

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Annual Report for 2022



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St. Mark's Clergy and Staff

Fr. RJ

W. Robert Morrison: Organist/Choirmaster

Katie Kuceyeski: Office Manager

St. Mark's 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda – January 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Adoption of Time Allotment/Speaking Rules
5. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes (page 17)
6. Appointment of Tellers*
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Opening of Polls*
9. Rector's Report
10. Warden's Reports
11. 2022 Financial Report and 2023 Missional Budget
12. Closing of Polls
13. Report from the Tellers*
14. Old Business
15. New Business
16. Closing Prayer
17. Adjournment

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

Vestry Members

Class of 2022 (serving until January 2025 Annual Meeting)

Sara Strattan

Leslie Redmon

John Willoughby

Class of 2021 (serving until January 2024 Annual Meeting)

Carol Hayn

Gene Little

Mandy Pelger

Outgoing Vestry Members

Marcia Kiesling

Beth Crawl

Bruce Hixon

Vestry Candidates:

Joe Hoot

I am a cradle Episcopalian and currently I serve in many rolls at St. Mark's: as an acolyte, Chair on the Stewardship Committee, Buildings & Grounds, and Men Out Dining. I have been on Vestry before about 8 years ago. I work as a salesman for Keystone Automotive in Akron. I enjoy fishing, NASCAR racing, the beach, and most recently going to Florida to visit my daughter. This Family means a lot to me I enjoy coming here on a regular basis to spend time with you and God.



Kent Clark

This winter marks the 30th year that I've been a member of St. Mark's. I can still remember the warm welcome Pam and I received that first Sunday in 1993. I think the key is to walk into the church holding a new baby! Since then, we've raised four boys: Zachary, Benjamin, Nathaniel & Fletcher along with four golden retrievers: Sloop, Scarlet, Jessie & Nicki.

Until 20 years ago, I worked in the corporate world holding various sales & marketing positions. Since then, I've been self-employed. I've spent time as a franchisee with three different businesses: Great Clips, GNC &

Maui Wowi Fresh Hawaiian Blends. Today I run a high school fundraising business (Varsity Fundraising) and a Jackson spirit wear store (Varsity Gear). I really enjoy college, high school & youth sports.

I served on the Vestry 25 years ago and I'm looking forward to seeing how I can be a benefit again over the next three years.

Rick Werren

St. Mark's has been my church home, other than college and the Navy, since I was about seven years old. I have served in various capacities, as a trustee for 10 years and currently, as an usher and a counter. My previous vestry service was in the 90's.

My wife Julie is a newcomer to St. Mark's having been an active member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Alliance. If you don't see her in church, know that she is watching the service on Facebook. Julie and I enjoy traveling and eating out.



I have been privileged to have traveled and reside in many places. My favorites are Greece as a child and Panama during my Naval career. After the Navy I returned to Canton and made sales my career working for companies in Cuyahoga Falls, Macedonia, and currently Tampa, FL. As Regional Sales Manager for the last 21 years, I cover 8 states interacting with manufacturers in the food, laundry, and ready mix (cement) industries helping them to reduce energy usage.

I look forward to my vestry experience and helping to guide St. Mark's in serving God's people. I believe we have a vibrant church community with excellent leadership and am blessed to be a part of it.

Burials: 2
Weddings: 0
Baptisms: 2
Average Sunday Attendance: 63
Easter Sunday Attendance: 122
Christmas Service Attendance: 98

Rector's Report

2022 was a year in which we were able to see renewed life emerge at St. Mark's. Although we continue to stream our services on Facebook, most people are now comfortable returning to in person worship. In addition to services, we have resumed many of our fellowship events, including offering coffee and fellowship after services, offering receptions following funerals, and sharing meals in the undercroft. I am grateful to Carol and her team of kitchen helpers, and to the Stewardship Committee for making these events happen.

We also held our first inter-generational service since the start of the pandemic. It was a wonderful service. I am thankful to Emily and others involved with planning and holding the event. It is our plan to hold an intergenerational service four times each year. As our children get older, it would be helpful to establish a second Sunday School class to address the diversity in ages and interests. To do so, we will need a few volunteers to facilitate that class. Those volunteers will be provided with training and materials.

Last year I set three short term goals for St. Mark's. The first was to establish an Outreach Committee and find one outreach program with which we might become regularly involved. The Outreach Committee is Gary Mull, Mandy Pelger, and Sue Little. We began a regular outreach to Gibbs Elementary's First Friday program. Members of St. Mark's have participated in the program, and everyone who has participated has found it a fulfilling experience.

