraiser dinner with Hammer & Nails.

That concludes our activities in 2014. We had a profitable year for St. Mark's and Hammer & Nails.

Enjoyed the year – Hope you did too!!

Respectfully,
Carol Popovich
Fellowship Coordinator

Puppet Gang Report

The St. Mark's Puppet Ministry was started 15 years ago and has continued for all seventh grade through high school students. It provides entertaining shows portraying life lessons enhanced by God's love.

This year we have Nathaniel Clark, Lauren Hoot, Evan Jenkins, Colin Jenkins, Morgan Wilson, and Alexis Wilson with Jan Hudson and Sandy Paradis directing the Puppet Ministry.

Our operating costs are provided by ECW at \$300 per year.

We present two shows per year with outreach possibilities as they come along. "God Wants You" was our spring show. It takes place at a military base. One soldier goes AWOL because he thinks he's not worthy of joining God's army. But, finally he understands he can be a very important Christian by recruiting people to know God.

In August, we performed "God Wants You" at the Stark County Fair as a way of showing the public what we do at St. Mark's to encourage God's love.

Our Christmas show was "One Starry Night". It was a very heartwarming show with our ministry, the Sunday school, and the nursery. The puppeteers told the story of what happened "one starry night" that changed the world forever. The Sunday school and nursery children performed the story. It was enjoyed by all, I believe everyone was touched by what our wonderful youth can do to bring life to our spirituality.

Respectfully,
Sandy Paradis
Jan Hudson

Men's Prayer Group Report

The men of the church are welcome to join us in the Church library the first Wednesday morning of each month for an informal gathering for fellowship and prayers for family, friends, and church and church members, distressed or deceased, followed by a general interest program rotated among the members that wish to participate. A dutch continental breakfast is served.

Respectfully,
Tony Keenan

Brew Meisters Report

Once again in 2014, St. Mark's Brew Meisters set the social tone for St. Mark's with a very active entertainment calendar.

We started the year with our Suds and Songs—the sing-along and brew tasting we held on a cold, February night just before the beginning of Lent. Maestro Morrison and Bruce Schutrum tickled the 88's while a group of about 50 hearty souls braved the frigid weather to sing songs and drink beer gathered around the piano. Torry Willoughby shook the crowd down for a 50/50 drawing, all proceeds going toward a tent for our Oktoberfest.

Next up was our trip to Thirsty Dog Brewing Co. in Akron to see how the big dogs brew beer, and to see how our brewing skills measure up. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of our visit was the pleasantly surprising mix of people who made the trip. There were as many women as men, and as many young folks as old fogeys.

Barbeque and Brews was the summer picnic we held outside in the pavilion. Lighter brews were featured to compliment the warm July temperature. Kirk Bletzacker's world-famous grilled chicken wings (well, at least Meyer's Lake famous) were the second most popular item of the evening. The most popular item was watching Kirk try to load his massive grill back into his pickup after the event. This author gets back spasms just thinking about it!

In September, Pam McCarthy arranged for Repository columnist Charita Goshay to write a piece about St. Mark's Brew Meisters just shortly before our annual Oktoberfest. Charita did her typical outstanding job on the piece, presenting both St. Mark's and the BrewMeisters in a very favorable light to the Canton community. Her column no doubt also had a positive influence on the increased attendance at the Oktoberfest.

Once again, St. Mark's Oktoberfest retained its reputation as the social event of the season drawing a significantly larger crowd than the previous year. The Johnnie Maier band kept things hopping throughout the evening; Carol's outstanding German food kept people smiling; the Pumpkin Porter kept people yodeling; and the women's brew team once again juiced the "applause-o-meter" operator and walked away with first place in the craft brewing contest. Really?! Is there no shame?!

To wrap the year up, we celebrated the holidays with our annual Craft Brew, Ugly Sweater, and Leftover Christmas Pastries get-together held right after the service on December 28th. As always, the beer was great, the sweaters were ugly, and the good Padre's leftover fruitcake was...well, let's just say it needs another year to age.

