



# St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Report 2018

515 48<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Canton, OH 44709  
[office@stmarks-canton.org](mailto:office@stmarks-canton.org)  
330.499.2662

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

The Rev. Elizabeth (Beth) Frank: Interim Rector  
W. Robert Morrison: Organist/Choirmaster  
Katie Kuceyeski: Office Manager  
Riley Kiesling: Nursery Attendant

## **St. Mark's 2018 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 20, 2019**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment/Speaking Rules
5. Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes (handout)
6. Appointment of Tellers\*
7. Report of the Nominating Committee (Bruce Hixon)
8. Opening of Polls\*
9. Interim Rector's Report & Introduction to The Way of Love Lenten Program
10. Warden's Reports & Weaver School Video
11. Search Committee Report
12. 2018 Financial Report and 2019 Missional Budget
13. Closing of Polls
14. Report from the Tellers\*
15. Old Business
16. New Business
17. Closing Prayer
18. Adjournment

*\*Since the candidates are running unopposed, we will ask for consent to their election by voice vote.*

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

## Vestry Members

### **Class of 2018** (serving until January 2021 Annual Meeting)

Bob Kennedy

Grace Giammarco

Beck Rand

### **Class of 2017** (serving until January 2020 Annual Meeting)

Derek Gordon (Senior Warden-2017 & 2018)

Sara Strattan

Christy Thorley

Rhonda Warren (Junior Warden-2018)

### **Outgoing Vestry Members** (terms end at January 2019 Annual Meeting)

Charlie Kiesling (Treasurer)

Beth Crowl

Bruce Hixon

## Vestry Appointment:

At its January 2019 meeting, the Vestry appointed Beck Rand to fill the remaining two years of the Class of 2018 vacancy. A brief biography appears below.



### **Beck Rand**

A native of Ohio, Beck has attended St. Mark's since the late 1990's. She has served on the Board of the former St. Mark's Day School, collaborated as choir librarian, completed a one-year term on the Vestry, and is a current member of the choir. She enjoys singing, non-fiction literature, bird watching, and believe it or not, house cleaning. She and her husband Bill are parents of Sarah and are owned by their 22-yr. old black cat Esther.

A former Montessori teacher and life-long student, Beck looks forward to continued fellowship and service at St. Mark's.

## Vestry Candidates:



### **Linda Deuble**

My name is Linda Deuble. I was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. I graduated from Central Catholic H.S. and Xavier University. I am married to J.P. Deuble and have 3 boys: Evan Jenkins (21), Colin Jenkins (18) and Brooks Deuble (12). I teach elementary art for Canton City Schools and have been Member of St. Marks since 2003. I am involved in Sunday School and Confirmation classes and look forward to growing in my faith by being

on the vestry. Thank you to my parish family for putting your faith in me as a voice for our future.



### **Caroline Willoughby**

Caroline Willoughby has been a St. Mark's parishioner since roughly 1988. She is a baptized and confirmed Episcopalian, even attending two different parishes while living in New York City, where she attended a musical theater conservatory and worked as a talent manager (after receiving her undergrad in theater at Miami University). Caroline has once previously served on the Vestry as Clerk, and is a very

active member of the choir. She also sings with the Canton Symphony Chorus, and the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus in the summer at Blossom Music Center. Caroline currently enjoys working as a librarian in two Plain Local elementary schools, and she looks forward to serving on St. Mark's Vestry during this exciting time of the rector search.



### **John Wise**

I have been a member of St. Mark's church for in excess of 30 years. My wife Kathy and our children Lindsay and Jonathan have been members also. During that time I have served on the Vestry, ushered and taught a youth Sunday school class. I have an interest in the extended future of St. Mark's and appreciate an opportunity to help in whatever way I can.

To be as open as possible I feel I should disclose that I am still working full time as an Appellate Court Judge and serve on several professional committees. These activities require a significant amount of time. They also require me to be out of town often. Although no commitment should exceed that we owe to our church, they are commitments made prior to this one. This may affect my attendance at meetings and events. I will do my best to attend and participate at all times.

### **2018 Parish Services – Statistics:**

Total attendance at all services: 5371

Average Sunday attendance: 86

Easter attendance: 136      Christmas Eve/Day attendance: 165

Baptisms: 6      Weddings: 1      Burials: 3

### **Interim Rector's Report**

As we reflect on the past year in the life of this parish, we also consider where we are today and contemplate what lies ahead. Few things are certain about the future. However, we know that God will be with us, the Holy Spirit will guide and inspire us, and Christ will be our everlasting light kindled in our hearts and shining forth in and through our lives. We also know that my season as your Interim Priest will end before the next Annual Report. Wherever Leo and I go next, rest assured that we carry your love and the joy of our time at St. Mark's in our hearts. I will continue to hold you, your family and friends, and this community in prayer.