The second was to build a stronger relationship with Weaver Child Development Center. This goal hit a number of roadblocks. We are not giving up. Geoff Gordon was appointed by the Vestry to be a liaison between St. Mark's and the Weaver board. He has begun meeting with a member of Weaver's board.

The third goal was to add at least six households to St. Mark's over the course of the year. We were able to achieve that goal and have some wonderful additions to our St. Mark's family.

I also set two long term goals for St. Mark's. The first is to have an average Sunday attendance of at least 100 people by 2027. We are on our way to achieving that goal, and if we continue to add households every year, we will achieve and, most likely, exceed that goal.

The second long term goal is to have a budget that does not require us to spend principle from our endowment to fund operating expenses. Thanks to the efforts of our Stewardship Committee and the generosity of our members, our pledges increased for 2023 despite the loss of several significant donors to relocation and death.

In 2023, I would like to see St. Mark's add at least seven households to our congregation. I would also like to add another outreach opportunity for those who are unable to participate in the First Friday program at Gibbs. We are on a positive trajectory. With the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit, we can reach many for the sake of the Gospel.

I have begun a Doctor of Ministry program at Lexington Theological Seminary and am gaining new tools and insights to increasing our capacity for ministry. As 2023 unfolds, I hope to use these tools to the benefit of St. Mark's and the communities in which we live, work, and play.

Fr. RJ

Senior Warden's Report

When last I served as Sr. Warden, it was a very hectic and eventful time for St. Mark's and I found myself constantly busy, going to meetings, establishing committees, and writing for the Lion's Tale.

I am happy and relieved to say this term as Sr. Warden has been nothing like that, thanks to Fr. RJ, who has taken charge and proved to be an involved, in touch, insightful, and competent leader for St. Mark's. As a result, I am happy to say, I had little to do.

Under Fr. RJ's guidance the Vestry has made strides toward restoring a sense of normalcy after the worst days of the pandemic and I expect those efforts will continue.

The Vestry also revived our Outreach efforts through involvement with Gibbs school and Hope Outreach Ministries. (Special thanks to Mandy Pelger and Gary Mull.) We also established a committee, under the leadership of Leslie Redmon, to refresh and revive the Betty Fortney Sanctuary in the Woods. With the departure of Bob and Kathy Kennedy for warmer climes, we found ourselves in need of a new Head Usher. Many thanks to Rick Crawl for stepping up and filling that position. And I would be remiss if I did not thank Charlie Keisling and the members of the Finance Committee for their hard work in managing the budget for St. Mark's. And last but not least a big thank you to Joe Hoot and the Stewardship Committee for a fresh and effective new approach to the Stewardship Season.

We have not had a direct liaison with Weaver School since Rhonda Warren moved to Florida. Geoff Gordon has agreed to take on that role and we're looking forward to improved communication and interaction with the school.

Finally, thank you to all the Vestry members I've had the pleasure to serve with the past three years, and to the Vestry Candidates who answered the call to serve and will soon be joining the "new" Vestry for 2023.

This is a hopeful time for St. Mark's and I urge every parishioner to consider how they can become more deeply involved in securing the future of St. Mark's.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Sr. Warden. May God richly bless our Parish Family.

Bruce Hixon
Sr. Warden

Junior Warden's Report

To be elected to vestry and then Junior Warden at last year's meeting was both an honor and challenge. Financial health, service attendance and outreach are very important.

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

Our social media campaign led by Katie has been successful in gaining attention for St. Mark's, and more work in marketing is planned for 2023. We had a successful cleanup of the Betty Fortney Outdoor Chapel, that also provided a nice fellowship opportunity. A highlight of the year was the process established to introduce the candidates for election to replace Bishop Hollingsworth, including participating in the election itself at the Diocesan Convention. A more formal liaison process has been set up with Weaver School to help support the best cooperative use of our great facility.

Under the leadership of Fr. RJ, we are continuing to make St. Mark's a comfortable, friendly place to worship. Please continue hoping and praying that the solace found here can lead others to join our parish family.

