



St Mark's
Episcopal Church
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Annual Report for 2007

January 27, 2008

Agenda

Opening Prayer	Rev. George Smith
Clerk of the Annual Meeting	Rev. George Smith
Dan Conaway is appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting.	
Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting	Rev. George Smith
<i>Please see the last pages of this handout for the minutes of last year's meeting</i>	
Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden	Rev. George Smith
Elizabeth Lanzillo and David Funck	
Recognition of outgoing Vestry Members and Sr. Warden	Elizabeth Lanzillo
David Fletcher, Matt Gillespie, Jim Jenkins, Jack Toliver, Kim Reed	
Reading of the Vestry Resolution Honoring Bob Linde for his Service as Treasurer	Elizabeth Lanzillo
Election of Vestry Members and Diocesan Convention Delegates	Elizabeth Lanzillo
<u>Vestry Candidates:</u> Bruce Benson, Joe Campagna, Ted Figler, Joyce Fletcher, Gretchen Kenower, Martha Pfefferman	
<u>Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates:</u> Brett Baker and Danna Gross	
Administrative Reports	
Senior Warden's Report	Kim Reed
Finance Committee Report	Dick Anstee
2007 Year End Budget Report	
Restricted Funds Report	
2008 Budget	
Comments from Ministry Representatives	
Giving Campaign	Jim Jenkins
Parish Life	Jill Bednas
NOVA	Penny Taback
Rector's Report	Rev. George Smith
Questions and Answers	
Blessing and Adjournment	

Rector's Message at the St. Mark's Annual Meeting, January 27, 2008

In the Gospel reading for today, the third Sunday after the Epiphany, Matthew reports that two fishermen “immediately left their nets and followed Jesus” (4:20). Two thousand years ago as now, nets are a symbol of entrapment. Matthew doesn't write that the fisherman left their boats or fishing business. It is specifically “the nets” that they leave behind. Everyone has a variety of nets in their life. They make us struggle, frantic and confused. Jesus invites his disciples to leave their nets behind. It is this simple message that summarizes the Gospel – the good news - a proclamation of freedom and new life, for the disciples and for us. Today, here in Glen Ellyn, St. Mark's is called continuously to be a community where God's people can leave their nets behind, follow Jesus, find new life, and become Christ's presence in the world. We are always becoming Christ's presence, day after day, guided by the Holy Spirit.

In this annual report, you can read about how our ministries are Christ's presence to us and the world. You will also find good news about our parish's finances. I recommend to you Kim Reed's annual warden report which provides a broad discussion of goals that were set for the parish and how we have worked toward them in the past year. The following is a list of highlights from 2007 that I want to share with you.

- We welcomed Katie, Jimmy, Luke and Rachel Wright to St. Mark's during the summer. Katie joined the staff as our director of children and youth ministries and was ordained to the diaconate on All Saints' Day. We look forward to her ordination to the priesthood this coming summer.
- The rectory was repainted and repaired before the Wrights moved in.
- The Parents' Day Out program (PDO) expanded from two to three days a week and continues with a full enrollment and waiting list.
- The Pumpkin Patch fundraiser grossed over \$18,000; \$5,900 was donated to DuPage PADS. The remainder went to the Native American pumpkin growers in New Mexico.
- We hosted over 400 people from around the diocese to meet the eight candidates for the next bishop.
- Adult education expanded with a second track of Sunday morning offerings.
- The Spring Art Auction raised \$12,000 for our ministries.
- Four adults and ten teenagers traveled to Nigromante, Mexico to continue to build our relationship with our companion Episcopal church, San Marco. The group built a new outdoor children's play set.
- Jim Hamilton, our seminarian intern, was made a Candidate for Holy Orders by the Diocese of New York.
- Evensong services were started and are being held on the first Sundays of the month, followed by dinner in Mahon Hall.
- The men's group gutted and rebuilt the office bathroom with a new tile floor and Kohler fixtures.
- Dale Byrnes reached her year anniversary at St. Mark's on January 8th. The office staff has done an excellent job supporting our ministries and offering hospitality to guests and the community.
- We ended 2007 in a stronger financial position. Our deficit was less than expected and our balance sheet showed that our debt was reduced and assets increased.

I am thankful to the members of the vestry who are finishing their three year service. Jim Jenkins has provided guidance and leadership to our giving campaigns and finance committee. Jack Toliver has contributed key insights and analysis for our financial reporting. David Fletcher has overseen our programs for Christian formation. I am grateful for his interesting and informative articles on liturgy in the PostMark. Matt Gillespie has revitalized our coffee hours and made important contributions to the work of our communications committee. I am grateful to departing senior warden Kim Reed for her hard work, patience and care for the vestry, me and all of St. Mark's. Kim has been a force for optimism and respect and a sign of God's love and care during and after the turmoil that swept St. Mark's in 2004. As a resident of Glen Ellyn recently remarked to me, “You are lucky to have Kim at your church.” I couldn't agree more.

St. Mark's is a growing and healthy parish because of the hard work and dedication of its parishioners, staff and leaders. I am thankful to Walter, Katie, Charles, Miguel, Dale, Norma and Carlyle for their dedication and many contributions. While the staff helps guide and serve our ministries, the life of our parish boils down to individuals who offer their time, talents and energy for ministries small and large. There are so many ways to be involved at St. Mark's. For example, you might consider:

- hosting a coffee hour
- becoming an usher
- coming to the 9:00 a.m. Bible study on Tuesday mornings
- joining the Prayer Group which meets on Tuesdays at 4 p.m.
- helping in the nursery on Sundays
- singing in the choir
- taking communion to someone in the hospital
- greeting newcomers
- offering someone a ride to church on Sunday mornings
- serving on a committee in the Diocese
- getting involved in a Mission and Outreach project or committee
- serving as a sub-deacon or chalice bearer
- leading Morning Prayer on a Friday at 7 a.m. in the chapel
- volunteering as a chapel intercessor during communion
- adopting one of the garden areas around the church
- offering to set up or clean up for a Lenten supper

With God's continued blessing upon us, I pray that St. Mark's may grow in the coming year in strength and witness to the Gospel message. May we be freed from the nets around us, see the image of God in every person and grow daily in God's love.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George D. Smith", followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. George D. Smith

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

RESOLUTION

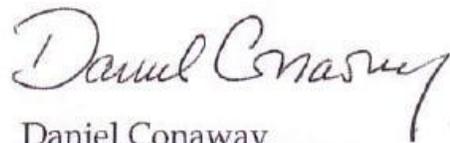
Whereas Robert Linde has faithfully served
as Treasurer of St. Mark's Episcopal Church,
and Has given so very Generously
of his Time, Talents, and Knowledge:

The Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Gratefully Acknowledges and Commends him
for his many years of Exceptional Performance of Duties,
Dedication, and Loving Service
to God and our Parish
as Treasurer –
and Wishes All of God's Blessings
on him and his family.