As you read these reports about the year past, please reflect on this poem and prayer as did your Vestry before its January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**As this year ends** by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

*As this year ends and gives way to a new one*

*think of it as a gift you have received.*

*In the joys and struggles, delights and losses,*

*grace has made its way into you.*

*Give thanks even if you don't know what for.*

*Whatever regrets you have for the year just passed,*

*hand them over now. Without judgment,  
place them in the hands of the Forgiving One  
and let it all simply become part of your story.*

*Whatever hopes you have for the year to come,  
trust it as another gift.*

*Be prepared to welcome the moment  
each moment, with wonder and love.*

*Whatever resolutions you make for the new year,  
know that a deeper current than what you want  
or what you resolve is what God is doing in you.*

*Attend, and follow.*

*The new year will bring you grace.*

*May you receive it deeply. Amen.*

**We look with uncertainty** by Anne Hillman

*We look with uncertainty  
beyond the old choices for  
clear-cut answers  
to a softer, more permeable aliveness  
which is every moment  
at the brink of death;  
for something new is being born in us  
if we but let it.*

*We stand at a new doorway,  
awaiting that which comes...  
daring to be human creatures,  
vulnerable to the beauty of existence.  
Learning to love.*

Blessings,

The Rev. Beth Frank, Interim Rector, and Vicar Leo



## **Senior Warden's Report**

What a year it has been for St. Mark's! In my second year as Senior Warden, I am incredibly proud of so many components of our church:

1) Our Interim Rector - While we knew from the beginning our time with Beth would be temporary, I had no idea the level of enthusiasm she would bring to her role. Based on past experiences with interim ministry, I assumed Beth would make a couple of minor adjustments and suggestions to prepare us for our next Rector. Boy was I wrong, and I have never been happier to admit it. The direct but sensitive manner in which she has implemented important and lasting changes in our parish has been invigorating. I could not be more pleased with how she has positioned St. Mark's to be as attractive as possible to a new Rector.

2) Staff and Ministries - From Katie to Maestro Morrison, and all of our hard-working volunteer ministries, I know we are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated individuals throughout our parish. Even though our overall number of parishioners have decreased over the past few years, St. Mark's continues to offer a welcoming worship experience and professional administrative operations thanks to these tireless individuals. While she will be leaving this role soon, I would also like to thank Riley Kiesling who has taken such good care of our little ones for the past few years in the nursery.

3) Weaver - While I know the arrival of Weaver has resulted in compromise and adjustments by many of our ministries, I am very proud to have a vibrant partner in our building. I look forward to building our relationship with them and I appreciate how our church has welcomed them with open arms.

4) Search Committee - I am pleased to report that our Search Committee that has jumped into the transition process with both feet. Between the leadership of Joe Hoot and a diverse group of committee members who encompass a wide variety of skills and ministries, I have full confidence in their ability to find the right leader for St. Mark's.

5) Vestry and Warden's - Given the many endeavors we have undertaken in the past year, I continue to be impressed with the vision, devotion, and teamwork of our current Vestry. Without their leadership and effort, these new endeavors and time of transition would have been extremely difficult. I sincerely thank them for supporting me and their commitment to St. Mark's.

6) Congregation - Last but not least, I am incredibly grateful to our congregation for your patience and open mindedness during all of these changes. Your confidence in the leadership of the Warden's and the Vestry has made these past two years an enjoyable experience as Senior Warden.

Derek Gordon

### **Junior Warden's Report**

It has been a pleasure to serve you as Junior Warden for the past year. The Junior Warden serves as the "people's warden". What a joyful year we have had under the leadership of Rev. Beth Frank. We have new vitality in the services along with new families and expanded parish care. I can't thank her enough. She will move along this year as we hire a new rector. It is Beth's gift to be the "ultimate fixer" and she will continue at a new parish to do what she does best.

I serve as the liaison to Weaver School. We have a fulfilling partnership with the school and enjoy having them here. I was present on Grandparent's Day and it was so much fun watching the children show their Grandparents around the facility and being so proud of their classrooms and our space. Stop by Monday through Friday to witness what it is like to have the church busy and occupied again.

At the request of one parishioner, our Vestry minutes are now posted in the Lion's Pause by a link for those of you who want to read them. All it takes is a simple conversation if you notice something that needs attention. Please feel free to speak to me on Sundays or anytime by phone.

Finally, I can't say enough about the leadership our Senior Warden, Derek Gordon, and the rest of the Vestry, for what they have accomplished. Our



rector search committee is hard at work as is all the other parish committees. We are all blessed to have such a fine church community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rhonda Warren

### **Parish Musician's Report**

My 21st year as your organist-director. Olivia Mull's inscription in the Kathleen Morrison choir room "Music: for the praise of God and the refreshment of man - J. S. Bach" is a continuing inspiration. I've done two organ demos for the Weaver Child Development Center. Greg Vinci upgraded our sound system and loaned us a projector for the silent film showing of two Buster Keaton masterpieces with organ accompaniment by Jay Spencer of the Palace Theater, and me.

We were blessed with timpani for part of the year, but Canton Concert Band no longer needs us to store the drums and John Gregory, who has played for us with exceptional skill has been recovering from some health issues. Ron Hill is such a blessing as our resident pianist plus his synthesized harpsichord, and guest soloists have enriched our services. Handbells/Handchimes were used at Easter and Christmas with a November handbell duet by Louise Moore and me. Some new anthems, most notably by Larry Shackley have been sung, and our choral library is kept in first-class shape by Beck and Bill Rand. We hosted a concert by Nathan Snyder, up and coming pianist.