Respectfully submitted,
John Willoughby
Jr. Warden

Parish Musician's Report

From the day in 1997 when Father Sloan invited me to this post, St. Mark's has been a welcoming place to use what abilities God has given me for His glory. With a priest who is both a Bible scholar and liturgical specialist and congregants who are thoughtful in so many ways, these 26 years have been fruitful. But there are challenges ahead, particularly with choir enrollment. We are blessed with Beck Rand (librarian and advisor), Leslie Redmon, Frances Swinehart, Sandi Kaustinen, Pam McCarthy, Caroline Willoughby, Barrie Thorp, Chuck Violand, John Werren (in summer), Cantor Ken Jaeb. We have had special assistance from Bruce Schutrum playing the synthesizer that Ron and Peg Hill have

presented to us. Sally Little has been a blessing at the piano. Guests Jean Burnquist, Patricia Newell, timpani expert Steve Grimo, and Danny Reiman have added their talents. Karen Violand has been our enthusiast for the 25 Schulmerich handbells that June Lockhart donated some years ago. Geoff, Bobbi, Derek, and Emily Gordon, Tom Turner and a young Sunday School girl, guest David White (former soloist who assisted with page turning and bell playing), Leslie Redmon, Beck Rand, Louise Moore, and of course Karen herself have donated their ringing skills. And my organist friend Vicki Ryan has given us 16 Petit & Fritsen handbells (a now-defunct Dutch foundry whose handbell tone is akin to that of large carillons) which are being restored by Joe Hoot. We hope to use them in a "bell tree" as a foil to our present bells.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Robert Morrison

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Acolytes

The acolyte servers of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church are as follows. Karen Violand, Joe Hoot, Fletcher Clark, Brooks Deuble, and Danny Holihan. The above acolytes have covered approximately 56 services. We usually have one acolyte for the 10 am service. However for Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and the late Christmas Eve service we try to have a full contingent of five acolytes. Our acolyte group is committed to always being present when assigned and on time. The acolytes always add dignity and support to the service whether it's Eucharist or Morning Prayer. They are a special group of people.

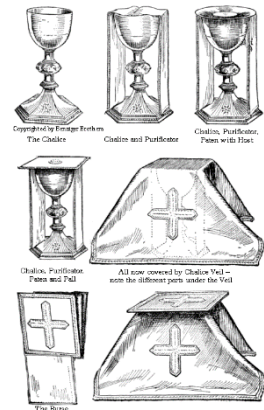
Gary L. Giammarco
Acolyte Adviser

Altar Guild

Altar Guild had a wonderful year!

At the beginning of the year the Stewardship Committee recruited seven new members for us, and we were most pleased to welcome Cindy Brown, Beth Crowl, Linda Deuble, Bobbi Gordon, Pat Silagy-Wesson, Kathy Sloan, and Karen Violand into the group. Their enthusiasm and commitment has energized us all.

Special thanks go to Marilyn Thorp who has stepped forward to polish the silver for us. You have probably noticed that it just gleams. Marilyn has offered to polish it every few months, and for this we are most grateful.



As you also may have noticed, the altar now looks different for communion services. We are “vesting the chalice.” Instead of having it on the table behind the altar, it now sits on the corporal in the middle of the altar during the service. The corporal is a large, square piece of linen which is spread on the altar cloth to collect any fragments of the consecrated host.

Over the chalice we drape a purificator (a rectangular shaped napkin that is used to clean the inside of the chalice) which has been folded three times. On top of the purificator is the paten, the small plate which holds the eucharist. The paten is then topped with the pall (a stiffened square card made from white linen) which protects the bread. A veil is then placed overall. The color of the veil reflects the season of the year. On the top is the burse (two squares of stiff material which are hinged on one side) which holds an additional purificator.

We were sad to announce that the fee for flower dedications had to be raised for 2023 from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per donation. The change reflects an increase in our cost for the flowers, and are grateful that the florist has kept our prices so low for many years.

Altar Guild continues to cover the expense for the water cooler in the family room.

The Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards. Altar Guild members frequently supervise the decoration of the sanctuary of the parish with flowers.

If you are interested in learning more about the Altar Guild, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our members. We welcome your inquiries.

Cindy Brown, Diana Cornell, Beth Crawl, Linda Deuble, Paulette Frech, Bobbi Gordon, Susie Hines, Eloise Hochwalt, Carol Popovich, Pat Silagy Wesson, Kathy Sloan, Sara Strattan, Karen Violand

Building & Grounds

We have a great group of men helping with all aspects of Building & Grounds if you have a talent or just want to help, please let me know @ Joe24Hoot@gmail.com

- We replaced the water heater upstairs with a small tank. (This will save money because we are not heating as much water and warmer water is quicker to the restrooms.)
- Installed a window in Kate's office wall and door
- Carpet was cleaned in the Family Room
- Painted both Lobby and Sanctuary
- Completed upgrades and repairs to HVAC system
- Replaced cracked window and a module in the organ
- We cleaned out the gutters on the roof
- We greened the church for Christmas
- We also answer alarm calls at all times of the day.