Approved on the 18th day of September 2007,
at the meeting of the Vestry of St. Mark's Church, Glen Ellyn.



The Reverend George D Smith III
Rector



Daniel Conaway
Clerk of the Vestry

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Vestry Candidates



Bruce Ellis Benson

Although I've been at St. Mark's since 1999, I've been an Episcopalian since 1987. I've attended Episcopal and Anglican churches as far flung as Holy Trinity, Brussels (Belgium), the Anglican Church in Freiburg (Germany), and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City, where I was a Visiting Scholar at General Theological Seminary.

Currently, I'm chair of the philosophy department at Wheaton College and hold positions of leadership in three different philosophical and theological societies. Much of my published work centers on the intersection of philosophy and theology and I regularly speak at Episcopal churches.

At St. Mark's, I've led the college group and sung in the choir. I am currently a subdeacon, layreader, and member of the Worship Committee. I appreciate the diversity of the Episcopal Church. My vision for St. Mark's is that it would continue to offer a radical welcome and become even more deeply involved in service and outreach.



Joe Campagna

My family (wife Janice and daughter Erin) moved to Glen Ellyn in August 2006 from Lincoln Park. We added to our family when we completed the adoption process and brought our son David, home from St. Petersburg, Russia in February 2007.

I was raised Catholic. However, since meeting Janice, I began attending Church of Our Savior in Lincoln Park, where we were parishioners for a number of years and were active in a variety of church activities. We were married at Janice's home town church in Connecticut (by sheer coincidence also called St. Mark's Episcopal Church), but that is not the sole reason for us joining St. Mark's in Glen Ellyn (though I enjoy the irony).

I am a stay-at-home parent and have been doing so since April 2004. Prior to that chapter of my life, I was in the group insurance business, with a focus on the sales, marketing, implementation and management of employee benefit plans for mid to large size for-profit corporations.

I have found St. Mark's to be a warm and inviting place to worship. I am active in the Men's Club, Newcomer's Commission, the Nursery and recently had the opportunity to co-chair the inaugural pumpkin patch.

I'm honored that I was nominated as a candidate to serve on the Vestry.



Ted Figler

My wife, Beth, and I have lived in Glen Ellyn and have been worshipping at St. Mark's for over five years. We have three boys; William, Henry and Charles. I am the IT Director at Duraco, Inc.

Although I was baptized and raised Roman Catholic, I married into an Episcopalian family. My father-in-law is a retired Episcopal minister. I have found that the Episcopal Church is a good fit for me. Once settling in Glen Ellyn, St. Mark's was an easy choice for us. The parishioners are warm and friendly and we felt right at home. I have assisted in the nursery and am currently serving as co-chair of the Giving Committee. We love St. Mark's. I am willing to serve to the best of my abilities to allow our congregation to grow and to nurture our community.



Joyce Fletcher

My family and I began attending St. Mark's in 2000, although we have been Episcopalians since 1981. Since coming to St. Mark's, I have served as a Sub-deacon, Lector, Storyteller for Children's Worship, Women's Retreat committee member, and organizer of the Supper Bowl Shuffle.

I am so encouraged by the energy and enthusiasm that currently exists at St. Mark's. We have a multi-generational congregation that cares about each other as well as the needs of those in the local and global communities.

David and I have been married for 32 years and have one son, Andrew, who is a freshman at College of DuPage. We also share our home with a very large (picture a Shetland pony) golden retriever. I have been a member of the counseling faculty at College of DuPage for over 20 years (full-time since 2000), and I am currently the Coordinator of the Honors Program which serves over 600 students at COD.

During the past eight years at St. Mark's, I have come to feel that I am part of a family. I hope to help newcomers to the parish find ways to become involved and gain that same sense of belonging that I have come to cherish. I hope that together we can be Christ's light in the community of Glen Ellyn and beyond.



Andy Flynn / Youth Representative, Vestry

I have been an Episcopalian since my baptism in 1990 in Asbury Park, New Jersey. I've been a member of St. Mark's for four years and was confirmed in 2005. Here at St. Mark's, I help coordinate the PADS lunch program and am a member of the Senior High Youth Group. I'm a junior at Glenbard West and play on the tennis and chess teams. I am also the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and very involved with West's chapter of Amnesty International. I am both honored and looking forward to being appointed as the youth representative to the vestry for 2008.



Gretchen Kenower

My name is Gretchen Kenower, and I have been a member of St. Mark's since 2000. I am single, the mother of three grown sons, and grandmother to five. I have owned my own business since 1987, a custom drapery workroom to the interior design trade. I also have a degree in journalism and have done newsletters, some advertising, and edited technical monthlies and a book.

I am a cradle Episcopalian, a cursillista, and a 35-year member of the Daughters of the King. I have lived in many places and been in about 14 different parishes in seven dioceses. In all those different locales, I have served as ECW officer, DOK chapter president, Sunday school teacher, choir member, delegate and alternate to diocesan convention, newsletter editor, lay reader, chalice bearer, bazaar co-chair, and on altar flowers guild. I have also baked a lot of cookies!

On a diocesan level, I have served two terms as DOK president in the Diocese of Chicago, been on ECW board for eight years – including executive committee, and been diocesan delegate to DOK national triennials.

At St. Mark's I've served as chalice bearer, lay reader, teller on Monday mornings, on stewardship committee, organizer and part of chapel intercessors, and one of the presenters of the last women's retreat.

I enjoy reading, movies, making liturgical vestments and banners (one was actually carried in procession at Canterbury cathedral!), and traveling.

My hope for St. Mark's is that we can continue to grow spiritually as individuals and a parish, to be a place of healing for ourselves and the community, and to love one another and serve God in our parish, our community, and our diocese. I would be truly privileged to serve you on the vestry.