"Bella Voce" trio made their initial appearance this summer: Frances Swinehart, Pam McCarthy, and Beck Rand. Ken Jaeb and Dr. Norman Warren are our resident Cantors. Canton Chapter, American Guild of Organists held their November meeting of duets in our sanctuary (two piano, piano/organ, etc.) with a potluck coordinated by Chef Carol Popovich. I supplied a PA system for the "Sermon on the Mount" with a keyboard on loan from my caregiver Ray Slinger.

What would we do without the dedicated service of the following choristers: Sandi Kaustinen, Frances Swinehart, Leslie Redmon, Beck Rand, Caroline Willoughby, Dr. Norman Warren, John Werren, Chuck Violand, Barrie

Thorp, Ken Jaeb, Louise Moore, Pam McCarthy? Our interim pastor Rev. Beth continues to be supportive and helpful with fresh liturgical formats. It is so fulfilling for me to continue a music ministry in such an energizing environment as St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Robert Morrison

### **Rector Search Committee**

In late summer, Anne Coen, Grace Giammarco, Ken Jaeb, Mandy Pelger, Paul Sack, and I started our work as the Rector Search Committee. To gather input from the parish, we conducted an online survey and held two parish meetings in September . Then we worked on answering questions to describe St. Mark's to candidates and also share the gifts we seek in our next rector. Our parish profile has been forwarded to the Diocesan Canon for Ministry. Soon the application and instructions will be posted to allow clergy to read them and, if interested, submit their materials. The committee will then review such items and progressively narrow the list of candidates with the intention of holding phone and video interviews then, making subsequent site visits and conducting in-person interviews. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit guides us during this very important part of the Rector search process.

Thanks,  
Joseph Hoot, Chair

## **MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Acolytes**

What a great group of people. No matter the weather, social issues or not feeling well they persevered and honored their commitment. Our acolytes participated in approximately 115 services this past year. This is a great accomplishment since we only have ten acolytes. St. Mark's acolytes include Justin Crowl, Colin Jenkins, Alexis Wilson, Lesley Kiesling, Lauren Hoot, Joe Hoot, Marilyn Thorp, Karen Violand, Susie Hines and Sharon Ryan.

In 2019, we will be losing four high school seniors: Justin Crowl, Colin Jenkins, Alexis Wilson and Lesley Kiesling. All are going off to college. That will leave us with six acolytes. The ranks are getting thin. If someone would like to be involved in this ministry, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary L. Giammarco, Acolyte Advisor

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is a lay ministry that serves God in His house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship. We maintain and care for the sacred vessels, altar linens and vestments. Last month members participated in a thorough cleanup, sorting and reorganizing of items in the storage area.

We order and pay for needed supplies and arrange for flower orders and deliveries for weekly services as well as Easter and Christmas. This year we have also donated to the cost and installation of the shade in the Sacristy area and have paid for a year's use of the water cooler in the family room.

At this time we have 8 active members: Sara Strattan, Eloise Hochwalt, Louise Moore, Carol Popovich, Susie Hines, Sharon Ryan, Rhonda Warren, and Diana Cornell. We would welcome new members. Membership is open to all: women, men and families. Our meetings are often preceded by potlucks and fellowship. If you are interested please leave a note in my mailbox. We are thankful to those who help after services as do Kirk and Beth Bletzacker with distribution of the flowers. One does not have to be a member to do so.

Recently we have made the weekly flower ordering process more simplified. There are new envelopes in the pews on which donors include the date of dedication, how it should read and if the donor would like to receive the flowers after the 10:00 service or have them given to someone who would be cheered by receiving them. The cost of weekly dedications remains at \$15.00.

We would appreciate help in identifying those who might like to receive flowers as well as help in their delivery. Please put a note in my mailbox if you can do either. Diana Cornell, Secretary

### **Book Club**

St. Mark's book club meets on the second Monday of the month. Meetings are September through June, skipping December. This year we have selected some classical books to read from the PBS - Great American Read. Books can be either fiction or non-fiction. The book selections are made by the attendees. Please feel free to join this gathering at any time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amelia Rowland, Coordinator

### **Brew Meister's**

2018 will go down in Brew Meister lore as a most unusual year. It's the first time in our history that we didn't brew any beer. It's a bit like dandelions without any dandy; muskrats without any musk; Brew Meisters without any brews. But, before sounding any alarms, it's not like we didn't have any fun.

In the Spring we conducted a quality control visit to the recently opened Fat Head's Brewery on Everhard Road to make sure nobody was trying to pull a fast one by introducing subpar craft beer into Stark county. Our testing was rigorous and thorough, as has become our trademark. After taste-testing every single draft beer, sampling half the menu, and having to pick Al Korosi up off the floor and put him back on his barstool *three times*, we conferred our Brew Meister's seal of approval.

We also felt it was time to mix it up a bit with our fall Oktoberfest program. When we started hosting Oktoberfest we were one of only a handful of similar events being held throughout Canton. Lately, it seemed as if every church, school, and daycare was having an Oktoberfest, so we decided to try something new.

