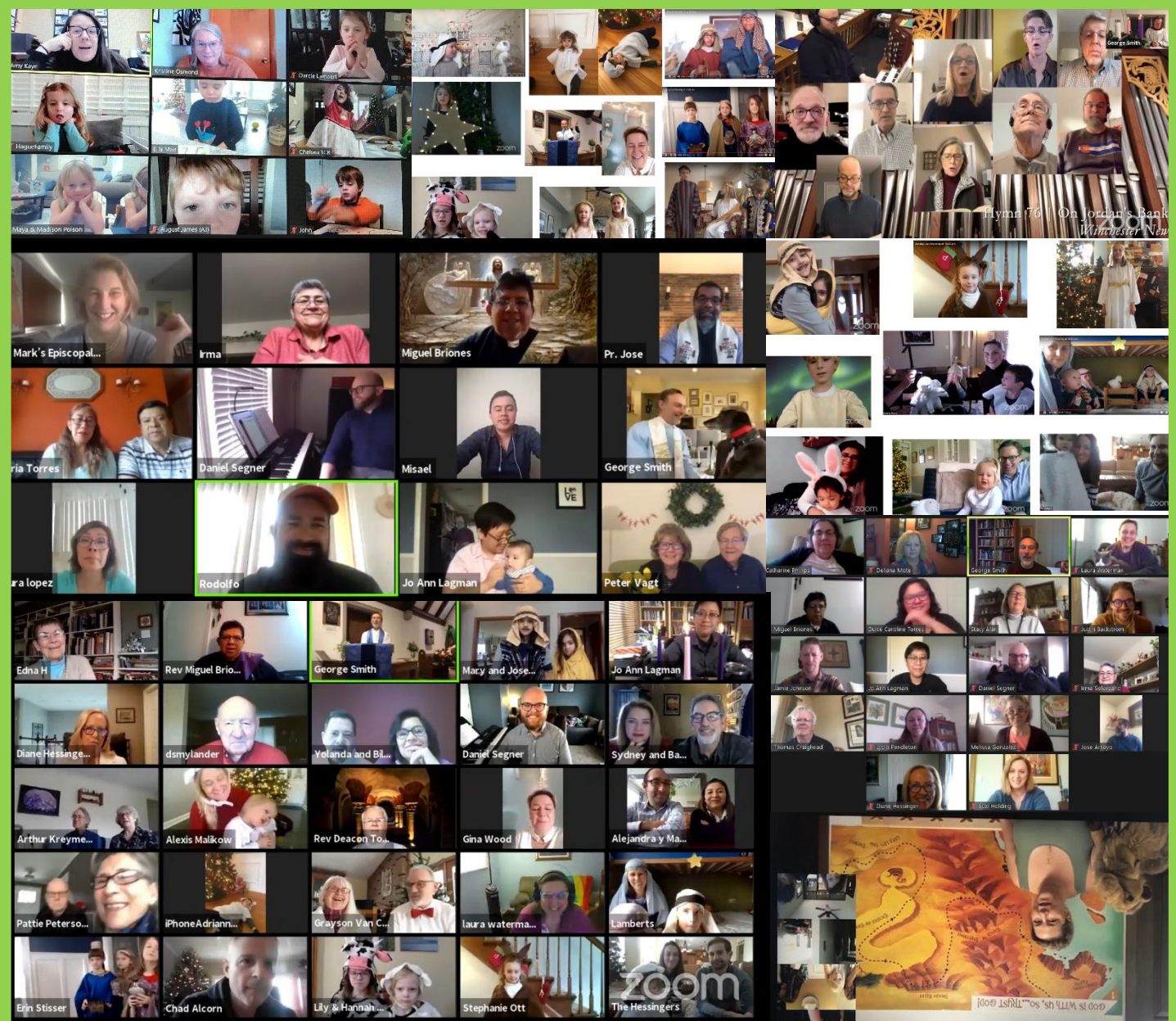


St. Mark's Episcopal Church

2020 Annual Report

January 24, 2021



Rooted in baptism. Growing in faith. Branching out into the world.

Table of Contents

Agenda	Page 3
Rector's Report.....	Page 4
Senior Warden	Page 8
Junior Warden	Page 8
Vestry 2021 - 2024.....	Page 9
Continuing Vestry	Page 9
Youth Representative to Vestry	Page 12
Diocesan Convention Delegates	Page 12
Warden's Report.....	Page 13
Financials	Page 14
2021 Giving Campaign Report.....	Page 19
Ministerio en Español	Page 20
Ministry Reports.....	Page 22
Parish Register 2020	Page 44
Minutes from January 19, 2020	Page 45

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Rev. George Smith

Introduce Spike the artist and show Carolyn Faivre's art
Provide information about raffle for those who stay until the end.
Introduce cake auction and Kim Reed shares information about 2019 dental trip to El Nigromante.

Appointment of Bob Ulrich as Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Rev. George Smith

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting

Rev. George Smith

Please see the last pages of this annual report for the minutes of last year's meeting

Cake auction

Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden

Rev. George Smith

Lynn Dornblaser and George Churchill

Appointment of Youth Representative to Vestry

Rev. George Smith

Cara Oates

Cake auction

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members, Youth Representative, Sr. Warden, and Diocesan Convention Delegates

Lynn Dornblaser

Joanie Somerville, Jeremiah Lanzillo, Bill Kalbfleisch and Jeff Hill

Voting

Lynn Dornblaser

Election of Vestry Candidate – Rick Quoss

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate – Barrett McRay

Cake auction

Reports

2020 Year End Results

Steve Sedall

2021 Budget

Cake auction

Senior Warden's Report

Lynn Dornblaser

Art auction (Carolyn Faivre and Spike)

Raffle

Questions and Answers

Rector's Report for the St. Mark's annual meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2021

Where to start? Maybe from where we left off, a year ago. The concluding sentence of my rector's report at last year's annual meeting was this: "I love the old adage that if you want to make God laugh, show her your plans. With that in mind, we will walk forward with plans and faith!" Last January, we had plans and we had faith, and then we met the invisible, menacing viral particle that invades human cells, reproduces itself and catches a ride into its next victim on exhaled and inhaled breath. It was a year ago this week that the first case of Covid19 was diagnosed in the U.S. On Sunday, March 15, with the tidal wave of Covid19 virus crashing over us, the building at 393 N. Main Street was closed. But the church, the body of Christ, remained wide open as we worshiped and celebrated the Eucharist through a live Facebook feed. The following Sunday, we worshiped together on Zoom and have been Zooming worship, Bible studies, vestry meetings, men's and women's groups, Preschool classes and AA meetings ever since. And we have learned new Beatitude: "Blessed are the muted, for they shall be unmuted."

The kingdom of God is here. That is what Jesus preaches at the start of his ministry, throughout his ministry, and through his disciples, is what he is preaching right now. Jesus proclaims that the Kingdom of God is good news, and not just information to believe in with our honed intellects, but something to see, touch and be part of it. When Jesus calls Simon and Andrew and the Zebedee brothers, James and John, these four grown men drop everything, their nets, the fish, the oars and go. Following Jesus wasn't as much of a carefully deliberated decision as it was an immediate response to an indescribable joy and hope in their hearts that they had never felt before. They weren't hypnotized or drugged. They just went. They didn't know where they would go or what would happen to them, but they wanted to follow Jesus and to know more about and be part of the good news that he said is here. Where does Jesus take them? Not into the wilderness or to Jerusalem but from the seaside into their own community, Capernaum, and right into Simon and Andrew's house. This is what the Gospel of Mark is telling us, that the kingdom of God is here, not out there, but here in my house and in your house and in every house, everywhere.

Many of us watched the inauguration ceremonies last Wednesday. For me, the shining moment was when a young woman wearing a bright yellow coat ascended the podium and began to recite a poem:

The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it

This to me is pure Gospel, good news as revealed in our Gospels and through the body of Christ, the church, to see and be.

A new dawn was before us last year and is again before us now. The good news that the Kingdom of God is here is not just for the third Sunday in January or just for Sundays but is before us every day, whether we see it or not. For the past 123 years, St. Mark's has been following Jesus, sometimes timidly, sometimes boldly, and sometimes from a distance. But we are on the path, with our eyes to the future, and with the eyes of those who came before us, on us. In 2020, we followed Jesus into the fear and reality of the pandemic, stumbling at times, but as a community, we held together with faith and determination. With the safety and well-being of everyone in mind, we completed a seamless switch from in-person to Zoom worship in one week. Melissa Gonzalez, our communications administrator, Dellana Mote, our office manager, Daniel Segner, our director of music, and Laura Waterman, our office assistant, and others all worked together to create a worship experience that is real-time, interactive and accessible to almost everyone who has an iPad, cell phone, computer or telephone. Zoom worship is not a polished production but an actual human gathering, and a way for us to see and hear each other and make live-giving connections. These connections have been and are a light in the darkness over the past ten months. An unexpected joy has been the participation of people from other states and countries. Last Sunday, Zoom attendees were from Glen Ellyn and surrounding suburbs, Ohio, Minnesota, Arizona, Tennessee, Florida and Missouri. On Easter Sunday, we were able to say Alleluias with those in Uganda, Bahrain and Mexico. Getting the hang of Zoom

early on in the pandemic meant that we were able to continue almost all church activities and gatherings online in real-time. Thanks to the leadership Kristine Osmond, the director of the St. Mark's Preschool and the preschool teachers, the preschoolers met with their teachers on Zoom and were able to continue programming to finish out the school year. We also learned more about how to use YouTube for uploading worship services and to record special messages, Bible stories for children, concerts, newcomer classes and Bible studies. Our YouTube channel is an accessible treasure trove of the life of St. Mark's. Likewise, Facebook has been an important medium for communication. We live stream the 1 pm Sunday service in Spanish on Facebook where we are joined by viewers from around the Chicago area, Mexico, Columbia and other countries and from our companion parish, San Marcos, in El Nigromante, Mexico. Through Zoom, we celebrated Dolores Dunnett and sang Happy Birthday on her 100th in March. Even during a pandemic, St. Mark's continued its mission of service and outreach to the community. Again through Zoom, St. Mark's hosted fundraising events for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and DuPagePads. Last Sunday evening, through Zoom, we hosted an interfaith gathering for the Glen Ellyn area community called "We Still Have a Dream" attended by more than 125 participants on Zoom plus others on YouTube and Facebook. Through Zoom, St. Mark's coordinated gatherings of Episcopal churches in our diocese to celebrate the festival of the Virgin of Guadalupe and the Advent tradition of Posadas. Some of our programs continued in-person, like the Parents' Day Out Program, under the leadership of Kathy O'Rourke, by following all required state guidelines and instituting strict protocols, and the St. Mark's Preschool which creatively has used spaces around St. Mark's to create outdoor classroom, where children and teachers are engaged in the Reggio Emilia philosophy of education in all weather conditions.

The pandemic has shown how important and life-giving our connections to each other are. In March and April, the vestry and other volunteers made two sets of phone calls to every St. Mark's household. Senior warden, Bill Kalbflesich made 50 calls in two days. Jose Arroyo, Miguel Briones and Irma Solorzano contacted every household where Spanish is spoken. The St. Mark's web site, our weekly Constant Contact emails along and snail mailings round out the ways that we have stayed connected.

When Andrew and Simon followed Jesus into their own home they witnessed a healing miracle. Simon's mother-in-law, was in bed with a fever. Jesus took her by the hand and the fever left her. The good news that the Kingdom of God is here brings healing. During the pandemic, St. Mark's has doubled its efforts to pray for and support those who are sick or in any trouble. Behind the prayer list that appears every Sunday in the bulletin and Prayers of the People is a living and dynamic ministry. Rebecca Sandrock for the last four years has kept our prayer list up to date, and now Becky DeBlois is continuing this important ministry. Our team of Prayer Providers is assigned specific names on the list who are prayed for daily. And our pastoral care team supervised by Jo Ann Lagman is responding to special pastoral care needs through visits, phone calls and follow-ups.

The good news of God's Kingdom meets and accompanies the grief and loss of our world. During 2020, we experienced the grief of the unknown, loneliness, sickness and loss of life. This past week marked the horrific milestone of 400,000 deaths from Covid19 in the United States. The pandemic has constrained our ability to gather in person to do the work of grieving, but we have grieved, grieved the deaths of members of St. Mark's including Bob Judd, Andy Carter, Peggy Heilig and Nancy Schmitt.

Following Jesus means encountering the unexpected and then seeing the world in a new way. This has been the experience of the St. Mark's Reopening Committee, faithfully chaired by Joanie Somerville. This committee has done the research and hard work of putting guidelines in place for how we can and will gather in person safely as the Covid conditions change. Thanks to the work of this committee, we were able to hold in-person Sunday services in September and October, a wedding in July and communion-to-go in the fall. New dispensers for hand sanitizer and soap have been installed and the entire building has been disinfected. When we are able gather in person again, we have smart and flexible protocols to keep everyone safe.

In the midst of the worst of the uncertainty and restrictions of the pandemic during April and May, our pledge and other revenues dropped sharply. With pressure on our cash reserves, St. Mark's applied for and received a government PPP loan. These funds went to paying salaries for our church staff and PDO and Preschool teachers.

Our treasurer, Steve Sedall and our accountant, Chris Ponstein, handled the complicated filing and timing requirements which resulted in a successful application and disbursement of funds to St. Mark's. As a result of receiving the PPP loan, which is expected to become a grant that does not need to be repaid, the church's finances are in a strong position as can be seen in the Treasurer's report for 2020.

Our Giving Campaign committee chaired by Andrew Wassef and Jeane Tschampa-Lopotko successfully conducted a first phase of the campaign for 2021 through email notifications, saving paper and manpower resources that are needed for printed materials. So far, St. Mark's has received over 215 pledges representing \$600,000 in expected giving for 2021. The work of seeking additional pledges for 2021 from our church family will continue in order to secure a strong base for funding our staff, facilities and outreach.

As followers of Jesus, our ongoing work is to share the good news of the Kingdom in word and deed. Our outreach commitments and projects are good news, and in 2020, with careful and creative planning and with the guidance of the Reopening Committee, we were able to safely and successfully hold the ASP (Appalachia Service Project) flower sale, the mum sale for the Walk-in Ministry and the Pumpkin Patch for DuPagePads. Cindy and John Glavin headed the ASP flower sale, Wes Clay-Anderson and John Zelman the mum sale, and Phil Adler the Pumpkin Patch. The mums sold out in one day, the Pumpkin Patch recording its second highest gross sales, and our yards were more beautiful than ever. All of this resulted in thousands of dollars for our partners, ASP, the Walk-in Ministry and DuPagePads.

The good news of the Kingdom encounters and uncovers both physical and societal illnesses. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus traverses a society where outcasts suffer judgement and scorn. In 2020, with the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other people of color, we saw the scourge of racism uncovered in new and horrific ways in our nation. In October, St. Mark's responded to the pandemic of racism by installing a very visible sign that says Black Lives Matter, hand-painted by Steve Gross. The sign continues to stand where it was placed in front of the church's library facing Main Street. As pastor and friend Dr. James Shannon told me, "George, we could put that sign in front of our church, but the people in my congregation know that Black lives matter. But if a church like St. Mark's puts up the sign, that makes a powerful statement." The sign went up and yes, there were reactions, both positive and negative. The sign has not been damaged, but before the election, someone draped it with a Trump flag. Then someone placed a poster in front of it that said "All lives matter...not just black lives." Putting up a sign is both a very small step but an important one. In our tense national climate, the message "Black Lives Matter" has been construed to mean many untrue things, including support for Marxism and violence and for being against our veterans, churches and families. In our nation's history, when racism is confronted, leaders and messages are undermined and smeared. Martin Luther King was called a communist by those who opposed the Civil Rights Movement and wanted to discredit him. In 2020, having a Black Lives Matter sign has meant paying a price. Several members of St. Mark's have left the church, some who had been members for decades. This tears the fabric of our community, and I grieve it. With the support of the vestry and our church community, the Black Lives Matter will remain where it is for now. We are taking another small step into the difficult reality and sin of racism by forming what are called Sacred Ground dialogue circles. Members of St. Mark's are invited to be part of small groups that will meet 10 times over four months using a program developed by the Episcopal Church to discuss and explore the intersection of race and faith. Leaders for these groups will include Deacon Tom Craighead and Lindsey Paris-Lopez.