The Brew Meisters group has continued to grow, and new brewers are always welcome. If you're interested in joining simply add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Better yet, email me at cvioland@violand.com. No brewing experience preferred. We wouldn't want this thing to get serious.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Violand
BrewMeister

<u>Current Vestry Members</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Dave Thorley (Sr. Warden)	2017
Caroline Willoughby (Clerk)	2017
Joe Hoot	2017
Craig Hockman	2017
Emily Gordon (Jr. Warden)	2016
Alex Violand	2016
Tom Temelkoff	2016
Dick Croasdaile	2016
Bert Heisser	2015
Carol Popovich	2015
Barrie Thorp	2015
Sue Little	2015

Vestry Candidates for 2015

Rick Crawl	Rhonda Warren
Kathy Kennedy	Sandy Turner
Gary Giammarco	Judy Hixon
Ten Gall	

Vestry Candidates

Rick Crowl:



Hello, my name is Rick Crowl. My wife Beth and I have been members of St. Mark's since 1997 along with our daughter Rachel and our son Justin (2000). I am currently C.I.O of Davis Graphic Communication Solutions. We live in Green, OH where I have been active in many community and professional organizations/boards including Green Little League (board member and coach), North East Ohio Craftsman Club (President), Freemasons (Officer), Green Indian Guides (Council) and Relay for Life to name a few. During our membership at St. Mark's I have served on the Vestry, Church Renovation committee, Search committee and have been an usher for many years. I can offer my leadership skills, organizational abilities and business experience to help serve the Vestry. I am honored to be considered a candidate at this time and if chosen, hope to help lead St. Mark's in the next term.

Kathy Kennedy:



I began attending St. Mark's, with my husband Bob, after relocating a year ago to Canton from Orrville, Ohio. While previously a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Wadsworth, I served two terms on the vestry (one as Sr. Warden) and was an active member of the Finance Committee. In addition, I taught Sunday School, served as lector, was elected delegate to the General Convention, and participated in two mission trips involving Hurricane Katrina relief.

At St. Mark's Canton I currently serve as co-chairman of the United Thank Offering and look forward to increased involvement in the years ahead. I believe what I bring to vestry is perspective on how to best welcome and meet the needs of those visitors new to our community. I would like the opportunity to serve so I may more fully utilize and share the talents God has given me, deepen my spirituality, and get to know more intimately and work closely together with the wonderful members of St. Mark's Church.

Gary Giammarco:



Ten Gall:



As a member of St. Mark's Church, the following opportunities have been/are an integral part of my continuing faith journey: Eucharistic Minister and Eucharistic Visitor, ECW President, Confirmation Class teacher, Assistant Youth Group Leader, Vestry member, co-developer of our Women's Retreat, member of The Growth Committee to name a few. My professional work as a dean of an academic division in higher education required that I work with those members of my division and all other divisions within the college organization to achieve the goals of our long range plans. St. Mark's offers so much to our community of parishioners and the greater community beyond our walls. Our outreach programs touch many people in need. We continually work to identify additional opportunities to share our ministry as we carry out the Lord's command that we love one another. I would like to serve on the Vestry to work in collaboration with others to continue our mission and to respond to the opportunities we face.

Rhonda Warren:



First, I would like to apologize for not being at the Annual meeting. I am taking my granddaughter to see Disney on Ice Sunday at 11:00 AM. I am married to Norm and have 2 married sons and 3 grandchildren. I recently retired from Wooster Community Hospital as a registered nurse and attorney functioning as the Compliance Officer and Risk Manager.

I am a long time member of St. Marks and was confirmed into the fellowship by Father Sloan in 1989. I have served as a Sunday school teacher and editor of the Lions Tale back when it was by word processor using the cut and paste method. I have been to the Diocesan Convention as delegate many times. Most recently, I served on the Vestry in 2010- 2013 as clerk and junior warden. I currently sit on the worship committee and newcomers committee. I am finishing my 4th and final year of EFM, (Education for Ministry) through The University of the South, School of Theology, in Sewanee TN. There are 4 current participants in EFM from St. Mark's and we will probably bring EFM to St. Mark's in 2015-2016.

My strongest gifts are in organizational skills, conflict resolution and communication. I have a heart for outreach and education. I would like to serve on the vestry to promote a new outreach project that I am excited about and will share my thoughts even if I am not elected. St. Mark's needs a project that we can all participate in making successful including school age children, teens, young adults and our older community (which includes me!). I am very happy to have free time finally and look forward to be as active in the St. Mark's community as I can be. I love our church and what God has done for us in the past few years.