Thanks,

Joseph Hoot

Cluster Dinners

Cluster Dinner Group is a fellowship opportunity centering around dining! It's been taking place for about 7 years. After zooming and gathering in restaurants in 2021, our typical Cluster Dinner attendees were pleased to meet again in person in the homes of various gracious hosts. Folks signed up to be included to receive emails with the details of each opportunity.

In the past, folks signed up and were assigned to be in groups, with the intent that the groups would meet 2-3 times in 3 months. A new way of meeting for 2022 was for the first 8 or 10 folks to rsvp to attend the dinners on the date chosen by the host. Here's a look back of the variety of opportunities:

May: baked potato bar in a home after church with the first 10 folks to rsvp

July: at 2 parishioners' homes at Meyer's Lake, who invited all those who signed up, by hosting an appetizer and dessert gathering; boat rides were a big hit

August: casual potluck dinner in a home for the first 8 folks that RSVPed

September: at parishioners' Central Lake home for all who signed up, for a traditional potluck plus boat ride and a new couple was welcomed!

A hearty thank you to all the hosts as well as to the participants. The hospitality of hosting and being a guest in each others' homes is a sign of Christian fellowship. This Ministry is a way to get to know our fellow parishioners and support one another.

We typically take a hiatus in the winter months. Cluster Dinner opportunities will resume when the weather is mild and the daylight is longer, in March or April.

Respectfully submitted
MaryAnn Kiesling, Coordinator

Greeters/Welcome Guild

Thank you to all who have volunteered to be Greeters at the 10 o'clock service in 2022. Greeting fellow parishioners as well as visitors is a fun ministry, with very little preparation. As Greeters, we are welcoming folks into God's home, just as we would welcome family and friends into our own homes. Hospitality is a gracious Christian attribute. Some duties of the Greeters include directing visitors around our building, offering them a VISITOR BAG, suggesting that they sign the guest book, and introducing them to Fr RJ and fellow parishioners.

Typically, there is a Signup Sheet on the kiosk in the lobby for you to choose a convenient Sunday to greet. Or you may be contacted by one of the 4 ladies listed below.

Being greeted by Sunday school children and their parents is enjoyed by all. We appreciate their service to this ministry and hope to see them soon.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Hixon
MaryAnn Kiesling
Pat Silagy Wesson
Tory Willoughby

Hope Outreach Ministry

We have had a long relationship with Hope Outreach Ministry, going back to the original CODE WARM (Bradley's Blanket Brigade) project started in 2015. Our initial focus was collecting blankets for the homeless families served by Hope Outreach Ministry, located at 1530 Superior Avenue NE in inner-city Canton. Soon we were collecting all types of winter items including hats, mittens, coats, scarves, and gloves. Next, we expanded to include all types of men's women's, and children's clothing.

After the COVID shutdown, we rebooted our efforts, and last year focused on operating a collection center for Hope's Blessing Box Project. The Blessing Box at Hope is stocked with personal care items and emergency food items and is open to the homeless 24 hours a day. We collected items to support this mission with our own "Hope Chest" located in the Narthex. Collected items were delivered directly to Hope on a regular basis. For the coming

year, The St. Mark's Sunday School is organizing a program to collect full size bar soaps, wash cloths, and storage bags so that the homeless will all be able to have a personal hygiene bag that that they can use more than just one time. What a wonderful, idea to keep our mission of service moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Mull

Lay Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, and Worship Leaders

Eucharistic Minister Report

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

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

Sadly, Bob and Kathy Kennedy moved to warmer climes. We will miss them very much.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Hixon

Our Eucharistic Visitors were inactive in 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Hixon

Lazarus Committee

The Lazarus Committee has been developed to oversee the needs of the columbarium. Thank you to Bob Kocab and John Werren for their willingness to serve in this ministry.

This year we have registered the columbarium with the State of Ohio for the first time.

With Katie's expertise we are also developing a brochure outlining how to reserve a niche in the columbarium. We hope to have this ready for distribution in early 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek Gordon

Lunch Bunch

We try to meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday @1 p.m. at various local restaurants. This is mainly a drop-in; however, you are welcome to call me to let me know you are coming, so we have a large enough table. Restaurant suggestions are welcome.