In the first chapter of Mark's Gospel, we find out the Jesus went out to a deserted place to pray and be refreshed. In 2020, my deserted place was northern Minnesota, where I spent a majority of my three-month sabbatical. Taking a sabbatical during a pandemic was not a decision without deep deliberation and consultation with the wardens and other St. Mark's leaders. With Stacy Alan as our sabbatical rector, and the capable leadership of Bill Kalbfleisch and Lynn Dornblaser, St. Mark's was in good hands and not only survived but experienced growth in leadership and creativity. What I discovered is how much I needed a sabbatical and how some extended time off prepared me for the challenges of the second half of 2020. Taking a sabbatical may have seemed irresponsible to some (an anonymous letter I received said so), but I am convinced it was the right decision, and I am truly grateful to have had time to rest, make paths in the woods, and spend quiet time with my family.

Jesus calls us to follow him as disciples into the living body we call the church. In 2020, the body of St. Mark's was blessed with the addition of Jo Ann Lagman as our ministry associate and Lydia Pendleton as our director of youth ministries. Jo Ann is a candidate for ordination to holy orders, and will be ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in 2021 by our new bishop-elect, Paula E. Clark. Jo Ann is a valued colleague and vital addition to our ministry team. Most of us have gotten to know her during the pandemic through her calm, clear and yet provocative preaching. She also offers leadership to our pastoral care team and outreach programs. Lydia took the helm of our youth ministry when Justin Backstrom returned to being a full-time student in Chiropractic medicine. On-boarding during the pandemic, Lydia has kept our youth connected through Zoom meetings and in-person activities. Last May, our yet-to-be confirmed but ready-for-confirmation confirmands gave truly profound reflections during our Sunday Zoom services. This was one of many shining moments during the darkness of the pandemic. Another standout moment was the Christmas Pageant involving lambs, angels and the characters of the Christmas story, organized, rehearsed and conducted by Gina Wood, who along with Diane Hessinger, lead our children's ministry. After a moment of technical delay, the Angel Gabriel (Soren Alcorn), appeared with golden wings in front of a dreamy aurora borealis background. At that moment, with smiles across Zoom, I knew we were experiencing the true meaning of Christmas.

As we follow Jesus in the coming year, we will continue to face both challenges and opportunities. If we've learned anything about Covid19, it is to not be too sure about anything. There are several variants that are more contagious and already here in the Chicago area. When we have the green light to return to in-person worship, we will make sure that we are careful and follow protocols that keep us safe. If needed, we can at a moment's notice return to 100% Zoom meetings. And while there will be challenges and the unknown, we must be ambassadors of the Gospel by engaging our hearts and minds in the act of dreaming about how we, St. Mark's, will be the good news of the Kingdom. Already, leaders from St. Mark's and Calvary Episcopal Church in Lombard have had several meetings to consider ways that our two churches can work together to create a wider and stronger Episcopal witness. Kim Reed has plans for a second trip St. Mark's sponsored trip to El Nigromante to bring professional dental care to children and adults, many of whom have never been able to see a dentist. Another dream to explore is how St. Mark's will invite and welcome new people into our church community in new ways. We are fortunate to have leadership in people like Carrie Gowans who serves on the vestry and oversees our newcomer ministry. There is surely pent-up interest and a desire for people who don't know St. Mark's to find out about what a welcoming, inclusive and Christ-centered community looks like and how it can change their lives, just as the lives of Simon and Andrew, James and John were changed. And for St. Mark's, this means sharing the good news in English and Spanish. While worshipping on Zoom has kept us connected, the 1 pm service in Spanish has experienced a drop in participation. I have no doubt that the remnant that faithfully continues to worship and gather for classes and Bible studies will be the seed for new growth and for regathering for people who are seeking community and love liturgy in Spanish and special traditions like quinceañeras and Posadas.

The good news is here and now. Turning again to Amanda Gorman, who put hope to pen, to our ears and to our hearts proclaimed:

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew
That even as we hurt, we hoped
That even as we tired, we tried
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us
but what stands before us.

Yours in Christ,
George+

Wardens, Vestry, and Diocesan Delegate Nominees

We are pleased to announce the list of candidates for the 2021 election to St. Mark's Vestry.

Senior Warden

Lynn Dornblaser

Junior Warden

George Churchill

Vestry

Rick Quoss

Youth Representative

Cara Oates

Delegate to Diocesan Convention

Barrett McRay

For Senior Warden:



Lynn Dornblaser: Lynn has been a member of St. Mark's since 2013. She is a member of Daughters of the King, part of the advisory group for the St. Mark's women's group and has previously served on the vestry. Lynn and husband David have lived in the western suburbs since they married 40 years ago. She has worked at a research and consultancy company in Chicago since 1998. When she is not traveling (for business or fun), Lynn enjoys cooking, a variety of crafts, and hanging out in the backyard.

For Junior Warden:



George Churchill: George and his wife Deirdre have been members of St. Mark's since 2008 and George has been active in Children's Ministry all those years, teaching ages from Kindergarten to high school. They have four children (Ethan, Elliott, Julian, and Maeve). George grew up and attended Grace Episcopal Church in Newton MA. After heading to California for college a parishioner at Grace Church offered George a job in Chicago at a Technology Strategy consulting company he was starting. 26 years, four million airline miles and a few corporate mergers later and George still has the same job. He spends his work time helping companies think about the impact of new technology on their business and customers and helping them design and build new products or services that allow them to evolve as technology changes. When not working, George enjoys spending time with his kids, boating, running, riding his bike and struggles with sitting still.

For Vestry 2021 - 2024:



Rick Quoss: My wife Beth and I have been residents of Glen Ellyn for approximately 45 years raising our family of two daughters, Sarah and Liz and two sons, Matt and Adam. We have been blessed with four grandchildren - three boys, Sam, Tim, and Carson and one new (born November 24, 2020) and already spoiled granddaughter Lennon. After many years of attending St. Petronille, we were introduced to St. Marks by two of our friends and neighbors - Jan Langford and Susan Shivas. We joined the church in early 2019 and have found it to be all we desired and more. As we are both retired, we have the time to actively support the church. I have been serving on the Building and Grounds and Outreach Committees. I really enjoy doing handyman projects and look forward to being the liaison for the Building and Grounds Committee.

Continuing Vestry:



Chris Carter: I was born in Minneapolis (the oldest of four children) and lived there for thirty years. My family is still there. I have two adult sons and four ACTIVE grandchildren. After moving to Illinois, I taught English as a Second Language for thirty-one years in Wheaton-Warrenville CUSD 200. As a junior in high school, I was fortunate to live in Torreón, Coahuila, Mexico for the summer to improve my Spanish. The wonderful family with whom I lived spoke no English, thus giving me the opportunity to “live the language” I grew to love. My husband Andy and I became members of St. Mark’s in 2004 and I joined the St. Anne’s Chapter of Daughters of the King. I can’t express how much the ministry and the camaraderie of fine women has enriched my life. I am grateful to be a member of St. Mark’s vestry and will do my best to represent our church community.



Michelle Roman-Garcia: My family and I have been attending St. Mark’s for nine years. We were looking for a church home when we stumbled upon St. Mark’s. We simply fell in love with St. Mark’s welcoming atmosphere and immersed ourselves in Parish Life almost immediately. I have been a Chalice Bearer and Eucharistic Minister for the 1:00 pm service and was a part of the Social Justice and Jazz Night committees. I also helped to organize the 1st Annual Night of the Opera, volunteered for the Taste of Latin-America and taught Sunday School for high schoolers and Confirmants at the 1:00 pm service for six years. Most recently, I served on the steering committee for CREO, a non-profit organization housed at St. Mark’s dedicated to breaking down the barriers that impede Latinx students from going to college. This past summer, I received my certificate for (EfM) Education for Ministry, a four-year program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice sponsored through the Episcopal Church. Professionally, I have been in higher education for the last 28 years at both private liberal arts colleges and public two-year institutions. However, it is in the community college sector that I found that my time and talent were best suited as community colleges are gateway institutions to many who are poor and underprivileged and who otherwise could not pursue post-secondary education. After working at College of DuPage for 10 years in various capacities, I became the Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) at Joliet Junior College, where I have worked for the last 14 years. In this capacity, my team and I lead the college’s recruitment and retention efforts for multicultural and underrepresented student populations, providing continuous advocacy and academic support. This will be my second year serving on the Vestry and have found this past year of service during this crazy pandemic and turbulent political time a lifeline to community, hope and servant leadership.



Brian Shallcross: I first started attending St. Mark's in 2018 when my daughter, Claire, expressed an interest in being confirmed. Since that time, Claire and I, as well as my son Henry, have become heavily involved in many of the wonderful programs and ministries at St. Mark's. Although our time here has not been as long as some others, we are already deeply rooted and feel very much at home at St. Mark's. Prior to attending St. Mark's, I attended services at St. John's Episcopal Church in Naperville and Church of the Ascension in Chicago. I have a deep love for Anglican history and liturgy. My long-time interest in Episcopal worship came to full fruition last spring when Claire and I were confirmed together by Bishop Lee. Henry is enjoying going through the confirmation process in 2020. Since coming to St. Mark's, I helped launch the very successful Saturday morning Men's Group, which regularly draws 8 to 12 men of different ages and backgrounds for relaxed conversation and fellowship every week. I am also part of the Morning Prayer rotation that leads a short service in the chapel every Friday. Additionally, I am serving on the Worship Committee and the Giving Campaign. All of these things have been very enriching for me, and it is my pleasure to be of service to our parish in any way possible. As such, I consider it a very special privilege to serve on the Vestry at St. Mark's. I have been a licensed attorney since 2005 and understand the importance of paying attention to detail and being thorough and deliberate in planning and decision making. It is my hope that I can help St. Mark's continue to grow and succeed in the coming years.



John Zelman: I have been attending St. Mark's for about three years and am very happy to have found a church that is so welcoming. I'm a middle school social studies teacher at a public school in Villa Park, a career I've had for 32 years. My two children are Natalie, who finished her MA in ceramics last year, and John who is a sophomore at North Central College. I'm involved at St. Mark's in choir and the PADS ministry, and I attended the youth mission trip last summer. My interests include running, triathlon, baking, and gardening.



Carrie Gowans: Carrie and her family have attended St. Mark's since 2010. Carrie volunteered on the St. Mark's Preschool Board, with Vacation Bible School, in the Nursery and raised funds for various church initiatives. She is a District 41 Substitute Teacher and the Operations Manager at The Learning Specialist firm. Carrie volunteers with the PTA, Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation and is a Board Member of the Glenbard Parent Series and Glenbard West Boosters. Her son was part of the first St. Mark's Preschool class and both sons serve as Acolytes. Carrie, her husband, Cameron, two sons and dog reside in Glen Ellyn.



Steve Gross: Steve Gross, wife Kelly, and daughters Maggie and Nola have been members of St. Mark's for 10 years. Steve was baptized as an adult at St. Mark's in 2010. Steve served a term on the St. Mark's preschool board, has taught Sunday school, and is a member of the monthly PADS breakfast team. Steve is an educator. He has spent time as a classroom teacher, administrator, and educational consultant helping school districts with technology around the globe.



Juanita Jiménez: I am honored to be nominated to serve on St. Mark's Vestry. Together with my family, my husband, Abraham, and my children Karen and Abraham Jr., we have been attending St. Mark's since 2012. As our family became part of this church "the family of God" became real to me, became actual and life changing. I join everyone in being thankful for the dedication of our incredible clergy and for how they help so many people through times of deepest pain and help us know and rely on God's love and strength no matter what is happening in our lives. At St. Mark's my faith in God is always growing. I love sharing God's love together with all of you, learning more about the Bible and our faith together, and *ENJOYING* being a parish family together. At St. Mark's I serve in helping plan and create many church celebration events, fellowship events, and I look forward to serving even more to continue strengthening our parish life.

Es un honor para mí ser nominado para servir en la vestry de San Marcos. Con mi familia, mi esposo, Abraham, y mis hijos, Karen and Abraham Jr., hemos estado asistiendo a St. Mark's desde 2012. Así nuestra familia se unió a la vida de esta iglesia, "la familia de Dios" se hizo real para mí - es real, y cambia la vida. Me sumo a todos para estar agradecidos por la dedicación de nuestros increíbles sacerdotes y por la forma en que ayudan a tantas personas en los momentos de mayor dolor y nos ayudan a conocer y confiar en el amor y la fuerza de Dios sin importar lo que suceda en nuestras vidas. En St. Mark's, mi fe en Dios siempre está creciendo. Me encanta compartir el amor de Dios con todos ustedes, aprender más acerca de la Biblia y nuestra fe juntos, y *DISFRUTAR* de ser una familia parroquial juntos. En St. Mark's, sirvo para ayudar a planificar y crear muchos eventos de celebración de iglesias, eventos de compañerismo y espero servir aún más para ayudar a continuar fortaleciendo nuestra vida parroquial.



Kate Marsh: I joined St. Mark's as an adult in 2016, after moving back to Glen Ellyn with my husband Lennie and our daughters, Lily (10) and Hannah (6). But I first attended the church while I was in middle school and attended until the time I left for college. After spending many years away, it has been nice to see many familiar faces among the congregation. I have enjoyed working with the St. Mark's Outreach committee, and Children's Ministries. In addition to the church, I also volunteer time with a local PTA. I appreciate and am looking forward to this opportunity.



Joshua ES O'Shea: I stumbled into Rite 1 at St. Mark's sometime late 2016—I'm quite tall, so it was a long stumble. I studied and still read theology and philosophy. Jesus' words find a strong echo in Bishop Curry's emphasis on being active love in the world, and St. Mark's is an excellent embodiment of ideas and practice to meet needs around us. I'm the Young Adult Librarian at the Glen Ellyn Public Library with a Master of Library and Information Science from Dominican University in River Forest IL. I graduated with a double major BA from Judson University in Elgin IL; my undergrad theology thesis was on patristic-Reformed metaphysics, and my history thesis on American civil rights social action. The connection between ideas and practice is very important to me; library work and the vestry are outpourings of my faith. Sometimes an accidental trip makes you realize what's around you is exactly what you need.



Kim Toliver: We moved to Glen Ellyn in the fall of 1992 and found our church home at St. Mark's right away. All three of our children were baptized and were confirmed here. St. Mark's has been a very important part of my life and I feel blessed to have been able to be involved in many aspects of our wonderful community. I am a Chalice Bearer, volunteer in the office, have taught Sunday School, have been involved and attended the Mission Trip in Southeast Mexico, and was on the committee that planned the 100-year anniversary dinner. I am honored to have the chance to serve on the Vestry, and I look forward to nurturing my faith and my relationships with our parish.