Once again we employed our time-honored decision making process of deep thought and lively conversation...over a few beers, good food, some

really nice blues, and a pontoon boat ride. It was important for us to get our minds right for such a consequential decision.

The verdict was to blaze a new trail and host our first Jambalaya Jam on September 8<sup>th</sup>. What a party it was! The undercroft was filled with jammers. Charlie Brown's catered some outstanding jambalaya, "Zydico" Geoff Gordon provided the tunes, Derek Gordon introduced us to some Voodoo beers, Beth O'Bletzackeringtonio and her team had the event running like a well-oiled machine, and a handful of very generous sponsors ensured that we walked away with over \$2,100 in the kitty. Jambalaya Jam is on the map, baby!

As in years past, all of us in the Brew Meisters group are eagerly looking forward to another great brewing year in 2019 as well as some measure of respectability that once again eluded us in 2018. If you'd like more information on this ministry of fellowship and frivolity, please let me know.

Irreverently submitted,  
Chuck Violand, Head Brew Meister

### **Building & Grounds**

Maintaining our building is something that needs to be done. For without the building where would we gather to do God's work. So what have we improved this year: new HVAC (Heat, Air Ventilation, and Cooling) handlers, fixed potholes in parking lot, ran a brush hog to knock down the high grass along wooded areas, updated Nursery HVAC, new signs at Cleveland, Market, Yale and on the grounds (thank you Chris Arnold), updated library floor and lights, changed a regulator valve on older boiler, and new programmable thermostats (please do not put these on hold temp only raise/lower temp as needed and they will reset at the next programmed time).

We also must be aware of future possible issues with our aging building. We have one aging boiler, the flat roof, older windows and doors, the brown outside siding, and a parking lot that isn't getting any younger. Thanks to all who help maintain what we can without paying someone to do the little things that come up. We have a good group on volunteers who spring into

action when needed! Frequent helpers include Bob Kennedy, Charlie Kiesling, Kirk Bletzacker, and Derek Gordon.

Thanks,  
Joseph Hoot

### **Cluster Dinners**

Cluster Dinners began about 7 years ago as an adult fellowship opportunity. Singles or couples sign up and are assigned to groups of 8-10 persons for a potluck meal, usually dinner and in a parishioner's home. Groups begin meeting once a month, in March and conclude in November; every 3 months the groups are reshuffled.

Last year, following the meal, some groups included a short Bible study by using a verse or *Forward Day by Day*. Discussions and comparisons of Bible versions were lively. Recently Rev. Beth provided *GRATITUDE* cards for thoughtful after-dinner sharing.

Thanks to everyone who signed up for this past autumn grouping – 25, the most signed up ever! And thank you to those who showed the act of hospitality by hosting your fellow parishioners. A new sign-up sheet will be posted in early March 2019.

Respectfully submitted  
MaryAnn Kiesling, Coordinator

### **CODE WARM**

Since Christmas of 2015, Bradley and his supporters, including all of you at St. Mark's, have collected over 1000 blankets, 500 coats, 500 hats, and hundreds of pairs of gloves for Hope Outreach Ministry and other local missions, including the YWCA Women's Shelter, Canton Calvary Mission, Turnaround Community Outreach, and the Canton City Schools Hope Chest. Your support has truly been a blessing for Bradley and his family as well as for the people receiving the items. Many, many homeless and needy families have benefited from all of your efforts.

A great accomplishment occurred in the past year as a result of Bradley's CODE WARM project. Through Bradley's little ministry, Hope Outreach was introduced to a benefactor who wound up buying a building that he then refurbished and donated to them. The benefactor, who started by donating to CODE WARM after reading an article in the paper, eventually went with the Mulls to the old building. He fell in love with the work they were doing and realized that they had outgrown the existing building and needed much more space to properly serve the people who counted on them. The new building is the former Klocker Hall of the St. Paul's Catholic Church, located at 1530 Superior Ave NE, Canton. It is a great example of how big things grow from little seeds. You see the new building and get more information on Hope Outreach at <https://hopeoutreachministry.org/>.

This is the final report from CODE WARM as Bradley will no longer be actively soliciting from the St. Mark's family. He plans to continue his work through his scout troop, and will still do as much as he can to help Pastor Marilyn at Hope Outreach in any way possible. If anyone at St. Mark's does have any blankets, winter items, or clothing that they would like to donate, please feel free to contact Bradley or his parents and he will still help to get them to Hope. Thank you so much for making this project a success.

Gary Mull

### **Community Harvest**

Community Harvest has served Stark County as a sustainable, community-led solution to fight both food waste and hunger in our community since 1989. As the only prepared and perishable food rescue program in NE Ohio, Community Harvest is now a "link" for nearly 100 local restaurants, caterers, grocery stores, farmers, cafeterias, and hospital kitchens to donate their unused, healthy food that would otherwise be discarded. Community Harvest then delivers the food, at no cost, to over 35 community-based organizations in Stark County.

St. Mark's has been a proud partner with Community Harvest for 12 years, participating in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. During that time, St. Mark's and its parishioners have contributed almost \$12,000, making it one of the highest supporting churches in the area.