Sue Little, 330-704-4501

Meal Train

The Meal Train had three people cook and deliver meals to one parish family in 2022. If you or you know of a fellow parishioner that may need meal/s, please email me at KirkAndBeth@yahoo.com. I will then contact them to set up meals and delivery dates. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Bletzacker, Coordinator

Men Out Dining (MOD) Squad

Open to all men of the Parrish

Tony Keenan ran this ministry for 10 months this year before he moved to NC. His vision lives on as it all started because he would go to dinner by himself and thought there must be others doing the same. So with help from the Men's Prayer Breakfast, he went to Beth Bletzacker who thought it was a great idea and MOD was born. We are open to all men in the Parrish their fathers, sons, married or not came all. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at various restaurants except in December we take it off because they are so busy. We have about 10-18 men that show up and we have a great anniversary party in August. If anyone would like to join please email me at joe24hoot@gmail.com we would love to have your company.

Respectfully,
Joseph Hoot

Outreach

Gary Mull, Mandy Pelger, and Sue Little

Ministry:

Community Christmas

Thanksgiving Baskets

Money Raised:

\$ 2100.00

\$ 845.00

Parish Notecards *a behind the scenes ministry*

First, a hearty thank you to Patty Kapper for being one of the writers of the notecards. Her willingness and dedication to this ministry is appreciated. In midsummer, Patty relocated to Arizona to live with her daughter and son-in-law. Her overall participation in our parish is sorely missed.

Second, a BIG thank you to Bobbi Zollinger for agreeing to be a writer of the Parish Notecards. We're pleased that she and her husband Fred have permanently relocated back in North Canton. Her participation will provide another spiritual perspective in our community.

Our original intent was, and continues to be, to reach out to those parishioners who are ill, homebound, have some special need, or we haven't seen lately. It's a friendly way of keeping in touch. Fr. RJ signs, prays over, then mails the notecards. We thank him for all his support for this ministry.

Our notecard ministry has reached many people. We writers always pray for the person or family, specifically that the person or family receives some comfort and inclusion in our St. Mark's community from our cards!

The notecards are sent 3 – 4 times a year, at non holiday times. The first "round" was in March to 12 folks; the second "round" was sent in July to 9; and the third "round" was sent in November to 25! In addition, there were individual notecards sent in May to 2 folks, in June to 2, in December to 3. The recipient lists are shared only with the wardens and the office.

NEW MINISTRY: At this time, a new ministry is being launched! Birthdays and anniversaries are familial celebrations often observed by receiving cards. If your special dates are listed in our directory (or you are seen receiving a blessing from Fr RJ!) the intent is that you will receive a card from our St. Mark's family signed by Fr RJ. This ministry has its beginning January, 2023.

A thank you is in order to Katie for assistance in designing and printing these new cards, as well as purchasing the supplies for it.

A heartfelt thanks to Carol Hayn and Sandi Kaustinen for agreeing to organize and to write these “greeting cards”.

Respectfully submitted by

Grace Giammarco

MaryAnn Kiesling

Bobbi Zollinger

Photography

As always it is a pleasure to assist with the photography.

Here is a list of the photography that I supplied to Katie and others.

April 10 – Palm Sunday

April 17- Easter Sunday Photos

April 19 Celebration of New Ministry for Father RJ

July 10- Eloise Hochwalt’s 90th Birthday

July 24 – St. Mark’s Picnic

August 22- Blessings of the Back Packs

October 2, 2022 – W.R. Morrison’s 97th Birthday

October 16 – Choir photo

November 20 – Children’s Choir

November 20 – Dave and Marcia Kiesling’s Anniversary blessing

December 4 – Intergenerational Event

December 18 – Children’s Christmas Pageant

December 18- Children’s Altar

December 19- Photo of the Christmas Greens

December 24- Christmas Eve photos

December 24 – The Refurbished Nativity

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Rand

Prayer Chain

Another year of dedicated prayers from the good people of St. Mark's who have taken on the task of focusing their prayers on numerous friends, families, and members of St. Marks. As the Prayer Chain coordinator, I truly appreciate each and every one of you for praying in your own way, which both encourages and inspires me in my own prayer life.