Martha Pfefferman

I am a lifelong Episcopalian. My family moved to Glen Ellyn and joined St. Mark's in 1970 and I was confirmed here and sang in the Children's Choir. My husband Mark and I met in 7th grade at Glen Crest Jr. High in Glen Ellyn. Fr. Dunnett blessed our marriage and our boys were baptized at St. Mark's.

I spent 17 years in the banking industry before being able to stay home and care for our boys, Matt (7) and Mitch (5). Mark and I have taught Lamb's and Children's Chapel and with our boys we have enjoyed helping at Coffee Hour, the Christmas Pageant, and selling pumpkins!

Mark and I believe that helping our Churches, Community and Schools is a must. We know that many volunteers are needed to accomplish the goals for each. If we don't take responsibility for these things how can we expect others to? I am a member of Glen Ellyn Infant Welfare Society, Glen Ellyn's Civic Betterment Party and co-chair of activities at Park View School.

I've seen St. Mark's go through many stages and changes, losing friends and making new and I feel its forward momentum increasing every day. We have a wonderful opportunity with George, Walter and Katie at the helm to grow our Church community. I believe that St. Mark's parish is strong, caring and willing to take on the challenge.

Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates



Brett Baker

Our family began worshipping at St. Mark's three years ago after moving to Elmhurst. My wife Laurie was raised Catholic and I grew up a Methodist, so the Episcopal Church, and St. Mark's in particular, has been a great common ground that now feels like home for both of us. We have three children: Alex (6), Emily (4) and Meredith (18 months). I run a software company that creates products focused on professional sports. Laurie and I have served as teachers in Lamb's Chapel and I currently am one of the Children's Worship story tellers, leading the Children's Worship on the fourth Sunday of each month. I would be honored to represent St. Mark's at the Diocesan Convention in 2008.



Danna Gross

I have been attending St. Mark's since 2005. During my time here I have become active in the children's ministry and Newcomer's Committee. I am growing with the women's ministries as my family finds their individual homes within the church as well.

Prior to having my third child I worked in the education/internal communications arm of an IT consulting firm. I am the mother of three and, although we live in Glen Ellyn, the wife of a police detective who works in another town. In a short time St. Mark's has touched each of us individually providing peace, comfort and growth to all of my family members. This is a very exciting time for us individually in the church, as it seems to be an exciting time for the Church itself. It would be my pleasure to serve as a Delegate for St. Mark's at the Diocesan Convention.

Warden Candidates



David Funck – Jr. Warden

I am fortunate to be the husband of Jennifer Grant and the father of two wonderful girls, Mia (5) and Isabel (7), and of two terrific boys, Ian (9) and Theo (11). I work in technical management in the software industry. My family and I joined St. Mark's in 1999. We arrived already feeling like a part of St. Mark's because my wife had been active in Mother-to-Mother for a few years and my mother-in-law, Dr. Myrna Grant, was already a parishioner.

I have been a member of the choir for several years and am a storyteller for the Children's Worship program. I recently served as a member of the Search Committee. Jennifer is the editor of the PostMark, directed VBS for the past few years, and this past October was one of the speakers at the women's retreat. Theo and Ian serve as acolytes. All six of us cherish our friendships at St. Mark's.

I consider myself blessed to have found a true church home in St. Mark's. At St. Mark's, I am surrounded by parishioners who seek after God, care for one other and the world, are passionate about worship, and who know how to have fun. And we are all blessed to be led by a rector as committed and capable as George. I am honored to have been asked to stand for the position of Junior Warden. I look forward to serving the parish during this vital time.



Elizabeth Lanzillo – Sr. Warden

I joined St. Mark's in 1994, when we moved to Glen Ellyn. Over the years, I have had a variety of roles within the parish. I have been Junior Warden for the past year and am currently liaison to Bridge Communities. In 2005, I was a member of the Search Committee. I served a term on Vestry (1998-2001) and was delegate to the Diocesan Convention (2002-2004). Previously, I had chaired the Newcomers Committee for several years. I have sung in the choir for 14 years and been active in our programs for women.

Leo and I are the parents of four energetic boys, ages 5 to 13. Before leaving the workforce to focus full-time on raising our family, I spent 10 years as a management consultant in the health care industry, where my work ranged from strategic planning to health care reform to new business development.

St. Mark's has much to offer our community. We have been blessed with tremendous assets in terms of our faithful people, our dedicated staff, our beautiful facility and campus, and our extraordinary rector. We are poised for continued growth, for expansion of our ministries, and for a deepening of relationships within our parish family. I am honored to be called to take on the job of Senior Warden at this exciting time.

Report from the Senior Warden

We decided at the February vestry retreat to continue with a goal set for St. Mark's at the previous year's retreat – Growth: that we would grow relationships within the parish, increase involvement of our members, and make connections with the Glen Ellyn community. Additionally, we began to talk about a mission and identity for St. Mark's that demonstrates we care for the hurts and hopes of the world. Later in the year, we also discussed the need to develop a vision statement. While there is still so much to be done in working toward these goals, we know that as part of the process, being ever mindful of our obvious goals of worship, prayer, and education, we need to continue to be a church community that is welcoming and one that looks past itself.

While working within the confines of the budget, we have attempted to balance meeting the needs of our parish and focusing more attention beyond the limits of our building. We have worked at being responsible stewards – paying our debt; addressing what to do with the rectory; promoting the use of our facility; worshipping in a meaningful way; educating those who come in our doors; opening ourselves to conversations; giving of ourselves; establishing relationships with churches and communities outside of Glen Ellyn and the Chicago diocese like with San Marcos in Nigromante, Mexico and with the McGregors in Madagascar; being present in the community – and you can't be more present than having thousands of big, orange pumpkins piled up in front of the church – with the extra proceeds going to PADS -- or offering pony rides and watching children bounce in a big jumpee in front of the church like we did at the Black Top Bash.

We were able to meet our 2007 budget through generous giving, the Lent Event, and the Art Auction, and we have not needed the Lillian Campbell Trust to fill the gap as much as we had anticipated. We go into 2008 with a budget proposal that reflects anticipation of increased giving from parishioners, increased growth, expanded programs to serve our needs, increased giving outside of our parish, and the addition of a line item to reduce the debt beyond our monthly payments. It is a blessing to even be able to consider this line item in light of where we were a few years ago when we were living month to month hoping to make our building payments. We have enjoyed the relationship with Diamante Montessori, and we appreciate the insight in this arrangement that secured our finances for a number of years. We greatly appreciate the generosity of those families who lived in the rectory these past few years while their own homes were being renovated.