Jim Treleaven: Cheryl and I have been parishioners at St. Mark's for over 34 years. During that time, I have served twice on the Vestry and Cheryl and I were responsible for the Ushers Ministry. We have four children and one grandchild who grew up at St. Mark's. All are successfully emancipated and none live nearby. I am a lifelong Episcopalian. I am currently President and CEO of Via Strategy Group, LLC and an adjunct professor in the graduate school at the University of Illinois, Chicago, Department of Information and Decision Sciences. I began my career as an engineer and have served as the CEO of both public and private technology companies. I recently wrote a book and currently serve on the Board of several nonprofits including the Illinois Technology Association (ITA), the Chicago Engineers Foundation, Case Western Reserve University, and Dominican University. I graduated with a BS in Computer Engineering from Case Western Reserve University, an MBA from the University of Minnesota and a PhD from Case.

For Youth Representative to Vestry:



Cara Oates: I am proud to be a fifth-generation congregant at St. Mark's, and even more so to follow the footsteps of my mother, grandfather, and great grandfather as a member of the Vestry. I am currently a Junior in high school at Benet Academy where I compete on the debate team, play soccer, take as many science classes as I can, and act as the President of the campus ministry. I spearhead the service projects for the school that benefit organizations such as human trafficking victim shelters and Chicagoland food pantries. As a youth delegate at this year's Episcopal Diocesan Convention and the Bishop's Election Convention, I deepened my understanding of how the diocese and its parishes operate. I look forward to being the youth voice on the Vestry and furthering my commitment to the good works of St. Mark's. I am honored to help the parish that has raised me since PDO.

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:



May Anstee: Married to Dick Anstee for 52 years. We are blessed with three children and seven grandchildren. I have a bachelor's degree in Education from University of Maryland (1979) and a master's degree in Library Science from Rosary College, now Dominican University (1986) and worked as a librarian from 1986 to 2006. Raised Roman Catholic; joined the Episcopal Church in 1979. Have attended services at St. Mark's since 1980. Have served on Vestry twice. Have served as Sunday School Superintendent and as a teacher throughout the years, and on Altar Guild for 20+ years. Active member of Daughters of the King serving at the Parish, Diocesan and Provincial levels. Currently serving as Diocesan Secretary for Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Having attended many Diocesan Conventions through the years both as a delegate, and as an observer, I look forward to serving as a delegate again.



Mauro Hernandez: My family and I moved to the United States several years ago, after living in different places of Mexico all our lives and since then we have attended St. Mark's. My family is comprised of my wife Alejandra, my son Mauro and my daughter Paola. I am an Engineer currently working for an Electronic firm in Woodridge, IL. At St. Mark's we have found not only spiritual peace, but also a family a thousand of miles away from home. Since the first day we have felt supported by the community and we know that we can count on them. We would like to give back a little of all what we have received from St. Mark's and its people and let everybody know that can count on us. I am privileged for the invitation to become a member of the Vestry. I will do my best to serve and be helpful.



Barrett McRay: Barrett and his wife Sydney have been attending St. Mark's for about 3 years. They have 3 children (Mitchel, 25; Matthew, 21; and Skyler, 16). Barrett teaches at Wheaton College in the Christian Formation and Ministry department and is also a Clinical Director and psychologist at Alliance Clinical Associates.

Warden's Report for Annual Meeting 2021

What a year. It was a year that started out like any other—we welcomed new leadership and new members, the vestry had a retreat to talk about initiatives, and we made plans for the year.

Then it was March 11. We all heard that businesses were likely to shut down; it was unclear about churches until a decision from Bishop Lee the next day. So, we pivoted. The wardens, Fr. George, Melissa Gonzalez, Dellana Mote, and many others on the vestry and in church leadership had flurries of emails back and forth to figure out HOW we were going to do this. What the congregation saw was a pretty smooth transition (mission accomplished!), with our first Zoom church service on March 15. Since that time, we have had every kind of meeting and gathering on Zoom, including Easter and Christmas services, musical fund-raising events, and most St. Mark's groups making the shift to meeting virtually.

As the year progressed, the vestry dealt with many issues: having the roof-top AC units replaced, repairing the Columbarium stairs, dealing with the PPP loan, and wrestling with the ever-shifting budget. We handled many new and challenging issues, including forming a re-opening committee, headed by Joanie Somerville, to navigate the shifting rules and guidelines of what we could and could not do. We welcomed Rev. Stacy Alan as our interim while Fr. George took a much-needed sabbatical.

It was a challenging year for the vestry, but there were some very bright lights. We worked hard to connect with congregants who could not get out, making sure they had what they needed, including interaction with others. We figured out how to do a wedding during the summer (tricky, but it worked), approved the erection of a Black Lives Matter sign outside the building, and in the fall opened in a very small and controlled way for limited in-person worship.

On a personal note, I will say that 2020 was a time of uncertainty, difficult conversations, and hard decisions, but also a time of learning, growth, and an enormous sense of gratitude for being a part of this group. Three of our vestry members have fulfilled their commitment, so my sincere thanks and appreciation go to Bill Kalbfleisch for guiding us all year long, Joanie Somerville for spearheading our reopening efforts, and Jeremiah Lanzillo for reminding us with his presence that the congregation is so much more than just a bunch of adults. And I look forward to working this next year with George Churchill, Rick Quoss, and Cara Oates as they join this fantastic, seasoned group.

Lynn Dornblaser, ldornblaser@me.com
Senior Warden

OPERATING BUDGET

Revenues	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
Current Year Contributions			
Pledge Payments	\$ 640,000	\$ 598,557	\$ 601,000
Unpledged Donations	\$ 55,000	\$ 48,486	\$ 31,000
Open Plate	\$ 25,000	\$ 11,751	\$ 15,000
Special Collections	\$ 17,000	\$ 8,527	\$ 8,500
One Time Gifts	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,030	\$ 5,000
Donations (Music, Flowers, Landscape)	\$ 5,000	\$ 12,389	\$ 6,800
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 4,000	\$ 14,763	\$ 10,000
Usage Income	\$ 97,500	\$ 60,895	\$ 92,300
Youth Activities Income	\$ 2,300	\$ 400	\$ 2,000
Other Income	\$ 800	\$ 894	\$ 25
Pension Grant	\$ -	\$ 7,506	\$ -
Buildings & Grounds Transfers	\$ 6,400	\$ 3,623	\$ 5,000
Lillian Wells Foundation	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Diocesan Foundation - General	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
St. Mark's Total Revenue	\$ 894,500	\$ 810,820	\$ 808,625
St. Mark's Pre-school	\$ 230,000	\$ 172,384	\$ 175,000
PDO Cost Reimbursement	\$ 110,000	\$ 63,908	\$ 65,000
Total Revenue	\$ 1,234,500	\$ 1,047,112	\$ 1,048,625
Expenses			
Clergy Payroll (incl Benefits)	\$ 208,552	\$ 224,908	\$ 240,881
Other Expenses:			
Programs	\$ 38,528	\$ 23,545	\$ 29,876
Music			
Staff	\$ 69,304	\$ 59,364	\$ 59,805
Program	\$ 6,700	\$ 11,263	\$ 5,800
Administration			
Staff	\$ 118,387	\$ 113,378	\$ 111,304
Program	\$ 47,448	\$ 45,512	\$ 50,888
Buildings & Grounds			
Staff	\$ 27,191	\$ 20,715	\$ 27,191
Program	\$ 219,940	\$ 225,951	\$ 199,995
Our Children			
Staff	\$ 81,896	\$ 78,258	\$ 78,135
Program	\$ 9,450	\$ 3,931	\$ 6,350
M&O	\$ 62,200	\$ 39,700	\$ 36,200
PDO Staff Salaries - Support	\$ -	\$ 5,698	
Rectory Expenses	\$ 4,904	\$ 21,227	\$ 6,775
St. Mark's total expenses	\$ 894,500	\$ 873,447	\$ 853,198
St. Marks Pre-School	\$ 230,000	\$ 180,523	\$ 175,000
PDO Expenditures	\$ 110,000	\$ 73,504	\$ 65,000
Total Expenses	\$ 1,234,500	\$ 1,127,475	\$ 1,093,198
St. Mark's, Pre-School, and PDO Net Total	\$ -	\$ (80,363)	\$ (44,573)
Breakout:			
St. Mark's Net Total	\$ -	\$ (62,827)	\$ (44,573)
St. Mark's Pre-School & PDO Net Total	\$ -	\$ (17,736)	\$ -
St. Mark's Restricted Accounts Activity (See Support Detail)	\$ -	\$ 54,722	\$ -
Total Excess Cash Received	\$ -	\$ (25,641)	\$ (44,573)
Loan from Diocese	\$ 513,919	\$ 513,919	\$ 506,419
Building Mortgage	\$ 588,111	\$ 584,971	\$ 544,971
Rectory Mortgage	\$ 84,252	\$ 84,199	\$ 79,199

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Summary Financial Report
December 2020 Year to Date**

Receipts

Pledges	598,557
Unpledged Donations, Open Plate	60,237
Usage Income	60,895
Other Income	91,131
St. Mark's Total Revenue	810,820

Expenses

Salary & Hourly Compensation	511,683
Clergy Programs	8,484
Music Programs	11,263
Administrative Costs	45,512
Buildings & Grounds	247,178
Children & Youth	3,931
Mission & Outreach	39,700
PDO Staff Salaries - Covid Support	5,698
St. Mark's Total Expenses	873,447
Net St. Mark's	(62,628)

PDO and Preschool Operations:

Net PDO and Preschool	(17,736)
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Cash

Treasurer's Checking - operating	102,861
Treasurer's Checking - restricted	52,505
Schwab Account - operating	100,808
Other Cash (Preschool, PDO, Other)	126,763
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	382,937

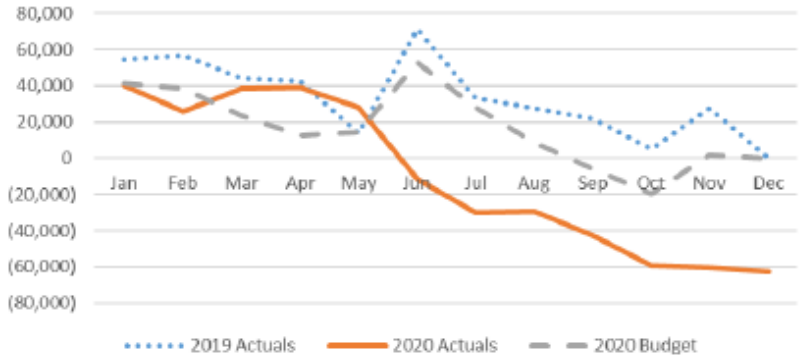
Total Investment Accounts

401,672

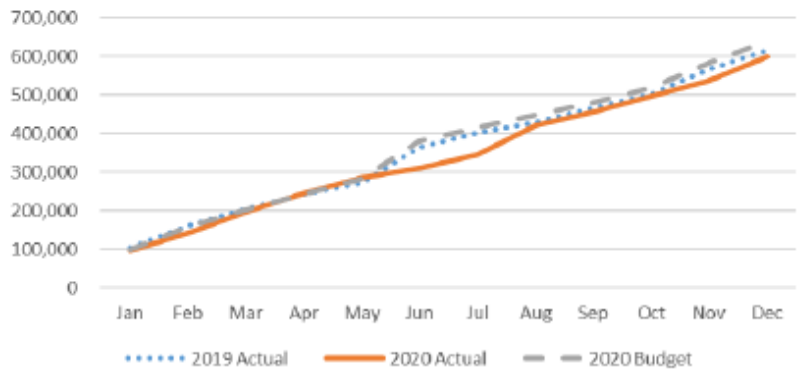
Long Term Liabilities:

Building/Rector's Mortgages	(669,170)
SBA/PPP Loan	(151,700)
Debt Reduction Loan - Diocese	(513,919)
Total Long Term Liabilities	(1,334,789)

YTD Operating Net



YTD Pledge Receipts



As of December 31, 2020 St. Mark's YTD operating net was essentially flat from November 2020 to a loss of \$62,628 and remained significantly below budget by \$62,627. Actual pledges received of \$598,557 were below budget by \$41,443. The operating shortfall continues largely due to several one time expenses as well as the economic shutdown and the subsequent closing of St. Mark's facilities. St. Mark's cash position continues to be adequate, improving to \$203,669 available for current operations, a \$25,253 increase from November. St. Mark's still has significant long term liabilities - Mortgages and the Diocesan Loan. If there are any comments or questions, contact Jim Treleaven at jbtrelaven@yahoo.com. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30 pm (online) and is open to all of St. Mark's.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2020 Annual Report
Comparative Balance Sheet
December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020**

in US\$

		Current Year Change Inc/(Dec)	
	Dec 31 2019		Dec 31 2020
Operating Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents:			
Operating Checking	110,493	44,872	155,365
Schwab Fund	100,787	21	100,808
Daughters of the King - Checking	5,508	(1,306)	4,202
Parent's Day Out - Checking	8,404	(7,030)	1,375
St. Mark's Preschool - Checking	119,006	(8,139)	110,866
Rector's Discretionary Fund	5,521	2,464	7,985
Associate Rector Discretionary Fund	2,211	125	2,336
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$361,930	\$31,008	\$392,937
Investments:			
Diocesan Foundation - General Endowment	49,384	10,993	60,356
Diocesan Foundation - Carey Music Fund	38,926	1,711	40,637
Diocesan Foundation - Lewis Trust	272,871	17,107	289,978
Diocesan Foundation - Music Director Education Fund	10,000	700	10,700
Total Investment Accounts	\$371,181	\$30,511	\$401,672
Other Assets:			
Prepaid Expenses	4,072	(1,934)	2,138
Rector's Utilities Receivable	969	(312)	657
Receivable from PDO - For PPP Loan	0	22,984	22,984
Receivable from St. Mark's Pre-School - For PPP Loan	0	28,936	28,936
Total Other Assets	\$5,041	\$49,674	\$54,715
Total Operating Assets	\$728,131	\$111,192	\$839,324
Non-operating Assets			
Property and Equipment:			
Church Buildings	6,098,900	0	6,098,900
Furniture and Fixtures	703,303	0	703,303
Computer Equipment	593	0	593
Stained Glass	163,000	0	163,000
Rector's	473,000	0	473,000
Total Property and Equipment	\$7,438,796	\$0	\$7,438,796
Total Non-operating Assets	\$7,438,796	\$0	\$7,438,796
Total Assets	\$8,166,927	\$111,192	\$8,278,121
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	1,642	(1,263)	379
Prepaid Pledges/Deferred Revenue (See Note 1)	29,905	9,404	39,309
Payroll Tax Liabilities	6,522	(2,512)	4,010
Total Current Liabilities	\$38,069	\$6,629	\$44,698
Long Term Liabilities:			
Building Mortgage Payable	626,111	(41,140)	584,971
Debt Reduction Loan - Diocese	521,419	(7,500)	513,919
Rector's Mortgage Payable	89,252	(5,053)	84,199
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$1,236,782	(\$63,693)	\$1,173,089
Notes Payable:			
Glen Ellyn Bank - PPP Loan (See Note 2)	\$0	\$161,700	\$161,700
Total Liabilities	\$1,274,851	\$103,636	\$1,378,487
Fund Balance:			
General Fund Balance	1,993,648	93,435	2,087,083
Investment in Property & Equipment	4,384,015	0	4,384,015
Excess Cash Received	88,590	(114,231)	(25,641)
Total Fund Balance and Excess Cash Received	\$6,466,253	(\$20,796)	\$6,445,457
Restricted Funds:			
Total Temporary Restricted	54,746	(2,241)	52,505
Total Permanent Restricted	371,161	30,511	401,672
Total Restricted Funds	\$425,907	\$28,270	\$454,177
Total Liabilities, Fund Balance, & Restricted Funds	\$8,167,011	\$111,110	\$8,278,121

Note 1

Effective for 2019, St. Mark's changed its accounting method for recording prepaid pledges. Rather than recognize 2021 prepaid pledges as revenue in the year received (i.e., 2020), 2021 prepaid pledges of \$39,309 were recorded as deferred revenue (in current liabilities) and will be recognized as revenue in January 2021.