In 2017, Community Harvest merged with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank network, which has increased their impact on fighting hunger. It now allows the program to expand its service into parts of Summit County and collect food there from previously untapped food donors 7 days a week. The ACRFB will soon be building a new distribution site in Stark County at the old Fishers Foods on Cherry Avenue. With that in mind, St. Mark's will move away from the Souper Bowl of Caring project and consider in 2019 new outreach ministries and our call to assist our neighbors and fight hunger.

Gary Mull

### **Cooking with Care**

Cooking with Care was a NEW ministry in 2018. This ministry formed out of an interest from parishioners to want to cook together, learn and share recipes. After some meetings, talking all things food, we've decided to use this ministry as a way to serve our parishioners while enjoying the time sharing and cooking together. In 2018 we had 2 cooking days where many of us gathered in the kitchen at St. Mark's and spent a lovely time preparing a meal together. The first cooking day was spent preparing a fresh meal that we sent home to parishioners. The One Stop Service Shop assisted us with finding volunteers to deliver those meals. We had a potluck/recipe sharing meeting to plan our next cooking venture and decided to stock our freezer with meals to provide to parishioners as needed. (We worked with the One Stop Service Shop to distribute these meals). Therefore, our second cooking day was spent preparing meatloaves and various sides to freeze and send home as full meals for any parishioner in need or desire of one. Cooking with Care is an enjoyable ministry that brings us together while serving our parish. We hope to plan more great things for 2019!

Emily Gordon

### **Diocese of Ohio Convention Delegates**

Anne Coen, Tony Keenan and I served as St. Mark's delegates to Convention. Our parish is compliant and up to date in our support of the diocese and could vote on the issues and candidates running for various



committees. All offices and candidates on the ballots were voted in from the floor using electronic tabulators. The proposed five (5) amendments to the canons were discussed, debated, amended, commented on and passed by voice vote.

The resolution to support increased young adult outreach and involvement had the most comments and debate prior to passage. There is a concern that the Episcopal Church does not lead in the effort to keep young adults engaged or interested in our efforts to serve God's will for one another. This concern is being addressed through a program of partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Belize and several mission trips have created a bridge of cooperation and support. Additional trips are being considered as well as reciprocity and two youth from Belize will attend the Bellwether Farm Camp in 2019.

An observation of my own about the convention: we have a vitality to serve one another in God's work but the work is infinite, and we mortals must make the effort to pass on our vitality and strength to the next generation. We will with God's help!

Respectfully,  
Bob Kennedy

### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

Our annual Easter Basket collection for the Y.W.C.A. shelter was welcomed by the residents and their custodial children. Over 70 pails were filled with miscellaneous beauty items and food. We continue to collect Box Tops for Education to be given to Schreiber School. We continue to meet with the Summit Mission Area ECW several times during the year. This is the most active Mission Area ECW in the Diocese, although we may be fading in energy. Clothing and a gazillion pill bottles were sent to Belize at the end of last year. We are presently awaiting word as to how we can help their need. Sue Little is ending her second year as Vice President of the Diocesan ECW and has attended two Commission on Global and Domestic Mission primarily to learn about our presence and collaboration in Belize. She also attended the ECW Annual Meeting at Bellwether Farm, and spent a week in Austin, TX at the ECW Triennial Meeting. Ms. Bra Bag continues to hang

in the coat room. New and gently used bras will be donated to an Akron agency.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Little

### **Fellowship**

The first event of 2018 was our movie event in February, followed by a Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Sausage Supper. With the beginning of Lent, we had our potluck suppers on Wednesday evenings. On March 31, we joined our Easter Vigil with St. Paul's and enjoyed refreshments after the service. A luncheon was held for the bishop in April. There was no church picnic this year. In August and September we had our baby changing and feeding booth at the fair. Joining us, as partners, was St. Timothy's of Massillon, and we received grant funding from Diocese of Ohio Mission Area funds. We will be partnering again in 2019.

On Monday, November 26 we hosted the American guild of Organists potluck supper and concert. We had approximately 60 guests. Thanks to our music maestro Bob Morrison for bringing this event to our church.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol Popovich

### **Greeters**

Being a greeter prior to the 10:00am service is one of the most joyous ministries at St. Mark's! Offering a smile and a handshake as folks arrive at church is an opportunity to extend hospitality. To greet fellow parishioners and to welcome and answer questions from visitors are ways to show the love of Jesus. A welcome to God's house serves as the pre-prelude to our 10am worship.

Greeters work in teams of two (or more) and can sign up either individually as a team. No one is too old or too young, with too many questions or too few answers to participate. Some stand, some sit, and some even sit-stay. Some greeters wear a sash, badge, or other accessory so those who arrive can identify them. Our most visible greeter, canine Vicar Leo, wears an

Episcopal Church collar and splits his time between the family room and the narthex.

This is a ministry you have to try out to know if it brings you joy and matches your gifts. If you would like to take a test drive, feel free to sign up on the bulletin board or contact me. If you receive an invitation to greet, please say take on the challenge for one Sunday morning.

And a heartfelt thank you to all who have been greeters, wearing the badge or sash during the past year!