We saw the loss of parishioners, some who passed away and others who moved. We were especially saddened by the departure of the Woodiwiss family and the loss of our Sunday School Superintendent, Mary; however, with George's vision, the support of the vestry, and God's providence, we welcomed Katie Wright as our associate minister. She has assumed the direction of Children and Youth Education in addition to other responsibilities, and with the arrival of Katie and her family, we are once again able to use the rectory for its intended purpose.

Every Sunday, we welcome new people and potential parishioners. We are growing, growing in a way that is meaningful and sincere.

We are blessed and thankful for the ministry, leadership and vision of George and the other clergy who serve St. Mark's: Katie, Walter, Mathew, and Jim, our seminarian. We are thankful for our staff: Dale, Miguel, Charles, Norma, Carlyle, and we so appreciate the recent help of Marsha Webster.

We are thankful for the countless volunteers: office workers, finance committee, mission and outreach, buildings and grounds, newcomers, NOVA and Women to Women, Men's Group, Daughters of the King, pastoral care, children and youth ministries, Adult Ed, Mexico Mission Trip, worship committee, our choirs, our growing number of acolytes and readers and ushers, and of course, our vestry, our clerk, our treasurer, and all those who go unmentioned.

I step down knowing that your very capable wardens, Elizabeth and David, will work with George, our clergy, the vestry, and all of us at St. Mark's to continue the good work we are doing.

In closing, I ask each of you to consider how you can be more involved at St. Mark's as we discern what God is asking of us, individually and collectively, in order to serve Him, each other, our community, our diocese, and our world in addition to how we will respond to the needs and hurts and hopes that we find in each of these places. I anticipate joy as we discover ourselves and each other as we move forward on the tasks God asks us to undertake.

God's blessings upon all of you,

Kim Reed

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OPERATING BUDGETS

ACCOUNTS	2007 BUDGET	2007 ACTUAL	2008 BUDGET
Contributions			
Current Year			
Pledge Payments	\$ 420,000	\$ 417,386	\$ 445,000
Open Plate	\$ 40,000	\$ 85,895	\$ 65,000
Special Collections	\$ 9,000	\$ 18,808	\$ 12,000
Campbell Trust	\$ 50,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 50,000
Misc. Offerings		\$ 2,686	
Prior Year Pledge Payments		\$ 3,928	\$ 3,000
Total Contributions	\$ 519,000	\$ 548,703	\$ 575,000
Other Income			
Usage Fee Income	\$ 8,600	\$ 16,528	\$ 5,000
Montessori Rent	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,338	\$ 35,750
PDO Reimbursement	\$ 20,205	\$ 20,977	\$ 28,000
Misc. Income	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,844	\$ 4,000
Interest income		\$ 1,505	\$ 2,000
Total Other Income	\$ 65,805	\$ 80,192	\$ 74,750
Total Income	\$ 584,805	\$ 628,895	\$ 649,750
Expenses			
Payroll			
Salaries	\$ 152,641	\$ 161,800	\$ 166,983
Payroll Tax	\$ 19,948	\$ 15,676	\$ 13,625
Pension	\$ 19,542	\$ 19,636	\$ 29,409
Housing	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000
Benefits	\$ 41,497	\$ 41,776	\$ 45,924
Expenses	\$ 2,400	\$ 4,741	\$ 3,600
Continuing Education		\$ -	\$ 1,500
Total Payroll	\$ 259,028	\$ 266,629	\$ 284,041
Parish Life			
Adult Education	\$ 1,000	\$ 713	\$ 1,200
Fellowship	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,406	\$ 4,000
Woman to Woman	\$ 500	\$ 264	\$ 1,500
Communications			\$ 500
Worship Supplies	\$ 2,200	\$ 3,328	\$ 2,500
Newcomers Ministry		\$ 324	\$ 2,110
Pastoral Care			\$ 250
Misc. Our Church	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,037	\$ 2,000
Total Parish Life	\$ 8,700	\$ 12,072	\$ 14,060
Music			
Program	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,700	\$ 4,000
Total Music	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,700	\$ 4,000
Administration			
Office Supplies	\$ 5,500	\$ 7,003	\$ 6,000
Accounting Services	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,638	\$ 5,500
Office Equipment	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,117	\$ 4,000
Printing Costs	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,423	\$ 4,000
Total Administration	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,181	\$ 19,500

Buildings and Grounds			
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 15,000	\$ 26,124	\$ 18,000
Security Monitor	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,207	\$ 1,500
Telephone	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,049	\$ 5,000
Utilities	\$ 43,200	\$ 26,995	\$ 38,750
Fire and Liability Insurance	\$ 34,800	\$ 31,015	\$ 37,000
Montessori Support	\$ 3,600	\$ 4,230	\$ 6,000
Mtge Interest Expense	\$ 129,534	\$ 130,507	\$ 129,000
Mtge Amortization	\$ 46,712	\$ 47,260	\$ 47,000
Debt reduction goal			\$ 10,000
Total Buildings and Grounds	\$ 279,346	\$ 272,387	\$ 292,250
Our Children			
Youth Ministry Program	\$ 3,000	\$ 624	\$ 3,000
Christian Education Program	\$ 5,600	\$ 4,828	\$ 4,100
PDO Expenses	\$ 20,205	\$ 22,955	\$ 28,000
Total Our Children	\$ 28,805	\$ 28,407	\$ 35,100
Mission and Outreach			
Other Agency Support	\$ 3,600	\$ 7,219	\$ 4,000
Diocesan Support	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 31,500
Total Mission and Outreach	\$ 33,600	\$ 37,219	\$ 35,500
Rectory			
Rectory Mortgage Interest	\$ 8,860	\$ 8,085	\$ 7,460
Rectory Mortgage Amortization	\$ 7,600	\$ 7,633	\$ 9,000
Utilities Rectory	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,851	
Rectory Maintenance	\$ 5,000	\$ 14,976	\$ 5,000
Total Rectory	\$ 26,460	\$ 34,545	\$ 21,460
Other Expenses			
Supply Priest/Substitute organist	****		
Search Expenses			
Interim Rector Expenses			
Rector Moving Expense			
Total Other Expenses	\$ -		
Total Expenses	\$ 657,939	\$ 672,139	\$ 705,911