Note 2

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan established in 2020 by the US Federal Government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The PPP Loan program was designed to help small businesses, including nonprofits, to keep their workforce employed during the Covid-19 crisis. The PPP Loan proceeds could be used for payroll costs, mortgage interest, rent, and utilities (i.e., eligible expenses). The PPP Loan is eligible for forgiveness (and essentially becomes a grant) if it is used to pay eligible expenses. St. Mark's used its PPP Loan proceeds to pay its payroll costs during April through June 2020. St. Mark's has applied for loan forgiveness and fully expects that its PPP Loan will be forgiven in early 2021.

2020 Restricted Accounts Activity

Donations/Gifts and Disbursements:	Donations	Disbursements	Net
Rector Discretionary	8,004	(7,754)	250
Associate Rector Discretionary	125	(125)	0
United Thanksgiving Offering	150	0	150
Glen Ellyn Food Pantry	1,810	(1,685)	125
Mission & Outreach Donations	5,026	(5,907)	(881)
DuPage PADS	5,717	(5,707)	10
Pumpkin Patch Proceeds/(Disbursements)	26,823	(26,645)	178
Spanish Class Receipts	0	(90)	(90)
Chandler Qatar Mission	200	(200)	0
Alcorn Support	24,550	(24,950)	(400)
Spanish Language Celebrations	0	(1,168)	(1,168)
Vestry Retreat	100	(100)	0
Women's Activities	174	0	174
Friends of Music	10,338	(4,230)	6,108
Hymn Festival	5,060	(800)	4,260
Carey Instrument Maintenance	1,145	(1,580)	(435)
Organist Honorariums	750	(750)	0
Continuing Ed - Music Director	75	0	75
Appalachia Service Project & Flower Fund	7,035	(4,887)	2,148
Southeast Mexico Trip & Cake Auction	4,717	(3,725)	992
Lillian Wells Foundation Donation	30,000	(30,000)	0
Columbarium Receipts	16,000	(11,038)	4,962
CREO Deposits	0	(4,115)	(4,115)
Vanest Fund	5,000	0	5,000
Building Maintenance Fund	0	(2,116)	(2,116)
B&G Reserve Donation & Disbursements	0	(16,837)	(16,837)
Total Donations/Gifts & Disbursements	152,798	(154,409)	(1,611) A
Other Restricted Account Activity:			
Investment Income	9,170	0	9,170
Investment Expenses	0	(9,477)	(9,477)
Transfers to Balance Sheet Accounts	61,926	0	61,926
Unbudgeted Income & (Expense)	2,278	(7,564)	(5,286)
Total Other Restricted Account Activity	73,374	(17,041)	56,333 B
Total Donations/Gifts & Disbursements			(1,611) A
Total Other Restricted Accounts			56,333 B
Total Restricted Accounts Activity			54,722

St. Mark's Endowment Fund

In November 2017, the Vestry of St. Mark's voted to establish the Endowment Fund of St. Mark's Episcopal Church ("Trust") to "benefit St. Mark's for so long as it operates as an Episcopal church for the benefit of Glen Ellyn and its surrounding communities." The Trust is intended to exist in perpetuity and there is an expectation that the Trust will grow over time through parishioners' donations. Under the Trust Instrument, three Trustees are appointed by the Vestry to fill staggered three-year terms. The Trustees appointed by the Vestry for 2020 were Leo Lanzillo, Dick Anstee and Elizabeth Lewis. Chip Johnson was appointed to replace Dick Anstee starting in 2021. The Trust documents establish a perpetual trust fund and allows the addition of "designated purpose funds" (including those heretofore made to St. Mark's). The assets of all designated purpose funds and other Trust assets shall be commingled and invested by the Trustees. Combining our various investment accounts in this way allows the Trustees to achieve better investment results and simplifies management and record keeping. The Trustees have selected the Common Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, commonly known as the "Diocesan Foundation" to hold the Trust funds. Founded in 1952, the Diocesan Foundation is a collective investment vehicle currently serving more than 35 parish and group investors. At the end of 2019, its net asset value topped \$29 million. The Diocesan Foundation's average annual total return has been 8.3% for the past ten years, 7.2% for the past five years, and 9.2% for the past three years.

St. Mark's established four fund accounts with the Diocesan Foundation. The General Endowment Fund is a perpetual trust account. The Lewis Trust Fund, the Carey Music Fund, and the Augusta Pahnke and Mary Peck Fund are designated purpose funds. On November 16, 2020, the Trustees approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee to move \$10,000 from the columbarium fund to the General Endowment Fund, such transfer to be completed by December 31, 2020.

The annual distributable amount for the General Endowment Fund is 4% to 5% of the fund balance at the end of the prior year. Those funds are paid annually to the St. Mark's Treasurer on February 1st and can be used for: (1) "the purchase, construction, installation, and repair of its capital improvements, (2) outreach and missionary projects and (3) special one-time projects (and not for usual and ordinary expenses and maintenance of St. Mark's)." The Carey Music Fund is subject to the same distribution as the General Fund (4% to 5% per year) with the designated purpose of providing regular tuning, servicing, and maintenance of St. Mark's Episcopal Church's pianos (including replacement as necessary) and the Walker Organ.

The distributable amount of the Pahnke/Peck Fund will be 90% of income received during the year. The amount will be paid annually to the St. Mark's Treasurer and can be used for musical education, training and professional education of the Director of Music and other musicians at St. Mark's.

The quarterly distributable amount of the Lewis Trust Fund is the income received during the year, but not capital gains. The applicable income is paid quarterly to the St. Mark's Treasurer directly by the Diocesan Foundation and can be used only for "the purchase, construction and installation of its capital improvements (and not for usual and ordinary expenses and maintenance of the Church)."

The chart below shows the summary of the church's investment accounts. Any questions about the endowment fund should be addressed to the Trustees.

ST. MARK'S INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY FOR 2020

FUND	OPENNING BAL (as of 9/30/2019)	DEPOSITS	DISBURSEMENTS	YEAR-END BALANCE (as of 9/30/2020)
General Fund	\$40,363.74		\$2,000	\$50,356.49
Lewis Trust Fund	\$274,475.52		\$ 7,194.92	\$289,978.15
Carey Music Fund	\$38,926.03	\$ -	\$ 1,145.00	\$40,637.20
Pahnke/Peck Fund	\$10,000		\$75.00	\$10,700.47
TOTAL ENDOWMENT	\$353,765.29			\$380,971.84

2021 Giving Campaign

2020 feels like a surreal year upon reflection. With the pandemic and political tensions dominating our daily lives, it is hard to contemplate God's plan for our growth and hope for the future. However, there are some silver linings to 2020. We are thankful for our resilience as a church and a community to adapt and stay connected, even though we do not still physically see each other. Our yearly traditions are still being preserved (the wonderful children's Christmas pageant as an example). So, as bleak as it seems some days, our community has chosen to give to St. Mark's and all its members. This was also reflected in our 2021 Giving Campaign. The generosity of the congregation has shown our members are willing to invest in the church that reaps positive impact on this world. This is why we think 2021 will be a year rooted in **GIVING**.



As members of St. Mark's, we hope:

- To give connection to someone in isolation.
- To give hope to someone in despair.
- To give faith to someone in fear.
- To simply give to someone else even though you may be in need as well.

God's giving is infinite, and St. Mark's has more to give in 2021. We still need to continue to support DuPage PADS, the Appalachian Service Project, our companion parish in Nigromante, Mexico and missionary services in East Africa and Madagascar.

If you have not pledged for 2021, please do so as soon as you read this letter! It will not only help our church chart a financial path but also determine how much positive reach this church can give to others.

To pledge for 2021 please click on this link.

<http://stmarksglenellyn.org/giving/make-a-pledge/>

Thank you for choosing St. Mark's and choosing to **GIVE**.

Yours in Christ,

Co-Chairpersons: Jeanne Tschampa Lopotko and Andrew Wassef

Committee: Melissa Gonzalez, Brian Shallcross, Andrew Dorn, Wade Kennedy, Mauro Hernandez

Graphic Design: Javier Valdivia

Treasurer: Steve Sedall

Finance Committee Chairman: Jim Trelevan

Rector: George Smith †

Ministerio en Español

Cuando los desafíos son enfrentados con determinación, nuestras facultades se desarrollan.

El 2020 marca un antes y un después en diferentes órdenes: en nuestras vidas, en la sociedad e instituciones. Los miembros de nuestra comunidad hispana dentro de la gran familia que es la Iglesia San Marcos, enfrentando juntos los desafíos de la pandemia, unidos en la fe y motivados por el amor, la ayuda de Dios, los medios a nuestro alcance, la disposición y el liderazgo que se ha ido formando durante años, nos han permitido seguir adelante.

El equipo para el Ministerio en Español, coordinado por el P. George Smith e integrado por la Señora Irma Solórzano, Diácono Miguel Briones y P. José Arroyo.

Bajo el lema “El edificio está cerrado, la iglesia sigue abierta”.

Compartimos con ustedes nuestras experiencias en diferentes áreas:

Pastoral:

- Hemos mantenido un contacto directo con las familias a través de cientos de conversaciones telefónicas, mensajes de textos y en las diferentes redes sociales como: WhatsApp, Facebook, You Tube y la página web de San Marcos...
- Hemos brindado soporte espiritual a las familias que han sido afectadas por la pandemia, han perdido algún ser querido o han necesitado algún tipo de ayuda de parte de San Marcos.
- Hemos creado un ambiente para que cada una de nuestras familias sientan que cuentan con nuestro apoyo y que no están solas.

Formación:

- Hemos mantenido todos nuestros programas de formación: Clases para la Comunión, Confirmación y clases de formación para adultos. Ha sido un desafío para todos; pero gracias al generoso trabajo de los coordinadores y los catequistas estamos sacando adelante nuestros programas.

Liturgia:

- Mantenemos una participación dinámica en los servicios dominicales.
- Les estamos muy agradecidos a nuestro director de música Daniel Segner, por el apoyo en nuestras celebraciones y a Laura Waterman, por su valiosa ayuda en las transmisiones de los servicios.
- Acompañamos cada Domingo a las familias que han perdido algún ser querido a consecuencia de la pandemia u otra causa de muerte (Ofreciendo la misa por los difuntos y orando por los enfermos).
- Nuestras celebraciones están teniendo un alcance nacional e internacional, gracias al eficiente equipo que trabajan en las áreas de comunicación y tecnología al cual les estamos sumamente agradecidos.
- Por primera vez tuvimos la celebración a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, junto a las congregaciones: Sagradas Familia y Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Waukegan con una participación considerable de personas que se unieron a través de Zoom y Facebook.
- Nos unimos a cuatro congregaciones hispanas para la celebración de Las Posadas, con una invitación a toda nuestra Diócesis. Estas dos celebraciones fueron compartidas con el Ministerio Hispano de la Iglesia Nacional y con todas las congregaciones de nuestra Diócesis gracias al Diácono Miguel.

Social:

Hemos proporcionado información sobre recursos disponibles para la comunidad como: lugares para recoger despensas de comidas, Talleres de información sobre la pandemia de COVID 19, asuntos de inmigración y otros recursos los cuales son compartidos en la página web de San Marcos y a través de los anuncios en nuestras celebraciones dominicales.

Juntos y de las manos de Dios, todo lo que nos propongamos lo lograremos, para honra y gloria de nuestro Padre común y Jesús nuestro hermano mayor.

Spanish Ministry

When challenges are met with determination, our capabilities are up to the task.

2020 marks a before-and-after in different ways: in our lives, in society and institutions. The members of our Hispanic community within the great family that is St. Mark's have faced together the challenges of the pandemic, been united in faith and motivated by love, God's help, the means at our disposal, the disposition and the leadership that has been formed over the years. All of this has allowed us to move forward.

The team for the Spanish Ministry, coordinated is by Fr. George Smith and includes Irma Solórzano, Deacon Miguel Briones and Fr. José Arroyo.

We are serving under the motto "The building is closed, the church is still open."

We share with you our experiences in the following areas:

Pastoral:

- We have maintained direct contact with the families through hundreds of telephone conversations, text messages and on different social networks such as: WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube and the St. Mark's website.
- We have provided spiritual support to families that have been affected by the pandemic, have lost a loved one or have needed some kind of help from St. Mark's.
- We have created an environment so that each of our families feels that they have our support and that they are not alone.

Training:

- We have maintained all our formation programs: classes for Communion, Confirmation, and formation classes for adults. It has been a challenge for everyone, but thanks to the generous work of the coordinators and catechists, we are moving our programs forward.

Liturgy:

- We maintain a dynamic participation in Sunday services.
- We are very grateful to our music director Daniel Segner, for his support in our celebrations and to Laura Waterman, for her valuable help in hosting the Zoom services.
- We accompany every Sunday families who have lost a loved one as a result of the pandemic or another cause of death (offering prayers for the deceased and for those who are sick).
- Our celebrations are having a national and international reach thanks to the communication and technology resources available to us.
- For the first time we had the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, together with the congregations of Sagradas Familia and Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Waukegan along with a considerable participation of people who joined through Zoom and Facebook.
- We joined four Hispanic congregations for the celebration of Las Posadas, with an invitation to our entire Diocese. These two celebrations were shared with the Hispanic Ministry of the National Church and with all the congregations of our Diocese thanks to Deacon Miguel.

Outreach:

We have provided information on resources available to the community such as places to pick up food, information workshops on the COVID 19 pandemic, immigration issues and other resources which are shared on the St. Mark's website and through announcements in our Sunday celebrations.

Together and from the hand of God, everything we propose we will achieve, to the honor and glory of our common Father and Jesus our brother.

Children's Ministries

The goal of Children's Ministries at St. Mark's is to provide a variety of opportunities for faith development for children birth to grade 5. The staff supports volunteers in teaching Bible stories. The curriculum is staff-developed based on Godly Play stories and children's Bible story books. This is the schedule we followed January through March 2020 when we physically gathered at the church.

Sunday Education January - March

Nursery

Childcare provided from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm and special events as requested.

Bible Stories at 9:15 am

Ages 4-8 in a group setting, creative story presentation with Godly Play materials and opportunity for response.

Bible Stories/Sunday School at 10:25 am

Ages 3-4

- Age-appropriate story
- Follow-up craft activity
- Music instruction once a month
- Friendship-building time in free play

K-grade 5

- Opening story presented in creative manner

K-2 (September - January)

- Bible story reviewed with opportunity for response

K-1 (February - May)

- Bible story review and response in craft activity

Grade 2 (February - March)

- Instruction in history and meaning of Eucharist

Grade 3-5

- Bible story review and response in Lego creations

Our Allies team supports children with special attention needs in the classroom. Our dedicated volunteers currently support four children in this essential ministry of inclusion headed by Darcie Lambert.