Respectfully submitted  
MaryAnn Kiesling, Contact Person

### **Knitting**

We meet the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 1-3pm in the family room. **If you wish to learn to knit, come join us.** We are a small group with good results. In May we donated 55 items (hats and scarves) to the Seamen's Church Institute for distribution in the winter weather. We also knit prayer shawls and personal items. It is a good social time for women in the parish.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Little

### **Lay Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, and Worship Leaders**

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.

Our Lay Eucharistic Ministers (Anne Coen, Diana Cornell, Bruce Hixon, Judy Hixon Bob Kennedy, Pam McCarthy, Mark Nadel, Kim Nadel, Paul Sack, Bruce Schutrum, Sara Stratton, Tom Turner, Rhonda Warren, John Werren, and Leigh Wilson) also serve as lay readers during our Sunday services. Our Lay Worship Leaders (Anne Coen, Bruce Hixon, Bob Kennedy, Bruce Schutrum, and John Werren) have led Morning Prayer on Sunday mornings when the Interim Rector has been away. From Memorial

Day through Labor Day, they also have led the Wednesday Evening Prayer services in our outdoor chapel or the Family Room if the heavens opened up.

As with all ministries, schedules fluctuate year to year and season to season. We welcome confirmed members of the congregation, high school age or older to consider sharing their talents by participating in this ministry. If you would like to find out more about becoming a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or Worship Leader, please contact me or our clergy.

Finally, we held a Spring training for Eucharistic Visitors. These individuals, under the direction of the Rector or Interim Rector, take communion to those who are homebound or for a variety of reasons cannot attend church. If you would like a communion visit, please contact our clergy or our administrative assistant Katie.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce A. Hixon, Head Eucharistic Minister

### **Lazarus Committee**

The Columbarium is a wonderful gift that past and present parishioners have given to the St. Mark's Family. Many parishioners have reserved a place for themselves and their immediate families. Sixty eight of the 152 niches have been sold. The cost today is \$1000. This covers the niche, maintenance and the gold lettering. Not only is this considered a bargain in funeral costs, it eliminates worry and expense at the time of your funeral.

The placement of your remains is an import part of your funeral planning. But not the only part, we also recommend you spent time with the priest outlining your funeral wishes.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charlie Kiesling

## **Lunch Bunch**

The Women's Lunch Bunch meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 1:00pm at various restaurants in the area. All St. Mark's women and their guests are invited. If you like to eat out and don't want to eat alone, please come join the fun and fellowship, and help decide on where our next meal will be. Details appear in the Lion's Pause.

Sue Little

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

At a Men's Prayer Breakfast meeting, it was observed that there were a number of men living alone in the congregation who might be interested in gathering for dinner and fellowship, and possibly to augment or as a substitute for our declining monthly breakfast meeting. Charlie Kiesling mentioned this to Kirk Bletzacker, who discussed this with his wife, Beth, and they agreed to host the first meeting at their lake side home. Ten church and former church men had a delightful time, picked the name, and agreed not only to continue meeting, only in local restaurants, but to include all Church men, not just the ones living alone.

Since our first meeting, we have met monthly, averaging about 12 participants, with new members at each meeting. We meet at locally owned popular restaurants ordering off the menu, and frequently receive a discount on the meal. So far there has been no formal program, and fellowship has been the objective. Please look in the Lion's Pause for information about our next gathering.

Tony Keenan

## **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

The St. Mark's men's prayer group held its final breakfast meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We agreed to disband because of a current lack of interest and the plans of current members to spend extended time in the south during the cold weather. It became a victim of changes in generational interests, time restraints and conflicting activities. Group prayers for the church,

church members, and others are not forgotten but are covered by other activities within our Church.

Tony Keenan

### **One Stop Service Shop (OSSS)**

St. Mark's One Stop Service Shop is a new ministry that was initiated in May 2018 for parishioners to help fellow parishioners with various needs, services, and tasks. Our committee established our name, including "Service Technicians" (parish volunteers), "Service Engineers" (parish organizers), and compiled brochures for the pews in the sanctuary.

Service Technicians have provided at least 25 tasks for fellow parishioners since June. These tasks ranged from delivering meals (prepared by St. Mark's Cooking With Care), transportation to various appointments/airport/church, computer help, light home painting, leaf removal/mulching and babysitting.

We have enjoyed completing these services, the fellowship that has taken place with the recipients, and look forward to serving fellow parishioners through this ministry in the future!

Help Us Help You!

Beth Bletzacker  
Service Engineer, One Stop Service Shop

### **Outreach**

We have had another year of generous outreach by our congregation. We donated to the Souperbowl, filled Bradley's Blanket Box several times, supplied food and food vouchers for several families at Schreiber School, and donated stuffing mix and cash toward Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown (St. Paul's) which packed 1200 grocery bags for the needy. We provided a Baby Booth at Stark County Fair. St. Timothy's, Massillon, supported us with this year's fair. Our largest outreach project is Community Christmas. This year we provided clothing, toys, a food voucher, and the desperately needed taxable items (cleaning and hygiene supplies) for four families,

totaling 16 people. The requests are very basic. The need is great. Thank you for making all this possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Little

### **Parish Care**

Parish Care is a ministry to assist the bereaved following the funeral or memorial service of a loved one. We provide cookies, punch, tea, and coffee, but are willing to do more as requested by the family involved. It is customary for the bereaved to make a cash donation to Parish Care to assist with future needs. This year we called upon twice to assist the families of parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Little

### **Parish Notecards**

The ministry of parish notecards is a way to acknowledge parishioners and their parts in the family of St. Mark's. This "behind the scenes" ministry began a few years ago as a means of connecting to folks "missing in the pews". In addition to reminding parishioners that they are not forgotten, notecards are mailed to those experiencing life transitions, i.e. marriage, new baby, moving from homesteads, passing of a loved one, new jobs, etc. These cards supplement the thoughtful notes that many individuals send to those on our parish prayer list.