Total Income			
Current year income	\$ 584,805	\$ 628,895	\$ 649,750
Transfers from investment accounts		\$ 59,000	
Expected transfer in 2008			\$ 56,161
Net total	\$ (73,134)	\$ 15,756	\$ -

NOTES

**** This item was moved to Salaries line.

KEY BALANCES

12/31/2006

12/31/2007

TOTAL CASH AND OTHER INVESTME \$ 462,444

\$ 739,722

LONG TERM DEBT

Line of Credit \$ 76,832

\$ -

Building Mortgage \$ 2,480,134

\$ 2,412,873

Rectory Mortgage \$ 155,491

\$ 147,312

ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH				
2007 Summary of Restricted Accounts				
		BEGINNING	INCOME	ENDING
		BALANCE	&	BALANCE
MEMORIAL FUNDS		1-Jan-07	DISBURSMENTS	31-Dec-07
John Hess Memorial	8120.06	\$145.36		\$145.36
Ida Hanson	8120.07	\$2,184.80		\$2,184.80
Bruce Mahon	8120.19	\$1,105.00		\$1,105.00
Jean Lattan Memorial	8120.26	\$635.00		\$635.00
Marjorie Truesdale	8120.27	\$250.00		\$250.00
Budzicz Memorial	8120.28	\$310.00		\$310.00
Emily Reed	8120.29	\$355.00		\$355.00
Philip Carter	8120.31	\$3,595.00		\$3,595.00
Jessica Jones	8120.32	\$50.00		\$50.00
StanleyTursman	8120.33	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Lillian Campbell	8120.34	\$545.00		\$545.00
Joe & Bernice Lewis	8120.35	\$1,885.00		\$1,885.00
Rachel Dinse	8120.42	\$1,185.00		\$1,185.00
Marion Hoffman	8120.39	\$125.00		\$125.00
Meryl Wiggin	8120.41	\$135.00		\$135.00
TOTAL		\$14,005.16	\$0.00	\$14,005.16
Lewis Trust Fund	9101. 10	\$245,334.15	\$12,932.24	\$258,266.39
Lillian Campbell	8440. 15	\$308,532.24	(\$11,039.46)	\$297,492.78
Pelham Fund	8430. 10	\$16,004.46	(\$850.73)	\$15,153.73
Thanksgiving Fund	8440. 10	\$474.14	\$3,328.39	\$3,802.53
TOTAL		\$584,350.15	\$4,370.44	\$588,720.59
Memorial Fund Cash Balance 12/31/07				\$5,007.24
Memorial Fund CD matures 1/3/2008				\$53,013.32

2008 Giving Campaign

As of Jan. 9, 2008 we have received commitments totaling \$457,691 towards the goal of \$464,000 for the 2008 Budget. We have 151 total pledging families. I'm delighted to report that 16 of the pledges received are from new families. We greatly appreciate all the parishioners that support St. Mark's.

For their extraordinary efforts, I would like to thank the Giving Campaign Committee co-chair couples, Paul and Cindy Flynn & Ted and Beth Figler. I'd also like to thank George for giving the committee his undivided attention and energy throughout the campaign. And lastly, a special thank you to Dale Byrnes and all the office volunteers for their efforts in supporting the needs of the committee.

Jim Jenkins, Vestry Liaison - Stewardship/Giving

Children and Youth Formation

*I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:16-19*

Since joining the St. Mark's community in July, I have seen many examples of the love of Christ. You are a people who claim the power of Christ, and are rooted and grounded in love. It is an honor and privilege to join with you in ministry at this time and in this place. I know that it is a common goal to increase the knowledge of the love of God and of God's will for us as we minister to and with the children and youth here with us.

Youth Activities

We continue to utilize the Youth Leaders Group to plan and execute the activities for the youth in the congregation. Monthly meetings help to accomplish this goal. A group again went to Nigromante, Mexico this summer. While there the relationships between our communities were strengthened and playground equipment was purchased and constructed. July 20th saw a Lock/Read-in with a Harry Potter theme- the final book was released that day. This was in partnership with and to benefit St. Gregory's School. In September it was a movie night for the Senior High. In October the Eighth grade had a retreat, planned and executed a Halloween party to benefit UNICEF. In addition, many of the youth and children participated in the Pumpkin Patch to benefit PADS. The Senior High returned to Promiseland Paintball in November, and a good number of youth participated in Sleep Out Saturday to raise funds for Bridge Communities and awareness of homelessness in our community. An ongoing project is the making of PADS lunches one Sunday a month throughout the year.

Advent/Christmas

On December 3rd, the St. Nicholas Parish Lunch & Gift Collection provided both fellowship and an opportunity to share with others in our local community. Over one hundred parishioners enjoyed a lunch provided in Mahon Hall, and donations and gifts were made to People's Resource Center's "Share the Spirit" program. Danna Gross coordinated the event, with assistance from many others. David Fletcher made possible the special appearance by "St. Nicholas."

Other highlights of the past month include: Advent wreath making (grateful thanks to Reeny Linstrom for providing materials and instruction), Advent Bedtime Stories (in the church library on Thursday nights, with warm drinks & snacks), and the Christmas Pageant, which was held on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year. It

was directed by Katie Wright, Janice Campagna, Martha Idler, & Martha Pfefferman. Penny Taback provided costumes and costume assistance. Tricia Benich directed the young musicians and Bruce Benson accompanied on the piano.

Nursery

Our nursery is staffed each Sunday by Norma Cid and parish volunteers. Care is provided during the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services and the 9:15 Education Hour for children ages 6 months through 3 years. Volunteers include: Sarah Adler, Mimi Black, Joe Campagna, Jen Chavez, Liza Diamond, Jennifer Dorn, Melissa Hardy, Beth Figler, Sheila Fischl, Jamie & Zach Littlefield, Marylu Olsen.

Lamb's Chapel

Lamb's Chapel is available for children ages 3~4 during the 10:30 service. Led by rotating pairs of volunteer teachers, children participate in a Bible story lesson, related songs and activities, and guided play. Children may stay in Lamb's Chapel through the service, or be picked up by a parent to join in the Eucharist in the Sanctuary. This worship experience serves as an appropriate transition from the Nursery to Children's Worship, Sunday School, and participation in worship in the Sanctuary. Lamb's Chapel leaders for this year were: Lisa & Steve Baker, Rebecca Boskovic, Nikki & Pat Fry, Kristen Novak, Penny & Scott Taback, Liz & Javier Valdivia, and Phoebe & Kenny Wilson.