Let's hope 2023 finds fewer people in need of and more joyful answers to our prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Gordon

Stewardship Committee

Joseph Hoot
Linda Deuble
Pam MCCarthy
Father RJ

This was a new ministry in 2022. Our main focus is the Pledge Drive but we also want to coordinate with different ministries of St. Mark's and help support them in different ways. We helped Altar Guild with new a member drive. We meet about every other month to coordinate details. We replaced our historical letter with information dinners which had a positive impact. Thanks to all who attended the dinners, including John Werren and Mandy Pelger for their presentations, and Carol Popovich for preparing the food (and any others that may have been involved in food prep).

- The total number pledges increased from 69 to 73.
- Total dollars pledge increased \$6,676.
- The average pledge amount went down with relocation of 4 donors and the death of one donor.
- There were 9 new and 26 increased pledges for 2023.

Everyone on the Committee thanks you for your support of St. Mark's!

Respectfully,
Joseph Hoot

Sunday School

In 2022 the Sunday School regularly met January-May then were off for the summer. Fall 2022 kicked off a new school year. We met each Sunday and had a total of 11 active students (9 boys and 2 girls). Our volunteer teachers were amazing as always coming up with meaningful and fun lessons! This year Sally Little volunteered to provide some music for our students. They work with her for 10-15 minutes most Sundays. The children performed 2 songs for the congregation in November. We kicked off advent by helping host a fun Intergenerational service held in the parish hall with a fun craft after the sermon. We hope to help organize 4 intergenerational services a year, so watch for those! We closed out 2022 with a Christmas pageant held during the 10 am service where the children did all the talking! They did a fantastic job, and we look forward to improving each year! As always, Sunday School would be nothing without our teachers and assistants. A huge thank you to those that volunteer with our Sunday School:

Katie Cerrone

Mandy Pelger

Sara Schaub

Kathy Wise

With joy,
Emily Gordon

St. Mark's Annual Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2022

1. **Call to Order**
 - The Annual Meeting was held in person, as well as virtually via Zoom for those unable to attend in person.
 - The meeting was called to order at 11:09am.
 - Derek Gordon explained to those present on Zoom how to vote, ask questions, and make comments.
2. **Opening Prayer**
 - Fr. RJ Johnson opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. **Determination of a Quorum**
 - A quorum was declared with 38 parishioners present and 9 logins on Zoom.
4. **Adoption of Time Allotment / Speaking Rules**
 - Old and New Business item discussions are limited to 30 minutes and remarks are limited to 3 minutes each.
 - Speaking rules were declared and approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes**
 - The minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were included in the Annual Meeting packet.
 - There were no corrections or discussion.
 - Derek Gordon motioned to approve the Minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting. Geoff Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
6. **Appointment of Tellers**
 - Tellers were not needed, as the candidates were running unopposed.
7. **Report of the Nominating Committee**
 - Nominees for the Vestry Class of 2022 are Leslie Redmon, Sara Strattan, and John Willoughby.
8. **Opening of Polls**
 - The Polls were opened and there were no nominations from the floor.
 - John Wise made a motion to close the nominations and accept the Report of the Nominating Committee. Pam McCarthy seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
 - Jim Weaver motioned to close the polls and elect the three candidates by voice vote. Emily Gordon seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and all three candidates were elected unanimously.
9. **Rector's Report**
 - The full Rector's Report is in the Annual Meeting packet.
 - Fr. RJ expressed his appreciation for the retiring Vestry members and all Ministry leaders. He is especially appreciative that our lay leaders can so capably run services in his absence.
 - Fr. RJ presented 6 goals for the parish:
 - o Add 6 households to the parish this year.
 - o Establish a Missions Committee to bring at least one outreach opportunity to St. Mark's, something we can all share in and do together beyond just giving

donations.

- o Develop a closer relationship with Weaver School.
 - o Attain average Sunday attendance of 100 parishioners.
 - o Balance the budget within 5 years.
- Fr. RJ requested that parishioners attend the Diocese's Winter Convocation, which will be held virtually via Zoom in February. The program is “20 Days of Evangelism” and may help us with our parish's goals.

10. Wardens' Reports

- Senior Warden John Wise's report is included in the Annual Report packet.
- Junior Warden Bruce Hixon's report is included in the Annual Report packet.