Historias bíblicas/escuela dominical a las 12:00 pm

Opening story presented in creative manner in Spanish

Age 4-grade 5 (September - February)

- Bible story reviewed with opportunity for response

Age 4-grade 1 (March - May)

- Bible story reviewed with opportunity for response

Grades 2-5

- Instruction in history and meaning of Eucharist

Sunday Education March – December

In March 2020, when we had to switch to virtual worship, our schedule changed to the following:

Sunday School Grades K-5 with Miss Gina at 9:30 am every Sunday on Zoom with a Godly Play presentation and interactive wondering questions. These Godly Play presentations were also presented to the entire congregation every Sunday after the reading of the Gospel and before the sermon.

Sunday School for PreK with Miss Diane at 10:00 am every Sunday on Zoom with songs, a story, and a time for sharing.

Both presentations were recorded and made available on YouTube for sharing.

Virtual Vacation Bible School (VBS)

July 13-17, Monday-Friday mornings 9:00 am – 10:00 am for age 4 - grade 5 with a variety of ways of learning Bible stories through crafts, music and dramatic presentations. This July we followed Moses (Sarah Adler) and her sidekick (Kate Adler) as they led the Israelites through the wilderness. Under the direction of Megan McGuire and Gina Wood, 30 children enjoyed reporting “God sightings” and creating crafts with Dan Lobraco and their break-out group leaders. Thanks to the expertise of Ryan Valdivia our first foray into virtual VBS was a big success!

Other opportunities for learning

Palm Sunday visit from Molly the Donkey

Good Friday instruction with Pastor Robin

Easter events for children

Virtual Christmas Pageant directed by Gina Wood and written by the children of our parish

Opportunities for service

Backpack in-gathering and blessing – over 100 backpacks and over \$3000 worth of school supplies were collected and donated to Holy Family School

At-home pumpkin decorating and donations for UNICEF

St. Nick Visit – Drive by in the St. Mark’s parking lot where chocolates and prayer cards were safely handed out by St. Nick’s helpers. Donations for UNICEF were encouraged.

Opportunities for Christian Friendship building

Shrove Tuesday – bilingual games and prizes after pancakes

May Teacher Thank-You Coffee Hour: Honors teachers, confirmands and Communion Celebration

It takes a congregation! None of these wonderful activities and opportunities would be possible without the help of many.

Staff and volunteers serving on Children’s Ministry Team:

Diane Hessinger - Children’s Ministry Director

Norma Cid – Nursery Supervisor

Jocelyn Briones – Nursery Assistant

Gina Wood – AM Sunday Coordinator

Melody Mordini – Godly Play materials

Gina Wood and Megan McGuire– Vacation Bible School Coordinators

Kate Marsh– Vestry liaison, volunteer coordinator

Lista de nombres de maestras

Ángeles Perdomo

Guadalupe López

Flor Itzel Carmona

Laura López

Maria Torres

Uziel Hernandez

Much appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the congregation of St. Mark’s for making children a priority in your plans and prayers.

Blessings!

Diane Hessinger, childrensministry@stmark.sglenellyn.org

Director of Children’s Ministries

Youth Ministry Report 2020

A reflection on the impacts of Covid-19

This year was met with unprecedented challenges. By mid-March, the reality of this global pandemic started to sink in. With the onset of stay-at-home mandates and travel bans, we quickly became isolated with the uncertainty of how this would impact us. Our youth began online learning, parents worked from home, and our church adapted to online worship. As a community we prayed for those fighting off the virus and mourned those who we lost as a result.

One could say that 2020 felt like a year of life in the Wilderness. We felt betrayal, loss and grief, anger and sadness. We encountered light and darkness, violence and peace, doubt and faith, despair and hope. Yet, Jesus's life in the wilderness taught us that evil and death would not triumph, and that rather justice and hope would stand a chance. So, what does the ever-present and ever-speaking God call us to do? Perhaps God was showing us the importance of connection over division, reminding us of the inclusive spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood. This year we felt that importance heavily. When times like these can have you quickly feeling isolated, we need ways to stay connected with our faith and community who help guide us through that wilderness. Our youth gatherings offer a safe space where youth can stay connected with one another, continuing to learn and grow in faith, meeting online and in person when safely able to do so.

Rooted in Baptism

As a community rooted in Baptism, this year our youth connected their baptism to the world around them. We reflected on these questions that we respond to at our baptism by saying "I will, with God's help": Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Youth Programming

St. Mark's youth are a vital part of our community, active in worship, fellowship, education, and service. There are many ways to participate:

- Youth Group meetings and events for middle school and high school
- Sunday School
- Confirmation
- Parish events and activities
- Diocesan events
- Youth Readers
- Youth Acolytes

Youth Group: Fellowship provides time for middle schoolers and high schoolers to learn about themselves and God – and have fun while doing it! Our youth group continues to meet regularly online and in person and all 6th - 12th graders are welcome!

Youth Group In-Person and Virtual Events: Jesus on the Go, Virtual Scavenger Hunt, Confirmation Reunion at Lake Ellyn Park for ice cream and field games, Epiphany White Elephant Party on zoom, Scarecrow Rows community event, and Miniature Golf.

Sunday School: There are many educational opportunities for youth at St. Mark's. We meet on Sunday mornings for virtual Sunday School and collaborate with Adult Ministries for special multigenerational gatherings. Our mission is to make scripture relevant to what youth experience in today's world, providing a safe space for youth to grow their faith, welcoming questions and inviting dialogue. Youth Sunday School Teachers: Leo Lanzillo, Nancy Purcell, Steve Webster, George Churchill

Confirmation 2019-2020: A large group of 20 students including both morning and afternoon services participated in the confirmation program last year. Starting in March we moved the meetings to Zoom and began preparing confirmation reflections that were presented during our online worship service in May. Students presented reflections in 2-3 minute sharing sessions during the sermon time. This group has yet to have an in-person

confirmation ceremony with blessing from the Bishop. This event is planned to be held in the future once safely able to do so in person. Confirmation Facilitator: Justin Backstrom

Confirmation 2020-2021: Confirmation has been taking place fully on Zoom. The group has been meeting twice a month on Sundays from 12:00 to 12:45 pm since September. Although we have a small group of five students the time spent together has been meaningful and purposeful and everyone has continued to actively participate. Reflections are scheduled to be held in similar fashion to last year during the zoom service on Sunday May 23, 2021. Confirmation Facilitator: Justin Backstrom

Vote Faithfully Youth Video - Your Vote Is My Future: “Vote Faithfully” is an initiative of Episcopal Church USA. Our youth created a video to share their voice and encourage adults to VOTE. Thank you to Melissa and Miles Gonzalez for the editing of the video and thank you to the following participants who made this video possible: Jeremiah Lanzillo, Cara Oates, Luc Treleven, Sophie Lopez, Litzy Reyes, Maggie Gross, and Danny Gonzalez. If you missed it, you can watch it on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/KfDLcPEveJI>

Youth Vestry Representatives and Leaders Jeremiah Lanzillo and Cara Oates: Our youth leaders are what drive our program, providing a great example for their younger peers. Jeremiah served on the vestry as our Youth Representative this year and met with our adult leaders to discuss ideas and lend support for the youth program. We wish Jeremiah the absolute best as he begins a new chapter of his life and heads off to college and we pray that he comes back to visit us often. Cara Oates will take Jeremiah’s place on the vestry as our youth representative. Cara was selected to be a Youth Delegate at this year’s 2020 Diocesan Convention and Election Convention. We are excited for Cara to take on her new role and pray for her as she continues to grow in life and faith.

Youth Direction Leadership Team & Volunteers (Adults: Beth Treleven, Jared Friebe, Rachel Alcorn, Steve Gross, Carrie Gowans, Cindy Glavin: This group of people are an invaluable part of the youth program. Each with their own gifts and talents never hesitate to lend a hand. This group meets to discuss and give support and ideas for upcoming youth events planning and logistics. In 2021, we will continue to meet once every three months. We are always looking to expand our team. All are welcome!

Communication: This year we introduced a new way to communicate with our parents and youth. You may have heard of it! It’s called “Remind”. It’s an app you can download on your smartphone and also access online at <https://www.remind.com/>

Remind App – our primary form of communication with youth and parents at St. Mark’s: Please join our groups on Remind and help us make our methods of communication more efficient!

- To join our **St. Mark’s High School Youth Group**, use this link or class code @stm393hs
<https://www.remind.com/join/stm393hs>
- To join our **St. Mark’s Middle School Youth Group**, use this link or class code @stm393ms
<https://www.remind.com/join/stm393ms>
- To join our **St. Mark’s Confirmation Group on Remind**, use this link or class code @stm393conf
<https://www.remind.com/join/stm393conf>

Director of Youth Ministries: Lydia Pendleton

In July of 2020 I stepped into my role as the new Director of Youth Ministries. I was met with so much support and encouragement that the challenges that this year would bring were made a little less heavy. I want to thank our former youth directors Justin Backstrom, Cynthia Mote, and Kim Reed; our Sunday School Teachers; our parents, volunteers, and leaders; and our incredible staff for your support and guidance.

There are many reasons why I have felt called to Youth Ministries. Growing up in the church as the child of an Episcopal priest, when it came to church, my family and I have always been “all in.” So, I have been an acolyte; sung in the choir; attended church summer camp; participated in diocesan-wide youth events; served on the

Episcopal Youth Event design team (our national church youth gathering); and led mission trips with my family to Cuba. I attended the peace academy event in Dresden, Germany where youth from all over the world gather to discuss current issues, discover a “freedom of consciousness,” and develop friendships that can help unite conflicted countries. I was honored to be invited to another youth peace event, the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) International Youth Gathering, in Coventry, England where international youth learn to be peacemakers through discussion and workshops using the CCN guiding principles for reconciliation.

Following graduation from St. Lawrence University in 2017, I spent a year working in the communications department for the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico with the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC). As one who continues to journey, learn and grow, I am excited to further the work of the church that has always been important in my life.

I am grateful for all the opportunities I had in my youth and for being able to connect with other Christians my age. Each experience brought me closer to God and I am proud to be a part of a church that embraces their youth, creates space for them to express their faith in different ways, and acknowledges that youth are not only the future and hope of the church, they are our present. Our youth are a vital part of our community and it is my hope that they continue to grow and experience all that fellowship and faith have to offer.

Peace and prayers,

Lydia Pendleton, lydia@stmarksglenellyn.org
Director of Youth Ministries

Adult Formation 2020

In the fall of 2020 (September through November), Adult Formation followed the theme of “Kingdom Politics” to coincide with the national election and the participation of our diocese and parish in the Vote Faithfully initiative. Often, we studied the Gospel passage within the lectionary, asking ourselves how our behavior, policies, and relationships may be shaped by living out God’s call to love one another as God loves us. County Clerk Jean Kaczmarek helped explain mail-in voting, and St. Mark’s parishioner Dr. Jeff Hill helped to explain the Progressive Income Tax Amendment. Those sessions attracted the most attendants, but most weeks we had a smaller but faithful and thoughtful gathering. During the Advent season, we prepared the way of the Lord with art and poetry of people of color (Howard Thurman and Henry Ossawa Tanner among others). We also learned about our first African-American woman bishop-elect, the Rev. Paula Clark.

In January, we are dedicating the month to the Gospel imperative of racial justice and healing. Parishioners who wish to continue this vital mission with a commitment to learning and working hard will be able to continue learning about racial healing with the 10-week intensive anti-racism curriculum *Sacred Ground*, a dialogue series put together by The Episcopal Church. The *Sacred Ground* curriculum is independent of Adult Formation, but Adult Formation will spend the last few weeks of January introducing it and laying some groundwork for those who wish to participate.

Heading into Lent, Adult Formation will study the desert fathers and mothers, gleaning wisdom for our journey through the wilderness to the cross and the new life beyond!

If you have any topics you are interested in or are interested in participating in the adult formation committee, please contact Jo Ann Lagman or Lindsey Paris-Lopez. Adult Formation meets Sundays at 9:00 am.

Jo Ann Lagman, joann@stmarksglenellyn.org
Lindsey Paris-Lopez, lparislopez@gmail.com

Music

At the beginning of the pandemic, the music ministry transitioned to a virtual format – per recommendations from the CDC and guidance from the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, all in-person singing was immediately suspended.

During this time, the choir began to develop their technological skills so that music would remain an uninterrupted fabric of this church. Starting with hymns and easier anthems, the choir continued to this virtual choir projects until everything culminated for Advent/Christmas.

The Youth Choir went entirely virtual, starting in the fall. We worked on our music theory, aural skills, and score reading; the choristers put together three virtual choir pieces for the annual Christmas Pageant.

Lessons and Carols took a particularly interesting tone to it this year by utilizing a liturgy developed by St. James Cathedral called “Darkness to Light” which juxtaposed Old and New Testament readings together for each “Lesson” with the ‘O Antiphons’ paired to “Carols.” This allowed the service to greatly increase the number of participants and allowed live singing for the Gregorian chant whereas all the carols had to be pre-recorded.

Instruments

The JW Walker & Sons Organ has been in very good shape over the past year—despite not having in-person services, the St. Mark’s organ is in excellent condition. Audio equipment was purchased to mic the organ so the services, hymns, and choir music could be recorded and presented each week.

Over the summer, the Fox Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists held their annual concert at St. Mark’s and David Jonies from Holy Name Cathedral played a great concert featuring Vierne, Bach, Telemann, and many others.

2021 is a big year for the Walker Organ because it turns 30 years old! Looking forward to celebrating this anniversary with a series of concerts!

The concert grand Baldwin in Mahon Hall has been tuned four times this year, two of which were regulatory and action-related calls prior to the Beethoven concerts.

Ludwig van Beethoven 250th Birthday Celebration Series

St. Mark’s was DELIGHTED to present three concerts that were livestreamed by cellist **Tanya Carey** and pianist **Cindy Trowbridge**. These three concerts September 18, October 30, and November 27 featured the Sonatas and Variations for piano and cello. You can access them anytime on the St. Mark’s YouTube page!

A very special thank you to Tanya for these concerts; they were impressive performances, and we are so grateful to her and Cindy for putting on such masterful concerts.

Hope springs eternal for the music program in 2021. Between the development of the vaccines, our improving technological abilities, and the innovation and sharing of ideas from other music programs, the music program will truly be “branching out” in wonderful, yet unexpected ways.

Thank you all for your continued support of the music program at St. Mark’s. If you are interested in making a specific financial contribution (i.e. sponsoring a concert, guest instrumentalists, audio equipment), please consider donating to the **Friends of Music Society** in any amount.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Daniel Segner, musicdirector@stmarksglenellyn.org
Director of Music

Acolyte Ministry and Usher Ministry

Due to the COVID pandemic, the Acolyte Ministry and Usher Ministry were paused with the onset of the stay-at-home requirements. Sadly, Andy Carter, the head of Usher Ministry, died in December 2020. Look for a restart of these ministries when the building opens again for in-person worship.

Lay Readers

In the age of COVID, a diverse and expanded group of volunteers, including children, youth and adults, has read the Scripture lessons, psalms and prayers for Sunday and other Zoom worship services. Reading solo or in groups, their voices have helped illuminate the Scriptures both in Spanish and English. With the move to online worship, volunteers have also represented the voice of the "People" - reading the responses normally given by the entire congregation during in-person worship. These clear, unifying voices have brought a lively dynamic to our online worship. Readers are being scheduled on a month-by-month basis, aided by a computer program. A rehearsal happens before each service, which helps make the experience stress-free and fun. If you would like to volunteer to read during a service, please contact Laura Waterman at adminasst@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Daughters of the King

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate. The Order was founded over 135 years ago. Because Daughters of the King accept a Rule of Life, we define ourselves as an order, not an organization. Our community is found primarily in our local chapters, but it extends around the world. Membership in the Order is open to women at every stage of life who desire a closer walk with the Lord. After a three-month period of study and discernment, each new member takes vows to uphold the two Rules of the Order: the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.