Children's Worship

During the 10:30 service, children from age 4 through 1st grade may take part in Children's Worship. This year's curriculum is *Young Children and Worship*. Stories from the Old and New Testaments, in the context of the Church year, are told using handcrafted figures and structures. Most of the woodworking for this exceptional program is the gift of Michael Benich.

Children have an opportunity to sing, pray, draw, listen, and respond to God's Word in a worshipful setting. Trained parish volunteers, known as Storytellers and Greeters, guide them. Children are brought to the sanctuary to join their families for the Eucharist. They receive a copy of a hand drawn bookmark to illustrate and reinforce the week's lesson.

Those serving as Storytellers were: Brett Baker, Joyce Fletcher, David Funck, and Paul Sexauer. Greeters are: Laurie Baker, Pat Fry, Jen Grant, Danna Gross, Doug Page, Leo Lanzillo, Paul Sexauer, Greg & Karen Halverson Scheck and Phoebe & Kenny Wilson.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School program year began September 9th. We are in our second year of utilizing the "All Things New" curriculum for grades K-5th. Second grade contains special instruction on the Eucharist and the preschool class is using "*Hands On*" Bible materials. "Sing-Out" has been changed from a monthly time to be a gathering from 9:15 -9:30 a.m. to sing together, with the children then going to their Sunday School classes. It continues to be led by Trey & Adrian Buchanan. Our wonderful teachers for the first part of this year have been: Preschool teacher- Jimmy Wright, Kinder/1st- Amy Schilling, 2nd- Kathleen Leid, 3rd- Beth Figler & Tracey Kreiling, 4th-Leo Lanzillo and Paul Sexauer, 5th- Lesley Arlasky & John Glavin, 6th & 7th-Susan Mariottini, Paul Flynn & Kim Reed, 8th (Confirmation)- Jim Hamilton, Reeny Linstrom & Katie Wright, High School- Andrew Dorn, Jeff Linstrom, & Paula Zwiebel.

the Rev. Catherine Wright

Adult Education

One of the great blessings we enjoy at St. Mark's is a rich diversity of parishioners who are also scholars and artists in their own vocations. We offered parishioners a choice of two "tracks." In track one we learned from twelve of our parishioners who led discussions on topics as varied as "Faith and the Arts," "Conflict and Resolution," "World Religions," and "Twentieth Century Martyrs." In addition we welcomed guest speakers from our community who led discussions on areas of their own expertise: Diane Tieman on "Labyrinths and the Soul," Author David Goetz on his book, 'Death By Suburb,' Dr. Roy Oksnevad on Islam, Dr. Edith Blumhofer on Protestantism, Dr. Bradley Nassif on Orthodoxy, Dr. David Lauber on the life and death of Archbishop Romero. We also enjoyed discussions by Fr. George. In track two, a Bible study class, Fr. George, Fr. Walter, and our seminarian, Jim Hamilton, led studies on the Gospel of Luke, The Book of Acts, Old Testament Overview, and the Pastoral Epistles. Adult Ed also enjoys the fellowship of the "coffee hours" (really twenty minutes) where coffee and snacks are faithfully laid out before class by Julie Carson.

Myrna Grant
Chair
Adult Education Commission

Vacation Bible School

St. Mark's held VBS this year from July 30-August 3. Many churches hold their VBS programs early in the summer. By having VBS at St. Mark's in August, we have been able to welcome kids in those "dog days" of summer when they may not be in other camps or programs. We had the expected 60 or so kids registered for the week but then, on Monday the 30th, were surprised by a large number of "walk-ins." Our VBS sign on the lawn (thank you Laurie Vanderlei) and web presence (thank you Bob Cardwell) brought many children from outside our parish. The total number of kids for the week was in the high 80s. George and Katie greeted parents of non-St. Mark's children, and we distributed "Welcome to St. Mark's" brochures to visiting families. All week, the children brought in donations for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Thank you Adrian Buchanan for delivering the donations. Many parishioners (too many to name!) – from middle-schoolers to seniors – volunteered their time as station leaders (special thanks to Adrian Buchanan, Trey Buchanan, Marie Sutherland, Miguel Briones, Phoebe Wilson, and Cecilia Smith), shepherds, and assistants. Trey's Wild West band with Douglas Buchanan, Ian Grant-Funck, Isabel Grant-Funck, Geo "Tick Tock" Smith, and Magdalena Schreck was fabulous! Once again, the intergenerational aspect of our volunteers helped to forge new friendships among parishioners, young and old (and in-between!).

Jen Grant

Blythe

Blythe is a fellowship for middle school girls that meets during the school year, every other Wednesday, September through May. In the 2006-2007 school year we had 7-10 girls and in the 2007-2008 school year the group has increased in size to an average of 10 -13 girls at each meeting. Meetings are an hour and a half and begin with a fun activity, usually a craft, and then after a snack we finish up our time together with Bible study. Last year we read and discussed some of the shorter epistles in the New Testament, including Colossians, James and 1st John. This year we are making our way through The Gospel of Luke. The girls have also participated in mission activities that help raise funds for St. Mark's Lent Event and the PADS Pumpkin Patch, in addition to making Christmas cards for shut-in or elderly parishioners and collecting food for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Blythe is organized and run by Tricia Benich who is happy to share her leadership with any other parishioner that feels called to this ministry, i.e., any person that has the gift of crafts or fun activities for 11-14 year old girls. Joan Eorgoff has been a welcome guest artist twice in the past year, and we are looking forward to her pre-Valentine's Day visit. We are also most thankful for Miguel Briones' positive attitude towards Blythe despite the sometimes messy state of Lehman Parlor after our meetings. Clean-up is a perpetual challenge for Mrs. Benich who wishes the girls goodwill and return attendance.

Tricia Benich

Seminarian's Report

Lectio Divina

Initiated as an attempt to create a fledgling program for college aged parishioners, Lectio Divina was met with a lack of interest. Though the small group that met formed a tight bond, it proved to not generate growth. I researched programs at other churches in the area and surveyed our congregants to ascertain the type of program that might generate the most interest.