The note cards are mailed 4-5 times a year, and have included 12–25 parishioners and families. We look for special prayers and scripture that might bring solace or strength to individuals. The following is a prayer that we found so meaningful the last time that we wrote notes two weeks ago:

*Gracious and merciful God, keep us mindful, the past is where we have come from; our future is where we are headed; and the present is where we reside. May we preserve the legacy of our past; accept today's gifts given by your grace and look to the*

*future with hope.* (Adapted from a United Thank Offering Prayer by Sarita J. Redd)

A prayer is said for the recipients prior to mailing the notecards. The four of us who write these notecards receive blessings as well as the recipients. If anyone is so moved to be part of this ministry, you make speak to any of the 4 of us. We will next write and mail notecards in February.

Respectfully submitted,  
Grace Giammarco, Pat Kapper, MaryAnn Kiesling, and Rev. Beth Frank

### **Photography**

I have enjoyed helping with the photography needs of St. Mark's. It has been especially fun with my new camera (Canon M50). Katie is the master at photography and I am happy to assist in any way I can.

Here is a list of some of this year's photo projects:

Annual Meeting January 21, 2018  
Blessing of the Altar Guild February 11, 2018  
Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13, 2018  
New Vestry Commissioning February 25, 2018  
Palm Sunday March 25, 2018  
The Great Easter Vigil at St. Paul's March 31, 2018  
Visit of The Rt. Rev. Arthur B. Williams, Jr. April 8, 2018  
Baptism of Ivy Noelle Smith May 20, 2018  
Baptism of Emerson Drew Eaton June 10, 2018  
Stark County Fair Booth August 29, 2018  
Outdoor Service in the Chapel in the Woods September 2, 2018  
Puppet Gang September 9, 2018  
Jambalaya Jam September 14, 2018  
Evening prayer in Chapel in the Woods September 2018  
Congregational Meeting September 23, 2018  
Intergenerational Advent Nativity Making Event November 17, 2018  
Exteriors of St. Marks for Website and Facebook



I also photographed several guest musicians and our own St. Mark's vocal soloists and ensembles and choir parties. I provided photos of anniversary and birthday prayers for several parishioners as well as keepsake photos for some of our visitors.

I look forward to helping with the photography needs of St. Mark's.  
William P. Rand

### **Prayer Chain**

Ongoing thanks to our Prayer Chain Team who continually support me, our congregation, and those who need prayer. It's a quiet but important ministry.

"Prayer changes things, starting with the one who Prays!" ~*Author Unknown*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bobbi Gordon

### **Puppet Ministry**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church's "Puppet Gang" is in its twenty-first year. Its goal is to provide the middle and high schoolers with a place in the church and a place to keep them coming. Confirmation class also keeps these students involved in the church.

We have six members--Alexis Wilson, Lauren Hoot, Bradley Mull, Skyler Hudson, Brooks Deuble and Sirenatie Hudson--who are keeping our puppet ministry functioning. We are supported by the Episcopal Church Women's donation of \$300 a year for scripts, puppets, and supplies for props.

Our Fall show was entitled "Whatever!" This show demonstrates that through prayer daily we can stop worrying and learn to live in a positive fashion. We should think about what is true, right, noble and kind and this should keep us less worrisome. "Whatever" was very funny and understood by all ages.

Our Christmas show “Starry Starry Night” was performed on Advent III. This show follows the shepherd’s lives and how they searched, wanting to find the newborn Christ. We included the younger Sunday Schoolers and all enjoyed this heart-warming story. Everyone looks forward to the Christmas show making a wonderful beginning for revisiting the birth of our Savior.

Sandy Paradis, Director, and Assistant Director Jan Hudson

### **Sunday School**

Number of students – 8, plus 2 in nursery, and various guests and visitors

Teachers: Katie Cerrone-Arnold, Linda Deuble, Mandy Pelger, Sharon Ryan, and Sara Schaub, Kim Nadel, Livvy Mull

Nursery attendant – Riley Kiesling

Our focus for 2018 has been to have the Sunday School students and youth of the church participate more fully with the worship service and life of the church. The children have participated with several baptisms by being a part of the Baptismal Welcome Bubble Parade which welcomes the newly baptized to our church family. An effort has been made to sponsor at least 2 intergenerational events a year so that the young and “young at heart” can work and play together and share Christ’s love.

At the beginning of the year, the Sunday school class met in the Library for its lessons and activities and met for chapel time in the parish hall undercroft. Over the summer, the library was refreshed and reorganized to create a dedicated Sunday school classroom with room for the children’s altar for chapel time. New flooring and a new sink were installed in the library as well. Many thanks to Emily Gordon for helping to sort and organize the Sunday school storage closets and to Charlie Kiesling for his work on trash removal and library renovation.