Sandy Turner:



My background is in financial development – fundraising and special event planning. I have been an organizer and planner for many activities including my sons' school, athletic & music activities. I have participated on nonprofit Board of Directors including the Junior League of Stark County where I was their president, and the local Association of Fundraising Professionals where I was also their president. My college degree is in Communications, Public Relations and I started my career as a Marketing Director. My husband Tom and I have two sons Tim and Jeff who are freshman in college.

Judy Hixon:



After teaching for 38 years, I retired in 2009. I have served on the Vestry and have been a member of the Altar Guild. Currently, I am on the Sunday School Committee, I help with Fellowship and the Community Dinners, and serve as a Eucharistic Minister.

Financial Overview

First, a special thank you to all the parishioners that support St. Mark's in so many ways. And, as your treasurer I owe another special thank you to the weekly offering counters, the check signers and your Way Forward Committee. Again this year, after expenses the Community Dinners delivered over \$3,500 to the bottom line. Carol Popovich and her teams performed a spectacular job thanks to all of you for volunteering.

Our expenses continue to exceed income. There are positive signs: total amount pledged is up, there are 5 new pledges, and 32 increased pledges. The 2014 deficient is forecasted to be \$25,111 which is \$5800 less than projected.

For the sixth (6) consecutive year the shortfall was covered by transferring funds from our Operating Reserve and Reserve for Capital Improvements funds.

The projected deficient for 2015 is \$41,144.

If you enjoy studying detail, the line item details of the budged accounts are below. If you have questions, call or email me and I will be glad to answer if I can or I will get you an answer.

Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2014 Projected Financials for December 31, 2014

	Year 2011 Actual	Year 2012 Actual	Year 2013 Actual	Year 2014 Budget	Year 2014 Year End Projection	Year 2015 Budget	
4000 Plate Offering	\$2,169	\$2,168	\$2,696	\$2,000	\$1,869	\$1,800	
4005 Pledges	\$205,343	\$178,629	\$178,991	\$180,000	\$184,045	\$184,000	NOTE A
4010 Interest	\$16	\$3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
4015 Misc. Income		\$3,281	\$6,326	\$0	\$4,200	\$800	NOTE B
4200 Offerings for Cap Imp.(Boiler)		\$9,725	\$10,357	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Income	\$207,528	\$193,806	\$198,370	\$182,000	\$190,114	\$186,600	
5000 Diocesan Assessment	\$27,864	\$26,158	\$16,758	\$23,000	\$20,805	\$24,401	NOTE 1
5055 Salary Rector	\$59,171	\$62,100	\$57,492	\$62,100	\$54,600	\$54,600	NOTE 2
5056 Supply Clergy		\$882	\$400	\$400	\$200	\$400	
5065 Salary Organist/Music Dir.	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$14,600	\$14,600	
5066 Substitute Organist		\$0	\$800	\$300	\$150	\$300	
5070 Salary Office	\$35,480	\$12,160	\$14,216	\$14,500	\$14,909	\$16,250	NOTE 3
Pension Office					\$0	\$813	NOTE 3
5071 Paid Nursery Attendant	\$1,200	\$200	\$935	\$1,300	\$1,350	\$1,400	NOTE 4
5074 Other Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$252	\$252	\$252	\$126	
5075 Soc Sec & Payroll Tax	\$4,358	\$2,529	\$2,342	\$2,726	\$2,413	\$2,451	