It seemed that the highest level of interest was in integrated programming. College students were not looking for opportunities to mingle with people from their demographic; they wanted to be integrated into the life of the church. To meet this need I implemented an Evensong service that was open as a general program to the whole church. The plan was to have an unabashedly Anglican service, traditional worship being of high interest to the students, accompanied by a free meal on Sunday night, a night that there was no planned food service at their colleges.

Evensong

The Evensong services began in the fall with the new school year. We are currently holding them on the first Sunday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Attendance has shown steady growth and represents a good cross-section of the congregation. College-aged attendance has been better than the Lectio Divina group, though it is no longer merely targeted at that group. In an effort to broaden interest further, there has been a concerted effort to boost advertising for the service, signs, emails and announcement. The result is evident. Also, leadership of the service and the hospitality is rotated among parishioners and clergy to keep the program fresh and encourage optimal participation.

Confirmation and Adult Education

I have been working with Katie Wright and George Smith to re-imagine the St. Mark's confirmation training. Also, I have been offering my time to Adult Education classes in order to bring some of the work I have been doing at Seminary to the parish.

Jim Hamilton

Music

Our Trebles participated once again in the festival held at St. James' Cathedral in February with a guest conductor. Of course, the fun part for them is visiting the food court on the top floor across from the Diocesan Center.

Lent and Easter followed, including all the moving services in Holy Week and the added festivity of brass on Easter day.

After a brief summer vacation the adults returned to the beauty of Green Lake, Wisconsin, for another refreshing and fun-filled retreat hosted by Ginnie, Gerrit, Quincy, Bob and June. We are so grateful to all of them for their generosity in offering us their home for the weekend. And, we were especially honored and thrilled to be visited by a local celebrity weatherman, Andrew Dorn.

Our recital series began in October with a program given by Bruce Neswick from St. Phillip's Cathedral in Atlanta. If you were there to hear him I'm sure you clearly remember what a fabulous performer he is, especially with his closing hymn and improvisation.

At the beginning of November our usual All Saints' Evensong was replaced with an even more wonderful celebration, that of the ordination of Katie Wright to the diaconate. It was a privilege to be a part of that celebration on such an important day in Katie's ministry. Congratulations to her!

This year's service of Lessons & Carols once again included the Madrigal Singers from Glenbard East High School. They joined with the Adult and Treble Choirs to present a varied selection of carols for the service. In addition, we raised \$1000 in contributions which we sent to Canon Andrew White's work and organization in Iraq. They will use the funds to help build a much needed clinic, and Andrew sends his thanks to the parish for this gift.

As many of you know, because of a fall I had on December 16 I developed a problem with my right leg which, several days later, persuaded me to report to the emergency room at CDH. There were several issues that needed to be addressed, and they wound up keeping me for 10 days. I'd like to think it was because of my personality, but I think the reasons were medical.

How can I possibly say what needs to be said now? So many people have said, "What a shame you had to be in the hospital for Christmas." Being in the hospital for Christmas wasn't the hard part. The hard part was not being here, where I should have been. I watched the clock on my wall on Christmas Eve and thought about what was going on in the nave as each minute passed. Yet even in the bleak midwinter, and in the miles that separated me from this place, no amount of cold or distance could possibly prevent me from feeling the warmth of prayers and support that flowed from this parish. The people who visited me, and especially those members of the choir who took on a mothering role whether I wanted them to or not, made the entire experience more tolerable. I am so grateful to all of you for your encouragement. What pleases me most is that the next day I heard everything had gone very well, and I knew the Synergy brass players were going to blow you all away. Christ's birth being truly and joyfully celebrated was the most important thing that mattered.

Lastly, I want to thank Marsha Webster. Marsha came to us in the fall after serving for many years as organist at First Methodist Church in Glen Ellyn. She decided she wanted to return to her Episcopal roots, and we were lucky enough to get her. She has, for me, become the clearest example of an answer to an unasked prayer that I can imagine. Her willingness to fill in at the last moment, and especially for Christmas Eve, was done so with cheerfulness, generosity, grace, and exceptional competence. I have asked Marsha to be a part of our staff, and as of January 2008 she has been named Music Associate. If you haven't already done so, please welcome her and thank her for all her hard work.

Charles Snider

Usher Ministry

The usher group met with Father George in October to refresh our memories on some important aspects of this ministry. We also were trained in some new procedures.

We have several new members to this group this year and are thankful for that. They serve with “seasoned” ushers until comfortable.

Paula Zwiebel

Lay Readers

Lay Readers (sometimes called Lectors) read lessons and prayers at all regularly scheduled Sunday services and also at special mid-week services like Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Readers are committed to conveying to the congregation the wonderful words of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer as meaningfully as possible. Readers attend workshops to learn how to do this and how to fit smoothly into the services they are part of. There’s always something new to learn! This church year (starting Advent I, December 2, 2007) St. Marks has switched from reading lessons assigned in the Book of Common Prayer Lectionary to lessons assigned in the Revised Common Lectionary, so you will be hearing some less-familiar lessons in the coming months.

At this time we are blessed with a large number of readers, including several younger members of the congregation, but we are always willing to hear from other interested persons. The current readers are: Tony Adkins, Sandy and Rinda Allison, Lisa and Steve Baker, Phoebe Benich, Bruce Benson, Janice Campagna, Tanya Carey, Bob Cardwell, Dan Conaway, Eric Dinse, Joan Eorgoff, Joyce and David Fletcher, David Funck, Myrna Grant, Sawyer and Jeff Hill, Johann Hille, Dianne Hunter, Gretchen Kenower, Sue Knudson, Joseph Lanzillo, Katherine Lawrence, Zach Littlefield, Fiona Miller, Nancy Schmitt, Bonnie Schwanz, Martha Sexauer, Frances, Lydia, and Cecelia Smith, Don Sutherland, Ken Wilson, Lynn Wollstadt, Luke Wright, and Jane Zaccaria. Let them know how much you appreciate their work.

Rinda Allison

Daughters of the King

St. Anne’s Chapter

The Daughters of the King is an international order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate. Members are committed to fulfilling their Baptism Covenant through prayer, service and evangelism. St. Anne’s Chapter meets on the third Monday of every month except for July and December. Members of the St. Anne’s chapter are most visible as they serve the parish by preparing the altar for all worship services. Other ongoing services to the parish include decorating the church for Christmas and Easter, providing receptions for funerals, and serving as liaisons to wedding parties for all weddings held at the church. We are in the process of training a new group of members, and still have room for additional participants. All women of the parish are welcome to attend our meetings. For more information contact May Anstee.