Rev. Beth led several training sessions on Safeguarding God’s Children for all the teachers and other ministry leaders that work with our parish youth. We have implemented the suggestions that we learned during the training and now have 2 adults working with the children every Sunday.

The Sunday School had special activities for Easter and All Saints Sunday. Our students and visiting children participated in an Outreach Easter Egg Hunt on the Sunday after Easter. The eggs were filled with treats and play money. After the hunt, the children were able to choose which of three ministries to donate their dollars. Real monetary donations were then made as the children had allocated. The students also made felt leaves for a large Tree of Life – All Saints Day Banner on which they wrote their names and the name of their special saint. The extra leaves were provided to the congregation at large for them to add their own names and the names of someone who has passed on that they would like to remember as their special saint.

The Sunday School hosted 2 intergenerational events again this year – Lent Pretzel Making (attended by 25+) and Advent Nativity Making (attended by 25+) . Many thanks to Rev. Beth for helping inspire us and spread the word, to Carol Popovich for providing the delicious lunches, and to Livvy Mull for leading the nativity craft activity. The events were fun for families, children, and seniors.

Sunday School chapel offerings through the year were donated to the Schreiber School Food Pantry.

The Puppet Gang Christmas show, One Starry Night, included the Sunday School children dressed as sheep and shepherds and sang along to the show with the dedicated group of puppeteers. Many thanks to Sandy Paradis, Jan Hudson, Kim Nadel, Livvy Mull, and all the parent volunteers for a fabulous show. The children did a great job and can't wait for next year.

Submitted by Sharon Ryan

### **Thankful Thursdays**

Last school year (Winter/Spring 2018) Thankful Thursdays continued to provide monthly deliveries of food to 8 families at Canton City's Schreiber Elementary School. We were also able to send a \$75 food voucher home with each family before the kids went on summer break from school. This school year (Fall 2018) we are providing food packages for a new set of 8

families at Schreiber. Like last year, we provide each family with a weekend supply (often a bit more) of food thanks to all of your donations! We will continue to provide monthly food packages to these families this school year with the help of your donations.

A special thanks to Beth Bletzacker for assisting me with packing the food, Mandy Pelger for taking the food to Schreiber and of course, a HUGE thanks to all of you that donate! Without you, this outreach project would not be possible.

Thank you!  
Emily Gordon

## **Ushers**

St Mark's ushers went through some changes in 2018. Our numbers declined significantly through parishioners moving out of the area and having other priorities that precluded the opportunity to usher at services here at St Marks. However, we were able to shuffle the group members around in order to continue to have seven (7) teams available to rotate for the 10am service on Sunday mornings and holidays.

We were able to heighten our awareness of security concerns during our worship services and Sunday programs; but I am not aware of any better or more capable hands to be in than God's. Our ushers also supported several funeral and memorial services this year. Always a challenge to see our church family shrink.

I want to thank all of you; Gary Giammarco, Tom Temelkoff, Bruce Hixon, Bob Kocab, Alex Korosi, Mike Ryan, John Wise, Bill Rand, Gary Mull, Rick Crowl, Wayne Paradis, Kirk Bletzacker, Dave Thorley, John Willoughby, Kent Clark, Emily Gordon, Geoff Gordon, Rick Werren, Derek Gordon, Ron Brown, Karen Violand, and Tony Keenan. Thank you so very much! Special thanks to Gene Little for his continued support as an usher for our flock at 8am services. His contribution makes my responsibilities much simpler and easier. Thank You Gene!

So we continue to serve as God's servants to provide guidance and direction in the Lord's House.

Respectfully,  
Bob Kennedy

### **United Thank Offering**

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a small way to say thank you to God and be part of a larger gifting process. We are asked to save our change in a little blue box each time saying a prayer of thanksgiving for a blessing received. Through United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. United Thank Offering is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

St. Mark's participated in the 2018 Spring Ingathering with contributions totaling \$395.00 from 14 donors. Rev. Beth expressed a desire to develop a creative way to also involve the youth in the ingathering, which is currently in the planning stages for the next ingathering.

Thanking you for your continued support and response,  
Kathy Kennedy and Amelia Rowland, Co-Chairs

### **Wedding Coordinator**

On Saturday, September 15th the wedding of Moose Violand and Maggie Sawicki was performed. The first one in over 2 years. A beautiful wedding.

Respectfully, Carol Popovich

### **Wednesday Study Group**

The Wednesday Study Group has been meeting for many years. We choose a book from the Bible or other inspirational literature to read to each

other and talk about. When we finish one book, we look for another. This past year Rev. Beth has been a source of some very interesting books and, when she has time, joins us.

Books we've read and found worthwhile in 2018 include: The Book of Joy by Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Toward Holy Ground by Margaret Guenther, and currently Joan Chittister's In Search of Belief.

We look forward each week to our time together and only wish more persons would join us when they are able. We meet 10:30-noon.

Questions? Call Pat Kapper at 330-499-2449 or Eloise Hochwalt at 330-499-7573



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