As Daughters of the King, our mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. No matter where we are on our sacred journeys, we are strengthened by community with our sisters. St. Anne Chapter of Daughters of the King, at St. Mark's for almost 90 years, supports the clergy and parish through our prayer and service.

We are engaged in active prayer as part of our ministry keeping the church prayer list in mind along with our own prayer requests. A devotional is part of every monthly meeting of DOK. Due to the pandemic, our in-person meetings stopped beginning in March of 2020. Our prayer life continued and each monthly meeting held via Zoom focused on our spirituality. In March, we began our unknown experience with the Stations of the Cross with Mary which was bilingual and open to all of St. Mark's congregation. Other meetings included: a DOK Call to Pray in a Pandemic; a program and discussion led by Deacon Tom Craighead on St. Anne, the mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus; the Episcopal litany for Social Justice; praying the Anglican Rosary; and creation and use of the finger labyrinth. Thirteen to eighteen Daughters have attended our monthly meetings.

Daughters serve through various ministries. Many serve on the **Altar Ministry**. DOK also coordinates with Altar Ministry in decorating the sanctuary for Easter and Christmas. This year the Altar Ministry has worked with the clergy in adapting to the limited service schedule. The **Wedding Ministry** assists in the coordination of weddings, guiding and supporting the wedding party and representing the church in its use and care. However, there were no

weddings that needed our services this year. Our **Funeral Receptions Ministry** coordinates with families to host pleasant and welcoming receptions before or after funeral services, providing an opportunity for friends and family to share and reminisce. There were not opportunities for this service this year. The ministry of **Traveling Tea Parties** (where two or three Daughters visit other Daughters who are not able to get out often) was suspended for most of the year. We were able to do this once prior to restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

This year several members attended the DOK Diocesan Assembly of Chicago in February and again via Zoom in September. Several also attended the DOK Province V retreat held via Zoom in the fall. One of our Daughters from St. Mark's serves as a Diocesan DOK officer, and we also have one Daughter serving on the DOK Province V board.

This closely knit group of women has weathered the pandemic storm maintaining calm, strength, and mutual support. Email threads are numerous. I feel blessed to call the Daughters of the King "my sisters in Christ." If you are interested in being a part of a community within the larger community of St. Mark's with whom to share your spiritual journey, we invite you to join. All women of St. Marks are invited to attend our meetings that are announced in the bulletins each month. If you have questions and want to receive the Zoom link, please contact Susie Meehan.

Susie Meehan, sjfmeehan@yahoo.com
DOK President

Altar Ministry

Because of the pandemic, Altar Ministry has had little responsibility this year but has done altar set up for Sunday services and decorated with crèche and poinsettias at Christmas. We hope to be back to regular responsibilities soon. Sadly, one of the Altar Ministry's members, Peggy Heilig, passed away recently.

Those of us who serve on altar duty consider it a holy ministry, preparing the Table for every Eucharist service in the church. We wash, iron, and lay out the linens, pour the wine into vessels that we have polished, fill the candles with oil, put out the bells and books, order supplies, oversee the flowers and uncover the piano. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, for over 85 years we have been a central part of the life of St. Mark's. Just as you prepare for cherished visitors in your home, we set our Lord's Table so that all may gather, eat and drink of his body and blood and be refreshed and comforted.

We touch your lives not only each time you take communion on Sunday. We prepare for baptisms, first communions, weddings, healings, and reverently, and in great hope and faith we set the table for funerals, laying out the pall and comforting the bereaved. It is a privilege to serve our Lord and our congregation in this way.

We invite all who would like to learn more about this beautiful ministry to join us. You will learn about the history and meaning of our liturgy and the work necessary for what most people take for granted. It requires only a couple of hours training, and a willingness to commit to two hours of work each month. If interested in learning more about the Altar Ministry, please contact Karen Evans.

Karen Evans, (708) 642-2601 or kkeevans46@gmail.com

Pastoral Care

This year the pastoral care team has come under the leadership of our ministerial associate, Jo Ann Lagman along with Father George. Along with Jo Ann and Father George are several members of the team who have completed Lay Spiritual Visitor Training with Bishop Anderson House, Eucharistic visitors, and others who are interested in coming alongside people who have spiritual needs.

The pastoral care team meets monthly to update each other about those in need, pray for them and each other, and provide support for one another. We visit to pray, provide companionship, listen, and if needed anoint and bring communion. In this time of pandemic, most of our visits are done by telephone. When in-person visits are necessary, they are done with adherence to safety guidelines put forth by the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In this past year, the pastoral care team has been exploring ways to reach out to the wider community of St. Mark's. In December, the pastoral care team planned and participated in the Longest Night Evening Prayer. This was a time of quiet meditation for those who did not find Christmas a joyous time or those who simply needed moments of peace in the busy-ness of the season. We will continue to look at how we can bring peace and wellness in this time of division and pandemic.

All are welcome to join us in this ministry. If you are in need of spiritual care, or are aware of anyone who may need it, you may contact Jo Ann Lagman at (630) 484-5932 (call or text message) or by e-mail at joann@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Prayer List and Prayer Providers Group: Becky Deblois coordinates the parish prayer list. May Asntee convenes the the Prayer Providers Group on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am. The intention of the prayer ministry is to hold in daily prayer the individuals and families on the St. Mark's prayer list. This is a group led by members who take turns overseeing the monthly meeting, which includes offering an opening prayer, distributing individual prayer lists, providing a presentation and/or discussion on an aspect of prayer, and closing with prayer. Prayer requests are submitted on cards that are in the church pews, or through phone calls and emails to the clergy or front desk. The Prayer list is included in the bulletin in the Prayers of the People. The Prayer Group welcomes anyone who would like to join the group and their ministry of prayer.

Clergy visits: George and Jo Ann Lagman make the majority of clergy visits to those in hospitals or in need of a home visits.

Meal Ministry: Jessica Como and Kristina Roth are the coordinators for Meals Ministry. We welcome additional meal maker volunteers. To volunteer, contact Jesse Commo at (612) 387-1853 or jessicacomm@hotmai.com.

Spiritual Direction: Catharine Phillips continues to offer spiritual direction to members and nonmembers of St. Mark's. Her office located on the first floor in room 121, though at present she has been seeing clients on Zoom.

Baby Baskets: Elizabeth Lewis creates a care basket whenever a child is born or adopted by a parish family. The baskets accompany the priests when they visit the home, and contain a candle, a hand painted St. Mark's cross, candy kisses and the board book "A Prayer for a Child" in either English or Spanish.

George Smith✙, rector@stmarksglenellyn.org,
Jo Ann Lagman joann@stmarksglenellyn.org

Church Tellers 2020

The tellers for St. Mark's worked faithfully every Monday morning to open the giving envelopes and count the Sunday offering from January through March. Their work allows the proper recording of contributions in the Church's accounting system and they take the deposit to the bank. Their efforts in this critical function are vital to St. Mark's financial process, and St. Mark's is blessed to have them serve in this capacity. We look forward to being able to resume our work in 2021.

Tellers that served during the year were Tom Agler, May Anstee, Jerry Becker, Bob Cardwell, Jerry Carey, Karen Evans, Gretchen Kenower, Bob and Susie Meehan. Thank you all.
Dick Anstee, *ranstee@comcast.net*

Outreach Committee

Outreach has historically been a primary focus for St. Mark's. There are many programs that are embedded in the fabric of our church community and there are many components that make up our outreach program. Some of the most obvious are the Appalachian Service Project (ASP), the mission trip to Southeast Mexico, and the Pumpkin Patch that helps support DuPagePads programming in our community. We are engaged in local, regional, national, and international efforts to help to contribute while attempting to make a difference. Whether the programs are shared with us through the diocese or sponsored by the national church, are opportunities to contribute in international efforts in response to natural disasters, or are simply a response to local need; St. Mark's attempts to be present and is always looking for ways to be engaged.

Another aspect of our outreach mechanism here at St. Mark's is the Outreach Committee. Approximately \$20,000 of the 2020 budget was set aside to help us explore and engage in activities intended to help others. We received 13 written proposals from organizations within our church as well from service organizations within our community or area.

Each of the proposals received presented identified needs, what they would do with funds awarded, and provided answers to each of the questions given on our application form. The committee reviewed the applications received and made every attempt to support each organization on some level. Most of our proposals came from groups and organizations in which members of our congregation were serving either as volunteers or board members. In the end, allocations were made to all 13 groups/organizations. Allocations ranged from \$500 - \$4000. A total of approximately \$20,000 was committed and disbursed.

Those groups/programs/individuals initially receiving grant funds include:

- **Walk-In Ministry** – Shared ministry supported by approximately 18 local churches that provides emergency support for residents of Glen Ellyn or members of participating churches with food certificates, gas vouchers, utility assistance, auto repair, transportation, etc.
- **Awakenings Project** – Supports artists, poets, playwrights, and musicians afflicted by mental illness in the pursuits of their crafts.
- **Family Shelter Service** – Offers services to victims of domestic violence in DuPage County.
- **Faith in Place** – Works with people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the earth (Green Teams).
- **Shelter for All** – Not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing housing for the homeless in DuPage County.
- **People Reaching People** (Ministry of Bishop Todd and Rev Patsy McGregor) Madagascar – Supporting children attending summer programming.
- **Grace and Peace Chaplaincy** – Bringing God's word to area communities which serve our older adults.

- **Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service (GEYFCS)** – Supporting mental health for youth and families in the Glen Ellyn Area.
- **Glen Ellyn Food Pantry** – Helping to fight hunger in the Glen Ellyn Area.
- **CREO** - Pre-college counseling and tutoring for St. Mark's Latino/a youth; supporting this new ministry for Latino high school students with a focus on developing education opportunities beyond high school.
- **DuPage United** – Supporting efforts in training volunteer leaders in the area.
- **Love Inc.** Christian Clearinghouse which helps connecting people with a variety of services available for those in need in DuPage County.
- **Teen Parent Connection** - Supported the delivery of specialized programs and services for adolescent parents and their children who reside in and around DuPage County.
- **Companion Parish in Mexico** – Provided support needed for compensating the parish priest in Mexico.

The Outreach Committee is in the process of determining how it will allocate its resources during 2021. Requests for funding have been submitted and we look forward to supporting agencies and programs dedicated to providing assistance in our area and beyond during the coming year.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank Bob Meehan for chairing this committee the last few years. He provided a lot of time and energy on this committee. Bob stepped down as chair in early 2020. Wes Clay-Anderson and John Zelman are the current co-chairs of the Outreach Committee.

Wes Clay-Anderson, wux2@me.com
 John Zelman, jzelman86@gmail.com

Mum Sale --- SOLD OUT IN ONE DAY!

This fall St. Mark's completed its annual Mum Sale. This year the Outreach Committee made the decision to split the net proceeds and provide funds to the Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry and the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry (specifically for their building fund). The mums were delivered and unloaded the morning of September 19. The mums came from Sunrise Greenhouse, Inc. out of Grant Park, IL. The plants were a very popular item and we sold approximately 500 mum plants the first day! Our net amount was \$2516.88 (half to WIM and half to the Food Pantry's building fund). What a wonderful accomplishment, especially during this pandemic! St. Mark's has been a long-time supporter of WIM and the Food Pantry. Thank you for your support in this effort! St. Mark's has again shown itself to be generous and engaged in this outreach project.

Walk-In-Ministry 2020

The Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry (WIM) was initiated in 1984 by the Glen Ellyn Ministerial Association. It represents a coordinated effort by local churches (approximately 17) to provide a source of compassionate assistance to individuals and families in need of emergency aid within our community. Examples of aid being provided include food certificates, gas vouchers, utility assistance, auto repair, prescription assistance, and transportation vouchers. WIM relies on donations from individuals and member churches. Located in the library of the First United Methodist Church, this program provides opportunity for individuals to volunteer in covering the hours of operation and to serve on its governing board. St. Mark's is a founding member of this agency and continues to provide financial and volunteer assistance. Due to the pandemic, WIM was not able to aid all of their clients. The group shut down for two months and once they reopened were only able to provide assistance to current clients, no new clients. The volunteers were also unable to provide any face-to-face assistance to clients, all assistance was through the mail or telephone. Even through this they were able to continue helping Glen Ellyn residents in need to the best of their abilities. WIM was able to assist 171 clients, totaling 435 visits.

Backpacks and School Supplies

Thanks to the many generous donors, we collected 40 backpacks and 10 boxes of supplies for the students of Holy Family School. These students will have paper, crayons, markers, scissors, pens, pencils, notebooks, binders, calculators and USB drives to assist them in learning this school year. Even with the challenges of shopping, many of our parishioners ordered supplies online and had them shipped directly to us.

Diane Hessinger, hessdi@gmail.com

ReVive Christmas Baskets

Thank you for your generous giving, especially during an ongoing pandemic. We had to make some changes this year, including signups by email instead of in person, and dropping boxes in the Rectory garage instead of the church library. We were allotted only 54 families this year – the numbers were down because not as many people signed up with ReVive, also because of the constraints of the pandemic. Collectively we sponsored 57 families: 54 from ReVive, two local families who contacted Fr. George Smith for help, and one family of 5 who came to us via Kim Reed and Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service. About 176 people comprised those families. 54 households (St. Mark's and friends of St. Mark's) plus Daughters of the King took on the work of love to sponsor the families. A handful of volunteers loaded the boxes of gifts from the Rectory garage (much, much easier than moving them from the church library) to the waiting truck and driver. If you would like to donate an amount to ReVive to help defray staff and delivery costs or support their other ministries, you can visit their website at

revivecenter.org

Ginnie Judd, ginniejudd@gmail.com

Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

Every October since 2007, St Marks has conducted a fundraiser to sell pumpkins to the community to benefit DuPage PADS. It has provided us with friendship, fellowship and many compliments from our neighbors and community. Over the last 12 years we have unloaded approximately 30,000 bulk pumpkins, not to mention many boxes of mini- and softball-sized white and orange pumpkins and numerous types of other gourds. The community came out in droves to purchase pumpkins from the St. Marks Pumpkin Patch with total sales over these past 12 years of approximately \$285,000 and total donations to DuPage PADS of approximately \$98,000.

During 2020, it was unclear whether there would be a patch due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but thanks to a new system of delivery and our own Jeremy Mote, who drove the forklift to unload the truck this year, we were able to have a patch while being mindful of the safety of the volunteers who came out to help unload crates of pumpkins. This year, despite having to rely mostly on self-service and 100% honor system (with the use of a QR code option for payments) we had the second-best year in our 12-year history with sales of \$25,914 and with some very generous additional donations, provided a check to DuPage PADS for \$9,000.

Philip Adler, padler66@gmail.com

St. Mark's Visual Arts Group

St. Mark's exhibits the work of artists at the church each year. We seek work that enhances and engages with our worship, since the main display area is in the church itself. The congregation and artist find themselves in a mutually giving and receiving relationship that acknowledges the presence of God in our lives and in our abilities of expression. Some work that has been shown directly falls into the genre of spiritual art; other pieces reference the spiritual in a celebration of nature and personal experiences.

For the spring of 2020 we were preparing for *St. Mark's in Motion*, an exhibit of 100 photographs by Peter Vagt, a photographic interpretation of the vibrant life of our church.