5076	Professional Development	\$1,291	\$0	\$896	\$375	\$225	\$375	
5077	Rectors Flexible Spending Act.			\$4,700	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,500	NOTE 2
5080	Pension	\$16,708	\$11,178	\$11,178	\$11,178	\$11,178	\$11,556	
5085	Medical Insurance	\$7,278	\$8,059	\$12,618	\$13,566	\$13,566	\$14,562	NOTE 5
5091	Natural Gas - Dominion			\$7,163	\$7,500	\$7,427	\$7,500	
5092	Electricity - AEP			\$9,149	\$9,300	\$11,845	\$12,000	
5053	Water/Sewer - Canton City	\$21,544	\$18,338	\$480	\$480	\$617	\$625	
5094	Trash Pick-up - Waste Mgt			\$940	\$925	\$834	\$900	
5095	Office Expense	\$6,080	\$5,038	\$4,516	\$3,320	\$3,476	\$4,000	
5100	Bank Service Charge	\$35	\$219	\$68	\$0	\$87	\$80	
5110	Mileage Reimbursement	\$692	\$29	\$297	\$200	\$76	\$100	
5122	Hospitality	\$708	\$535	\$486	\$500	\$637	\$650	Note 6
5123	Fellowship & Social	(\$102)	(\$1,143)	\$380	\$500	\$625	\$650	Note 7
5125	Telephone	\$1,377	\$663	\$531	\$525	\$710	\$775	
5128	Internet Service	\$999	\$1,406	\$1,370	\$1,500	\$1,701	\$1,600	
5129	Advertising			\$511	\$530	\$511	\$530	
5130	Altar Supplies	\$1,481	\$270	\$556	\$500	\$400	\$500	
5135	Music/Choir	\$1,867	\$400	\$1,023	\$1,000	\$999	\$1,000	
5140	Outside Maintenance	\$8,935	\$5,403	\$1,542	\$2,700	\$4,156	\$6,000	NOTE 8
5141	Lawn and Snow Service			\$3,040	\$3,300	\$5,125	\$5,000	
5145	Envelopes/Prayer Books	\$315	\$539	\$314	\$300	\$318	\$300	
5150	Inside Maintenance	\$4,480	\$4,269	\$6,825	\$7,000	\$4,653	\$5,000	
5155	Misc.	\$532	\$174	\$60	\$0	\$0	\$0	
5160	Christian Education	\$2,400	\$1,634	\$1,567	\$1,500	\$2,447	\$2,500	
5165	Furniture Fixtures	\$3,218	\$4,764	\$5,367	\$5,000	\$4,605	\$4,600	Note 9
5170	Church Insurance	\$6,117	\$6,281	\$6,589	\$7,000	\$7,015	\$7,500	
5175	Contract Maintenance	\$5,408	\$8,736	\$5,290	\$5,025	\$6,073	\$6,000	Note 10
5180	Robes and Cleaning	\$214	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$197	\$250	
5185	Youth Group	\$245	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$150	
5186	Puppet Gang			\$0	\$100	\$40	\$100	
5190	Evangelism	\$0	\$0	\$1,022	\$1,500	\$2,680	\$2,500	Note 11
5191	Dio Conv Expenses	\$60	\$45	\$138	\$100	\$0	\$100	
5195	Audit Expense	\$3,301	\$1,800	\$1,725	\$3,000	\$1,800	\$3,000	
5200	Reserve for Cap	\$0	\$0	\$18,442	\$0	\$0	\$0	
5220	Cleaning Supplies	\$317	\$1,451	\$5	\$450	\$93	\$100	
5221	Church Cleaning	\$6,980	\$5,330	\$4,890	\$4,500	\$4,330	\$4,400	
	Total Expenses	\$247,153	\$206,047	\$221,473	\$212,952	\$215,225	\$227,744	
	Inc. less Exp.	(\$39,625)	(\$12,241)	(\$23,104)	(\$30,952)	(\$25,111)	(\$41,144)	

Income Note A:	Not all parishioners pledge, and some contribute more than pledged; this includes member adds, member deletes, and persons who do not pledge but contribute on a regular basis.
Income Note B:	Income from non-budgeted sources; building use fees, Insurance, and community dinners
Expense Note 1:	Diocesan Assessment is a percentage of expenses less outreach and capital expenses
Expense Note 2:	Flexible Spending Account was established for the Rector-total compensation did not change
Expense Note 3:	Office Staffing is under review for 2015
Expense Note 4:	Nursery staffing budgeted for 52 weeks plus some special services
Expense Note 5:	Medical insurance premium increased again for 2015. St. Mark's splits cost with All Saint's
Expense Note 6:	Coffee Hour supplies
Expense note 7:	Fellowship events without a fee or donation.
Expense Note 8:	Increase due to potential tree and grounds maintenance
Expense Note 9:	Copier Lease
Expense Note 10:	Security, Office Systems and maintenance contracts
Expense Note 11:	Includes our booth at the Stark County Fair

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Report for 2014

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