11. 2021 Financial Report and 2022 Missional Operating Budget

- Finance Committee member Sara Strattan presented the Financial Reports that are included in the Annual Meeting packet.
- Sara expressed her appreciation for Treasurer Charlie Kiesling's leadership and Chairmanship of the Finance Committee. He has simplified and improved transparency in the financial reporting, while providing necessary detail for the Finance Committee. He has worked on the parish's behalf to obtain funds from grants from the Diocese and PPP loans from the SBA.
- Sara pointed out that we have been taking money from our Trust accounts to support the operating budget. She reminded the parish that after Rev. Dustin Berg resigned, we entered a period of discernment about whether or not we wanted a full-time rector. We visited and met with 12 parishes, some with full-time and some with part-time rectors, and concluded that it was important for St. Mark's to have a full-time rector, knowing that it would mean running a deficit. The deficit was planned for but cannot continue forever. Therefore, the Finance Committee is very supportive of Fr RJ's goals for increasing membership and attendance.

12. Closing of Polls

- Not needed.

13. Report from the Tellers

- None needed.

14. Old Business

- There was no Old Business.

15. New Business

- There was no New Business.

16. Closing Prayer

- Fr. RJ offered a prayer for those whom we lost over the last year, including Rev. Beth Frank.
- Fr. RJ closed the meeting with a prayer.

17. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:24am with a motion by Pam McCarthy, seconded by Joe Hoot, and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand

Cler

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees of St. Mark's manage all endowment funds for the church. Endowment funds are made up of bequests and donations which generous parishioners and friends have given to St. Mark's to ensure the longevity and well-being of the parish. With the creation of the trust, past parishioners wanted to set up a tool to benefit the church and a vehicle to provide funds for projects and needs beyond normal operating requirements.

There are five Trustees who serve five year terms (maximum two consecutive terms) and who oversee the investment and distribution of the funds. Trustees for 2022 were:

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

Rick Crowl joined for a second term in 2022 and resumed the position of Secretary.

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

Maggie Holihan

2022 Financial Report

St. Mark's mission statement, **We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education and service**, reflects this community's discernment of God's call as members of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement. This examination is not just about money, but also the energy, time, and gifts of St. Mark's clergy, staff, and lay persons. Mission statements do not reflect where we are, rather where we feel called to go. A budget reflects where we are financially. Income and revenue speak to how we as the St. Mark's community value our mission and are willing and able to financially support our mission. Expenses reflect how we utilize that bounty of funds to pursue God's call.

The Finance Committee offers this 2022 Financial Report and 2023 Budget not only as a tool to analyze our financial realities, but more importantly to launch consideration of how we are responding to God's call for us as a community.

Throughout 2022 I have worked closely with the Finance Committee, the Trustees, the Vestry, and Father RJ. to receive, care for, and properly distribute the financial resources you have provided to support the mission of St. Mark's. This report has been designed to provide you with a clear and accessible picture of what resources have been received and how they have been used to further our work. Please do not hesitate to ask me or any member of the Finance Committee about this report or any other financial matter.

A special thank you to Kathy Kennedy for her years of service on the Finance Committee. She and Bob relocated this year. Thank you to John Willoughby, Sara Strattan, and Geoff Gordon for their continued support, and to Chris Arnold and Pam Clark two new members added this year. It is also important to recognize the significant amount of work done by Katie Kuceyeski, our office manager. I also would like to thank the people who offer their time to count the Sunday offering: Joe Hoot, Barrie Thorp, Carol Hayne, Geoff Gordon, Bob Kocab, Christy Thorley, and Rick Werren.

Overview:

- 2022 Operating Budget:
 - Operating income was \$8,086 less than budgeted and expenses were \$5,008 over budget driven by maintenance and utility cost.
 - Operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$72,413.
 - Trust funds (\$48,000) and Cash Reserves (\$24,413) were used to cover the shortfall in income and increased expenses.
 - The use of Trust funds is reviewed and approved annually by the Vestry and Trustees and supports our decision, made in 2019, to hire a full-time rector.
- Mission/Outreach:
 - Thanksgiving Baskets and Community Christmas asked for only cash donations again this year. In 2022, parishioners donated over \$4,000 to be sent to outside organizations.
 - Another \$1,277 was dispersed from the Evangelism/Mission budget line item.
- Capital Improvements:
 - St. Mark's Parking Lot loan from the Dioceses was paid in full in November.
 - Following the recommendation of our interim rectors, the church offices were moved to reduce distraction from the school activities.
 - HVAC upgrades, organ module replacement, and Protech security upgrades were also completed.
- 2023 Operating Budget:
 - Pledge commitment for 2023 is \$171,364. (\$15,000 increase over 2022)
 - Expense budget is \$5,007 over 2022 actual expenses due to inflation.
 - Income shortfall \$66,296 is less than 2022 actual shortfall.
 - Trust Fund withdrawals will increase to \$60,000.
- 2022 Operating Budget Performance, 2023 Operating Budget and the Capital Reserve Status, are attached for more detail.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Kiesling