We plan on installing the prepared panels in 2021 in celebration of returning to St. Mark's. Peter Vagt will have a reception and artist talk to share with us his 10-year visual story and experience of taking images of our amazing parish in action. Date TBD due to Covid.

We also installed:

- **Stations of the Cross** by Richard Rush: These pieces are owned by St. Mark's and are displayed annually before and during Lent. Dick Rush, a commercial artist of note, was a parishioner at St. Mark's who worked from the 1950s through the 1990s.
- **Christmas decorations**

The group welcomes new members and nominations for contributing artists. Please contact Beth Treleven if you have suggestions or would like to join the group.

Beth Treleven, beth@tre2creative.com

St. Mark's Green Team 2020 Report

The Green Team has been on a bit of hiatus, but the goal is to continue to learn together how to make St. Mark's a greener, more sustainable community. We welcome all who would like to learn with us. The team for 2020 was Edna Heatherington, Ginnie Judd, Jan Langford, April Sedall, with Building and Grounds' Committee Head Joanie Somerville as advisor.

Indoor Winter Farmers Market We hosted our third Winter Farmers Market in February 2020, an initiative through Faith in Place which works with host sites at faith communities throughout the Chicago area to give local farmers and vendors within a 250-mile radius of St. Mark's a place to connect with consumers. Jan Langford led the effort, and her excellent organization as well as her signage inside and outside the building helped draw people in and get them to the right location – “just follow the veggie trail!” We will not have an indoor market in 2021; Faith in Place is rethinking its mission for food-insecure communities, and the pandemic has removed an indoor market from consideration for now.

Meatless Dinner The fourth annual meatless Lenten dinner and program was scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, and Jan Langford had the foresight to suggest, a week before the event, that we cancel it. We'll see what life brings when we can gather safely again.

Pollinator Garden Because of a combination of the pandemic and Ginnie's knee surgery in early March, we opted to have the landscaping company do the early spring cutback of the dried plant material at the end of March. Some annuals were added in mid-May to provide ongoing nectar sources in addition to all the perennials. The good thing about native perennials that are well established is they can tolerate some neglect, so the garden did reasonably well with not much care in 2020. Some background on our garden: The Green Team took responsibility for the large

garden at the northeast corner of the church property, at Main & Hillside, in Spring 2017, and has continued to tend it since then. The garden had been overgrown with lots of undesirables that were choking out the plants that provide food for butterflies, bees, birds, and other creatures, so the goal in 2017 was to identify what was growing there and remove anything that was hindering the beneficial plants. It was rewarding to see how many lovely perennials emerged once the turf grass and thistles were removed. Our big addition in May 2018 was a Fruit Guild – a permaculture garden (all edible perennials) centered around a Redhaven peach tree. We were fortunate that the polar vortex in January 2018 did not kill the peach tree, but we didn't get peaches that summer. There was a good crop in 2020, and we hope some of the community enjoyed some of the fruit. Let us know if you are interested in participating in garden maintenance. All ages welcome.

SCARCE's Pumpkin Smash program For the sixth year, we arranged for a dumpster to put the leftover pumpkins after the Pumpkin Patch was over plus be a site for the community to bring their pumpkins on the first Saturday of November. The contents were taken to a commercial composting site instead of being put into landfill. Keeping food and yard waste out of landfill means a reduction in methane gas production as well as capturing the nutrients and water contained in the plant materials for use in compost. In addition to our own leftover Pumpkin Patch pumpkins, we had 99 vehicles come through with pumpkins from their own homes to add to the collection.

Please contact a Green Team member if you would like to learn more or become involved. Or send an email to GreenTeam@stmarksglenellyn.org with your questions. Thank you!

Ginnie Judd, greenteam@stmarksglenellyn.org

Companion Relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante, Mexico for 2020

St. Mark's has been in a companion relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante since we first sent a group of parishioners led by the Rev. George Smith in June 2006. This relationship was inspired by and is an extension of our ongoing companion diocesan relationship with the Dioceses of Southeast Mexico and Renk in Sudan, established in 2001.

Since that first trip in 2006, St. Mark's has sent parishioners, both youth and adults, to Mexico every year -- that is until 2020. Many parishioners have participated in these trips and parish-wide we have supported this relationship with fundraisers that have provided scholarships to keep children and youth of San Marcos in school, paid for half of Padre Senobio's salary each year, and supported micro-businesses and projects to help the church and community of San Marcos. These funds also helped offset the cost of the mission trip, providing assistance for some of our parishioners who otherwise would not have been able to afford the trip. Additionally, over the years, St. Mark's has welcomed the former bishop, Benito Juarez, and his family on their visits to St. Mark's and the Chicago Diocese. We even had the privilege of hosting San Marcos's Padre Senobio when he made his first visit to the United States.

Just over a year ago, December 2019, was when St. Mark's last traveled to Nigromante. We took a delegation of dentists, hygienists, and a few parishioners to offer our first dental mission trip. We had hoped to return this month, January 2021, but because of the pandemic, we obviously had to cancel these plans--as well as plans for the 2020 Cinco de Mayo Dinner and Fundraiser and a June 2020 mission trip. Our last successful planned event was last year's Cake Auction at the January 2020 Annual Meeting, raising over \$3,000 for our companion parish relationship.

Our hope is to return to Nigromante again once we are able to travel safely. In the meantime, we will continue to fundraise for our next mission trip—please support the January 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting Cake Auction! St. Mark's dental team remains committed to return to Nigromante, and we are discussing ways to further help with the dental needs in the community. We plan to stay in communication with the Diocese of Southeast Mexico and

continue to meet with the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago's Subcommittee on Southeast Mexico. We have been in contact with some of the parishioners from San Marcos, and recently, in December, we sent a box of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and greetings from St. Mark's and from those who went on the Dental Mission Trip.

There is no doubt that our relationship with the Diocese of Southeast Mexico is a part of who we are at St. Mark's. We are so grateful for your continued support, and we ask that you remember the people of San Marcos, the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, and its new bishop, Julio Martin, in your prayers.

Kim Reed, *kimreed178@gmail.com*

Appalachia Service Project

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) provides life-changing, short-term Christian mission trip opportunities – bringing youth, adult and college volunteers into rural Central Appalachia to make homes warmer, safer and drier for families in need. ASP believes that safe, affordable, sanitary homes are a basic human right. With those guiding principles, youth and adults are sent to locations in Appalachia to help repair homes of those who cannot afford to do it themselves.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ASP cancelled the summer sessions in 2020. We were able to support the ASP mission by donating some of the proceeds from the flower sale to support work that ASP was able to conduct in the summer of 2020. Sadly, it has been deemed too risky to send work crews in the summer of 2021.

The ASP flower sale will take place in February, to raise funds in support of ASP projects this summer and to support scholarships for the 2022 trip. Flowers will be delivered on May 2, 2020. Look for the order form in February. We hope you will continue to support this worthwhile program.

Cindy Glavin, (630) 956-0530 or *cjglavin92@yahoo.com*

Communications Report 2020

As with everything else in 2020, the role of Communications Administrator changed considerably over the course of the year.

Everyone remembers that week in March when everything changed. George returned from a short trip to Florida to conduct livestreamed worship in an empty church with Daniel Segner and me on Sunday, March 15. The week after that we began holding virtual worship each Sunday and that model has continued through the present day, along with occasional in-person church services when it was deemed safe in late summer and early fall.

Communications has helped St. Mark's face the challenges of 2020 by:

- Learning about, hosting, and training others in using Zoom for worship and special events.
- Hiring parishioner and college student Ryan Valdivia to assist with website management and troubleshooting.
- Developing and creating new Constant Contact emails to keep in touch with the parish, including a news email on Tuesdays, a worship email on Sunday mornings, and a frequent "Weekend Events" email that goes out on Friday when we are busy (which we often are).
- Upgrading our YouTube channel to a custom .url, adding new subscribers (currently over 200), creating a branded look for our worship videos, and creating playlists so viewers can easily find Godly Play, Miss Diane Tells a Story, Worship, Music and Special Events.

- Producing two online fundraisers benefitting DuPagePads and the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.
- Working with George Smith and Laura Waterman to develop a new system for readers participating in worship each Sunday morning.
- Working with Stacy Alan to keep worship running smoothly during George's sabbatical.

Bright ideas and offers to help are always appreciated!

Melissa Sablack Gonzalez, melissa@stmarksglenellyn.org
Communications Administrator

Men's Ministries

The St. Mark's Men's Group promotes fellowship and educational activities for the entire St. Mark's community.

There are now two meetings of men's groups each week:

The **Tuesday morning group** met at 8:00 am at the Glen Oak Café in Glen Ellyn through March of this year. For the rest of the year, we have "met" via Zoom, still at 8:00 am on Tuesdays. According to group coordinator Dick Anstee: "We are a social group, and our meetings have no agenda, program or study. We enjoy each other's company and talk about events of the day, family events, recent trips, and past accomplishments. We would love to have you join us and check us out. Unfortunately, you will have to provide your own coffee for a while longer, but we look forward to in person meetings at Glen Oak as soon as it is safe to meet. Hope to see you Tuesday on Zoom (Meeting ID 945 076 7777; passcode 8581020), or the Tuesday after that." For more information, contact Dick Anstee.

Dick Anstee, (312) 218-0202 or ranstee@comcast.net

The **Saturday morning group** meets from 8:30 am – 9:30 am via Zoom and we look forward to meeting in person at St. Marks again soon! We typically have 8 - 12 participants each week and we are always looking for more to join us. According to group coordinators Andrew Dorn, Brian Shallcross and Cam Gowans: "Our emphasis is on giving men an opportunity to relax, get to know each other and talk about topics important and interesting to them. We are really focused on relationship first." Get your weekend off to a great start and gather for fellowship and relaxed conversation with our group. We would love to see you there! For more information, contact Andrew Dorn, Brian Shallcross or Cam Gowans.

Andrew Dorn, (630) 697-6322 or andrew_dorn@msn.com
 Brian Shallcross, (312) 636-6530 or brian@shallcrosslawfirm.com
 Cam Gowans, (630) 446-0450 or cbgowans@yahoo.com

Women's Ministries

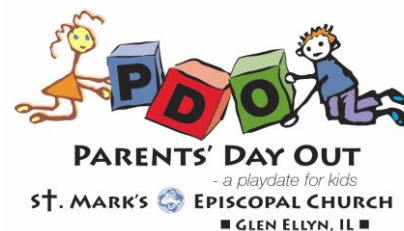
The Women's Ministry program at St. Mark's was active throughout 2020. We offered three monthly topical programs in Jan-March before the building was closed, then resumed meeting via zoom every other week through most of the summer. In the fall, we had meetings on three dates with both a zoom option and an option to join a distanced in person group for fellowship on the church lawn. In December we offered our first-ever virtual ornament exchange. Our Steering Committee continues to convene to plan upcoming meetings and we welcome more input and involvement in our planning.

Women of all generations are warmly invited to come and enjoy learning, sharing, and socializing at our meetings, which take place at 7:30 pm, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Look for details about the next upcoming meeting each Sunday in the bulletin.

Kim Toliver, kjdesigns@att.net
Vestry Liaison

Parents' Day Out Ministry

St. Mark's Parents Day Out (PDO) offers care for children ages 2 to 4. PDO's strong community following since it began in the late 1980's follow from both our school year and summer care programs that include fine and large motor skill activities, arts and crafts, songs and stories, as well as plenty of play time. Families register for one or two days per week during the school year, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In 2020, following federal and state guidelines, as well as best practices for childcare settings, PDO created new protocols and procedures and opened its doors this fall to 67 children and their families, and plans to add five more children this winter to round out this 2020-21 school year. Due to recommended health and safety practices, PDO does not maintain a substitute list this year. We are pleased to report zero COVID-19 events impacting our children and staff to date and appreciate the dedication of our PDO families keeping everyone healthy and safe.



Scholarships: In keeping with our mission, we offer scholarships and financial flexibility to suit a variety of circumstances. Please contact Director Kathy O'Rourke for more information.

School Year Calendar and Summer Session: PDO follows the Glen Ellyn D41 public school system calendar during the school year and offers a summer program on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in June and July, which fills up quickly. Stay tuned for summer registration information.

Vacation Bible School Session: PDO coordinates with St. Mark's Children's Ministries to offer care during VBS week for children not yet old enough to participate in VBS. This includes care for the young children of VBS volunteers.

PDO's Gifts: PDO historically covered its operating costs as well as donated financially to St. Mark's and undertook facility repair and upgrade projects. In addition to scholarships for children, PDO donated \$500 monthly to the parish's general operating fund. Those many years of paying it forward came back in spades in 2020. Due to the program cancellation in March 2020 for the balance of that school year including the 2020 summer session because of the COVID-19 pandemic, additional resources were contributed to the program allowing our teaching staff to receive important salary support. PDO gratefully acknowledges the work of Steve Sedall, Chris Ponstein, Joanie Somerville, and Bill Kalbfleisch along with many PDO families. Through these combined efforts, a Small Business

Administration Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) grant and substantial individual donations supported the program until it could reopen this fall. Importantly, PDO family donations have provided a program operating reserve in the event additional program disruptions occur in 2021.

Staff: We remain forever thankful for our wonderful and dedicated staff: Director Kathy O'Rourke and Norma Cid, Melody Mordini, Carrie Pihl, and Ofelia Bustamente. We are truly grateful for their endless enthusiasm and devotion to PDO and its children. Their unshakable commitment and flexibility are celebrated by all PDO families. Thank you also to the PDO Board for their planning guidance and regular Zoom meeting collaboration and resources offered to the program staff. PDO Board members are Kim Reed (Chair), Elizabeth Lewis (Secretary), Kelly Gross (Treasurer), Joan Nichols, and Kristin Margaglione, along with the regular attendance and support of George Smith.

2021-22 Registration: Registration for the 2021 summer and fall programs will begin on Monday, April 5 for St. Mark's parishioners and St. Mark's Preschool families. New families can register on Tuesday, April 13. Summer registration will open on Monday, April 19.

Report submitted by:

PDO Board President Kim Reed, kimreed178@gmail.com

PDO Director Kathy O'Rourke pdo@stmarksglenellyn.org

St. Mark's Preschool

This year St. Mark's Preschool celebrates ten years as a part of the St. Mark's community. The Preschool is influenced by the Reggio Emilia project approach to teaching, which features child-directed learning. We continue to approach learning with the whole child in mind, first and foremost.



The Preschool has grown over these ten years from offering one class of nine children with two teachers to the current offerings of 3-day and 4-day classes, a Studio Arts Program, a STEAM program, Kindergarten Enrichment, and a Munch and Learn program. We also offer a morning summer camp program in June. Throughout the year, our seven-member staff serves 80 families.

The Preschool is DCFS certified and is a member of The National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) and the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA).

This school year, the heightened safety protocols of the pandemic presented challenges which we viewed as opportunities to expand our thinking about the possibilities for preschool programming. As such, we created two outdoor spaces and have successfully held preschool and Kindergarten Enrichment in our outdoor classrooms.

We are so very blessed with the families and alumni that contribute to and participate in our preschool community. Partnerships with the parents and the community are a cornerstone of our philosophy. We are grateful the students and staff can explore their own community and be provoked and inspired by their surroundings.

Priority registration for the 2021-22 school year opens January 25 for church and PDO members. Applications are available in the Church office, Preschool office, or online.

Many thanks to the Board members for volunteering their time and talent to the Preschool, helping to ensure future success and growth.