2022 Operating Budget Performance

		2022 Budget	2022 Actual	Variation	
Revenue and reserves					
1	Plate Offering	\$ 800	\$ 743	\$ (57)	
2	Pledge Payments	\$ 163,788	\$ 156,428	\$ (7,360)	Relocations and Health
3	Non-Pledged Income	\$ 23,000	\$ 21,647	\$ (1,353)	Special gifts, Pledge over payment
4	Miscellaneous/Interest	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,834	\$ 334	Rents, refunds, interest and promotions
5	Weaver Rent	\$ 33,600	\$ 33,950	\$ 350	Increased space
6	Total Budget Revenue	\$ 224,688	\$ 216,602	\$ (8,086)	
Expenses					
7	Diocesan Support	\$ 29,809	\$ 30,613	\$ 804	
8	Clergy and Staff	\$ 173,957	\$ 172,910	\$ (1,047)	Professional Development under budget
9	Building Expenses	\$ 48,442	\$ 56,758	\$ 8,316	Maintenance and utilities
10	Program Expenses	\$ 23,799	\$ 20,734	\$ (3,065)	Evangelism/Mission under budget
11	Capital Reserve Fundi	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	Yearly funding of Capital Reserve
12	Total EXPENSES	\$ 284,007	\$ 289,015	\$ 5,008	
13	Expenses +/- Income	\$ (59,319)	\$ (72,413)	\$ (13,094)	
Funding:					
14	Operating Reserve	\$ 11,320	\$ 24,413	\$ 13,093	Addition reduction of Operating Cash
15	Funds from St. Mark's Tr	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000	\$ -	
16	Total	\$ 59,320	\$ 72,413	\$ 13,093	

2023 St. Mark's Operating Budget

Revenue and reserves					
1	Plate offering	\$ 1,000			
2	Pledge payments	\$ 171,364	73 pledges		
3	Non-pledged income	\$ 23,000	Same as last year		
4	Miscellaneous/interest	\$ 5,000			
5	Weaver rent	\$ 34,450	August 2021 New 5 year lease		
6	Total Budget Revenue	\$ 234,814			
Expenses					
7	Diocesan Support	\$ 31,065	Diocese support of the Episcopal Church		
8	Clergy and Staff	\$ 179,921	Salaries and associated cost.		
9	Building Expenses	\$ 55,950	Maintenance and utility cost		
10	Program Expenses	\$ 26,174	Mission, Office and other operating expenses		
11	Capital Reserve Fundi	\$ 8,000	Annual reserve for capital expenditures		
12	Total EXPENSES	\$ 301,110			
13	Expenses +/- Income	\$ (66,296)			
14 Shortfall Funding:					
15	Operating Reserve	\$ 6,296	Reduction in Operating Cash		
16	Funds from St. Mark's Trus	\$ 60,000	Increase Trust withdrawals from \$48,000 to \$60,000.		
17	Total	\$ 66,296			

Capital Reserve			
	Status Date	12/31/2022	
2022 Capital Reserve Financials			
Revised Capital Expenses Reserve Balance December 31, 2021			\$ 49,158.00
2022 Donations/Receipts			
Year to date JIF 205-2 Gain or Loss (December 2022)		\$ (19,876.69)	
Capital Fund Donations (Account 8040)		\$ 13,143.12	
Yearly operation budget allocation		\$ 8,000.00	
December 31, 2022 8040 Capital Reserve account		\$ 3,443.42	
Donations/Receipts			\$ 4,709.85
2022 Capital Funds Expenditures			
2022 Diocese of Ohio Loan (9620) - Payments		\$ 13,455.81	
2022 Diocese of Ohio Loan(5823) - Interest		\$ 458.67	
Office Move and Upgrade		\$ 468.06	
3/4/22 Replace organ module		\$ 859.65	
HVAC Upgrades		\$ 11,939.87	
4/1/22 Dorward Thinking - Office Window		\$ 4,660.89	
6/9/22 PC-Net upgrades and Battery		\$ 1,011.07	
Capital Funds Expenditures in 2022			\$ 32,854.02
Reserve for Capital Expenses			\$ 21,013.83
Notes:			
1	Capital and cash reserves have been held in a Diocese Money Market Account 2022 Market performance had a negative impact on these funds.		
2	The parking lot loan from the Diocese was paid off early in November 2022.		