Kristine Osmond, psdirector@stmarksglenellyn.org
St. Mark's Preschool Director

Buildings and Grounds: 2020 Report

Ministry's Purpose: The Buildings and Grounds Committee works towards supporting St. Mark's vision as a welcoming place for all by planning and carrying out the necessary functions to ensure all the church buildings, systems, rectory, grounds and parking lots are safe, clean and well maintained.

Our 2020 committee was made up of the following members:

George Smith - General Consultant
Joanie Somerville - Vestry Liaison and B&G Coordinator
Gary Kreutz - Mechanical Systems Manager
Michael Benich - Rectory Manager
Ginnie Judd - Green Team Manager
David Dornblaser - Grounds Manager

2020 B&G in Review:

Due to the pandemic, it was a quiet year for Buildings & Grounds as the building was not utilized to its full capacity. We made sure we cut back on those services not needed such as waste removal and cleaning services. Other savings included electricity, gas, and water.

Repair projects that moved forward were the shoring up of the Columbarium stairs as well as the retaining wall on the East side of the Rectory. A new Furnace and A/C system was installed in the Rectory to replace the ancient unit.

In October we said goodbye to our previous rectory tenants and are in the process of welcoming a new family who will be renting the rectory starting February 1, 2021.

2021 B&G Plans:

As my term is up for the Vestry, I will be transitioning the role to Rick Quoss. Together we will review and prioritize the potential improvements to be made in the coming year to align with our available budget.

Thank you to our whole team for a great year in 2020, with a special thank you to Rick and Beth Quoss for their dedication and willingness to provide their time and talents with repairs and beautification projects. In addition, thank you to Julian for the lawn care, leaf pick-up, shoveling and other daily grounds care as well as Penny Taback for her assistance in locating and securing our new tenant for the Rectory.

Joanie Somerville, *joanie.somerville@att.net*

Reopening Committee: 2020 Report

Ministry's Mission Statement:

We will provide Policies and Procedures for a multi-phase process of re-entering the St Mark's building as a House of God for the People of God. We will use guidance from ecclesial, medical, and governmental sources to encourage the flourishing of the Body of Christ in our local community. Uses include liturgical, ministerial, educational, and recreational purposes, for staff and the public. Our task is to promote the health and safety of each person who uses St Mark's building and grounds, to resume as many preplanned activities and uses as possible, and to encourage positive innovations and adaptations.

Our 2020 committee was made up of the following members:

Joanie Somerville - Reopening Committee Chair
Stacy Alan - Interim Rector and General Consultant
George Smith - General Consultant
JoAnn Lagman
Kate Marsh
Christine Carter
Dellana Mote
Laura Waterman
Miguel Briones
Josh O'Shea
Kristine Osmond (Preschool)
Kathleen O'Rourke (PDO)

2020 Reopening Committee in Review:

My committee has met weekly since March of 2020 in order to make thoughtful, careful decisions regarding the safety of the congregation, staff, Preschool and PDO. We have accomplished a great deal during the last nine months, and in spite of the pandemic we were able to allow our Preschool and PDO to resume, hold drive-in communions, small worship services, and in-person reflective prayer as well as a few other in-person gatherings. Unfortunately, the numbers began to rise again and we were forced to step away from reopening plans.

2021 Reopening Committee Plans:

It is our committees hope that we will soon begin to resume with small in-person worship and slowly build upon the numbers until we are once again 100% open. We are committed to keeping everyone safe, yet still creating a sense of community.

Thank you to my committee for your dedication and hard work and I look forward to working with you as we move forward with our common goal.

Joanie Somerville, *joanie.somerville@att.net*

Boy Scout Troop 44

Boy Scout Troop 44 has been affiliated with St. Mark's Episcopal Church since March 26, 1919, making us the oldest troop in the Glen Ellyn area that has been affiliated with the same charter organization since inception. Troop 44 would like to thank St. Mark's Episcopal Church for sponsoring us and seeing the value in the Boy Scout program.

2020 proved to be a challenging year, not only for our troop, but for the many families that had to isolate during the COVID-19 pandemic. The unfortunate shut down and social distancing practices forced us to think of new and innovative ways to continue our mission to mentor and guide young males and females into becoming confident leaders with good moral and ethical character.

Normally, this goal is achieved through a variety of activities which include weekly meetings, camp outs, merit badge clinics, community service activities and fundraising activities. In 2020 and for the foreseeable future, Troop 44 continues to meet using on-line meeting spaces. We also encourage our youth to work independently towards their rank advancements at home or within their immediate family circle. The troop also holds monthly on-line merit badge clinics to help our scouts continue to explore and learn what the Boy Scout program has to offer. Since the last mission statement three members of the troop advanced to the highest rank of Eagle Scout. This achievement takes many years and a strong dedication to the values that the Boy Scouts requires. The Names and their final Eagle Scout Projects are as follows:

David Felsenthal: Cleared and reclaimed a patch of land at Arbor View Elementary School in Glen Ellyn. David then replanted the area as a natural prairie garden.

Nathan Blaim: Designed and built two wood benches to replace old and worn benches. The benches can be found on the grounds of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn.

Simon Mstowski: Designed and built a flag collection box for retired U.S. flags. The box resides at Stacy's Tavern Museum in Glen Ellyn.

Both Nathan and Simon have opted to remain active in the troop as Jr. Assistant Scout Masters. Their Scout skills and presence will have a profound and positive impact on the younger scouts.

Currently we have 10 scouts who meet on Monday nights. Our scout age group is from 6th grade through high school juniors. We are broken down into two groups, known as patrols. One patrol consists of the older scouts and the other patrol has the younger scouts. Each patrol has a scout that oversees leading their patrol for a 6-month period. We also have a scout who oversees leading the entire troop.

The scouting program is appropriate for both boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18. Through our activities and guidance from our adult leaders, the scouts learn skills such as cooking, time management, first aid, communication, organization, and prioritization. Other skills are learned through earning Merit Badges. This more focused approach expects scouts to fulfill requirements that can take up to six months to accomplish. There are 138 different Merit Badge skills ranging from Astronomy to Wilderness Survival (two of our most popular Merit Badges.) Some of our scouts have learned exciting skills such as Scuba Diving, Personal Fitness, Environmental Science, and Sustainability. The troop offers one merit badge per month, taught by our adult leaders, that the scouts can earn. The scouts can complete as few or as many as they desire. However, in order to attain the rank of Eagle, they must complete 13 required merit badges and eight merit badges of their choosing.

Though the troop historically went on camping trips each month, the pandemic and the need to maintain social distancing required the troop to approach outings differently. This past year, the troop took to the outdoors and learned about different cooking methods, worked on orienteering, and learned about nature during day trips only.

The scouts also took our bicycles out on the trails, went fishing a few times, and took a five-mile-long hike. I know that every scout looks forward to the time when we can resume our weekend camping trips.

It is important for scouts to realize that they must give back to the community. We therefore provide the opportunity to perform community service activities. This past year the scouts organized and collected food for the local food pantry, participated in St. Mark's pumpkin unloading, and cleaned and trimmed overgrown areas in the East parking lot.

Our goal for this year continues to be to recruit more boys and girls, as well as active adults. Troop 44 is not alone in the struggle to maintain and recruit new scouts as the pandemic has affected active Cub Scout and BSA numbers. But despite the challenges, Troop 44 has formed a new female troop, Troop 444. This new female troop will be the first in the Glen Ellyn Area and we are pushing to gain the required five scouts in order to become active. The plan is to have the female scouts work side by side with the male scouts as they work towards their Eagle rank but will be lead by a female Scout Master. Candice Kay, one of our current Assistant Scout Masters has gracefully stepped into that position and we look forward to working with her and her scouts. I believe our program is strong and the troop looks forward to another exciting and adventure filled year in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Blaim, troop44.chair@gmail.com, Troop 44 Committee Chairman
Robin Martinson, Troop 44 Scout Master

CREO DuPage 2020-2021

Who knew that the pandemic would make trailblazers of us all? We all are expanding our horizons, strengthening our skills, and pushing through obstacles. With this awareness, we can empathize with our Latinx community and reaffirm our commitment to supporting educational equity for students who represent the first generation in their families to earn a college degree.

ALCANZANDO LO "IMPOSIBLE"



REACHING THE "IMPOSSIBLE"

Last year, the program was off to a great start when the pandemic began and created a very challenging environment for our students, parents, and volunteers to connect in-person. Program services were quickly migrated to online platforms. March and April were difficult months for everyone to maintain their level of engagement, but we made it through and celebrated the end of our first year in May via Zoom.

We spent the summer evaluating, revising, and simplifying our approach wherever possible. We developed important relationships within the local community, rebuilt our volunteer corps, and recruited new students and families.

While all our services are remote, we are excited to say that we have had excellent participation. The program is again off the ground and standing strong. The relationships between volunteers and students are developing. Thanks to our CREO community and St. Mark's support, we have been able to make these important transitions and extend that support for Latinx students and families. We look forward to the future when we will be able to resume in-person or hybrid meetings, field trips, and other social gatherings.

If you would like to find out more about CREO or how you can get involved, please contact CREO!

¿Quién sabía que la pandemia nos convertiría a todos en pioneros? Todos estamos ampliando nuestros horizontes, fortaleciendo nuestras habilidades y superando cualquier obstáculo.

Pasamos el verano evaluando, revisando y simplificando nuestro enfoque siempre que fue posible. Desarrollamos relaciones importantes dentro de la comunidad local, reconstruimos nuestro cuerpo de voluntarios y reclutamos nuevos estudiantes y familias.

Todos nuestros servicios son remotos, nos complace decir que hemos tenido una excelente participación. Las relaciones entre voluntarios y estudiantes se están desarrollando. Gracias a nuestra comunidad CREO y al apoyo de St. Mark, hemos podido realizar estas importantes transiciones y extender ese apoyo a los estudiantes y familias Hispana / Latinx. Esperamos con ansias el futuro cuando podamos reanudar las reuniones en persona, las excursiones y otras reuniones sociales.

¡También agradecemos a todos nuestros voluntarios y asociaciones por su trabajo y tiempo!

¿Quieren ser parte de CREO? ¡Comuníquese con Katherine Torres para saber cómo pueden contribuir a CREO!

Katherine Torres, (630) 984-024 or katherine.torres@creodupage.org

Parish Register 2020

2020 Average Sunday Attendance:

January 1, 2020 – March 8, 2020:	416
March 9, 2020 – December 31, 2020:	102/zoom service

Baptisms

Carlos David Casillas
Alonso Lucio Casillas
Eleanor Day Mills
Lila Grace Thompson-Farrington

Confirmations

Pending lifting of Covid19 restrictions

Quinceañeras

Damaris Carbajal
Ashley Cervantes

Funerals & Commitals

Judy Petrushka
Marilyn Kunard
David Gross
Michael Joseph Higgins
Kathleen Louise Higgins
Ron Gawlik
John Cavanaugh
Hanna Clements

Marriages

Felicia Nicole Allen & Sean Robert Linstrom
Colleen Kelly & William Steele
Kathleen Mary Hartwig & Daniel James Verbeck

Minutes from January 19, 2020 Annual Meeting

The 123rd annual meeting of the church was called to order by Fr. George Smith at 12:15 pm with a prayer. The meeting was preceded by a light buffet lunch and attended by approximately 150 people. George opened the meeting with a prayer and thanked those who had labored to put together the day's luncheon.

Robert Ulrich was appointed clerk for the meeting (replacing Bob Olsen).

Packets containing annual reports of committees and financial statements were provided for those in attendance.

Last year's minutes were read and approved, without any corrections.

Throughout the meeting several well-designed cakes were auctioned off and a silent auction was also underway during the course of the meeting.

Following an introduction by George, Bill Kalbfleisch and Lynn Dornblaser were sworn in as Senior and Junior Warden respectively for 2020. They accepted their duties, and their appointment was approved by acclamation. Jeremiah Lanzillo accepted the nomination as youth representative to the Vestry.

Special thanks were given for those who were finishing their term on the Vestry. Those persons were Jennifer Dorn, Jared Friebe, Bill Kelly, Angeles Perdomo-Reyes, Robert Lundin, Mia Grant-Funck and Bob Olsen. Each received gifts as a token of St. Mark's appreciation for their service, commitment and labors.

Next was the introduction of the five new members of the Vestry. They are Lynn Dornblaser, Chris Carter, Michelle Roman-Garcia, Brian Shallcross and John Zelman. This slate was unanimously approved.

Delegates to the Diocesan convention were approved. They are Jeff Hill, May Anstee and Mauro Hernandez. Steve Sedall took us through the highlights of the church's financial reports for 2019. After starting 2019 with a \$38,000 deficit, St. Mark's ended the year with a balanced budget, reduced debt and a strong cash position, with \$156,535.00 available for current operations.

As retiring Senior Warden, Jennifer Dorn expressed her admiration for the St. Mark's community and thanked those who made 2019 a success by contributing so much of their time and work to St. Mark's. Jennifer thanked George Smith for all his guidance.

Cecilia Smith commented on George's ministry and how much he enjoys being the rector of our church. Those in attendance extended a warm ovation for George.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.

Bob Ulrich

Vestry Clerk

February 25, 2020



*Rooted in baptism.
Growing in faith.
Branching out into the world.*

A Vision for St. Mark's Adopted by the Vestry in 2009.

St. Mark's is a vibrant, growing, inclusive community rooted in our shared baptismal covenant and secure in the promise that baptism marks us as Christ's own forever.

Respecting the dignity of all people, we welcome all, embrace differences, foster creativity, and nurture the unique gifts of each person.

We join together in worship drawing on our ancient liturgical traditions enriched by newer expressions.

We come together to learn and grow in our faith, welcoming questions, inviting dialogue, and forming the whole person in Christ.

We joyfully carry our faith into the world, sharing Christ's love through our actions towards each other, our community, the Diocese of Chicago, and the world.

We worship, learn, and serve, proclaiming our commitment to understand and follow Christ's challenging Gospel.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



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Bishop of Chicago

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Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer

Chancellor

Vestry

the Rev. Canon Paula E. Clark, *Bishop-elect*

the Rev. George D. Smith, III, *Rector*
the Rev. Dr. Robert O. Wyatt, *Priest Associate*
the Rev. José C. Arroyo, *Priest Associate*
the Rev. Catharine Phillips, *Priest Associate*
the Rev. Dr. Clint Moore III, *Priest Associate*
the Rev. Canon Suzann Holding, *Priest Associate*
the Rev. Miguel Briones, *Deacon*
the Rev. Thomas Craighead, *Deacon*
Dr. Jo Ann Lagman, *Ministry Associate*

Daniel Segner, *Director of Music*
Lydia Pendleton, *Director of Youth Ministry*
Justin Backstrom, *Youth Minister*
Cynthia Mote, *Assistant Youth Minister*
Diane Hessinger, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Gina Corrado, *Children's Ministry Assistant*
Irma Solorzano, *Ministry Associate*
Norma Cid, *Nursery Supervisor*
Kathy O'Rourke, *PDO Director*
Kristine Osmond, *Preschool Director*
Dellana Mote, *Office Manager*
Ginnie Judd, *Office Administrator*
Laura Waterman, *Office Assistant*
Chris Ponstein, *Bookkeeper*
Melissa Sablack Gonzalez, *Communications Administrator*
Julian Mendoza, *Sexton*

Lynn Dornblaser

George Churchill

Bob Ulrich

Steve Sedall

Elizabeth Lewis

Chris Carter, Carrie Gowans, Steve Gross,

Juanita Jiménez, Kate Marsh, Cara Oates, Joshua ES O'Shea

Rick Quoss, Michelle Roman-Garcia, Brian Shallcross,

Kim Toliver, Jim Treleaven, John Zelman