May Anstee

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

This is a ministry that brings the Holy Eucharist to those who are homebound, hospitalized or in a nursing home. This brings them the comfort of being a part of the St. Mark's family though unable to attend services. This ministry is mutually beneficial as both participants feel the Lord's love from sharing the Eucharist. Please contact Father George if this is something you feel called upon to do.

Dianne Dinse

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee consists of Kathleen Leid, Adrian Buchanan (Vestry liaison), Tricia Benich, Liz Valdivia, Jackie Tack, Jan Novak, and Dianne Dinse, plus the pastoral staff. The committee meets quarterly to discuss issues pertaining to pastoral care.

During the past year, the committee has concentrated on streamlining communications between clergy and appropriate responders. Toward that end, Fr. Smith has begun issuing a Pastoral Alert E-mail system, which informs appropriate parties of pastoral issues that need further action. These issues include illness, death, and other transitions (such as birth or moving). The appropriate responders may move forward to meet the needs of these parishioners by organizing meals, prayer and other forms of support.

The committee has instituted a flower ministry. Anyone undergoing difficulty or celebrations may be given a bouquet crafted from the altar flowers along with a note of support. These deliveries are coordinated with the pastoral staff and carried out by Dianne Dinse.

The committee also delivers poinsettias at Christmas to shut ins in our congregation. These plants are accompanied by charming cards hand made by the girls in the Blythe Middle School Fellowship. The response to these deliveries has been very positive. This year, we delivered 20 poinsettias and cards.

The Meals ministry is coordinated by Liz Valdivia and provides meals to those families experiencing transitions, whether difficult or joyful. This ministry is a wonderful way of expressing Christ's love in a tangible way. About 30 volunteers participate in the meals ministry.

The Prayer Chain is coordinated by Lois Baker and consists of 7 members who are notified of needs in the congregation so they can pray for them throughout the week.

The Prayer Group is coordinated by Jackie Tack and Jan Novak and has 5 members who meet once a week on Tuesdays at 4:00 to pray through the parish prayer list.

The Chapel Intercessors are coordinated by Gretchen Kenower, Katherine Lawrence and Catherine Phillips. The Chapel Intercessors are available in the chapel during communion for private prayer.

The Pastoral Care Committee strives to embody its statement of purpose: "The Pastoral Care Committee exists to nurture and reflect the love and care of Christ in our congregation by providing support and presence to those in the parish, including (but not limited to) those experiencing difficulty, loss or transition."

Adrian Buchanan

Meals Ministry

During 2007 parishioners provided meals for families with new babies, those recovering from surgery or illness and moving to new homes. The meals ministry has 30 active volunteers. Thanks to all who have participated during the past year. Your help and home cooking were much appreciated. Please contact Liz Valdivia if you would like to be added to the meals ministry list or if you have suggestions for 2008.

Liz Valdivia

Chapel Intercessors

While St. Mark's has a healing litany at the second service once monthly, there are intercessors in the chapel every Sunday during the second service. This dedicated group of people is available to offer individual prayer for any concern, need, or thanksgiving.

During this last year the Woodiwiss family moved, and we lost Ashley and Mary as two reliable volunteers. We have been so fortunate, however, to add Catherine Phillips and Jim Hamilton as intercessors, along with May Anstee, Katherine Lawrence, Barbara Newsom, Kim Reed, and myself.

We pray in a team of two, as a protection for both the person seeking prayer and the intercessors. Of course, all requests are treated with confidentiality and respect. If you are interested in becoming part of this pastoral ministry, please contact me at 630-690-5362.

Gretchen Kenower

Church Tellers

Thank you, May Anstee, Doug Armantrout, Bob Cardwell, Verlin Deutscher, Bob Judd, Gretchen Kenower, Bill Mark, and Dick Mylander for your promptness, accurate counting, and listing of the church offerings each week during 2007.

We are looking forward to your continued help and assistance in 2008.

Dave McCarraher

Mission and Outreach

The Mission and Outreach committee began 2007 with a project for PADS. We collected, washed, and returned 70 blankets to the Glen Ellyn PADS site.

Dan Conaway once again submitted our application to the John W. Squire Fund and secured a \$2500 grant which Mission and Outreach donated to our youth for their trip to S.E. Mexico.

During Lent, Elizabeth Lewis organized our United Thank Offering collection. We had our most successful drive ever. The Episcopal Church uses these funds to support local, national and international ministries.

In May, St. Mark's was the site of a luncheon that was part of the Bridge Communities spring Garden Walk. Elizabeth Lanzillo and her group of able volunteers helped make this a very successful event. Bridge Communities was very appreciative of our effort and plans to repeat this event this year. In the fall Leo Lanzillo ran Sleep Out Saturday also for the benefit of Bridge Communities.

St. Mark's support for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry remains strong; we continue to support the pantry with funds, food collections and volunteers.

During the year we had two visits from the McGregors, we have supported their missionary efforts for a number of years; we also support Cannon Andrew White in Iraq. Monetary gifts were provided to both missionaries.

In the fall our very successful Pumpkin Sale benefited both PADS and the Navajo Nation with a very generous amount of money.

The Peoples Resource Center received a cash gift from the M&O reserve fund, and Martha Sexauer organized a luncheon at Danada House that was supported by members of St. Mark's attending and providing items for the bake sale.

St. Gregory School choir sang at St. Mark's twice during the year and received a cash gift. The school educates 75 at-risk boys from the Chicago area.

We wrapped up the year with our Cathedral Shelter Christmas Basket collection. Ginnie Judd organized this collection. We have done this project for many years, and this year we provided the most baskets ever.

In all this was a good year for St. Mark's outreach. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and supported so many great causes. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

For Mission and Outreach
Ann Cardwell

Communications Group

Communication encompasses St. Mark's Website, Email, Print, Media, Bulletin Boards and Creative Visual efforts. All of these efforts, especially at a thriving, growing parish, are not possible without the hard work and dedication of the people behind the scenes – many thanks for their collective efforts in communicating what's going on at St. Mark's to those within the parish and to the communities we serve.

www.stmarksglenellyn.org – Many thanks to Bob Cardwell as he continues as St. Mark's webmaster. Bob has a tremendous appreciation for what goes on at St. Mark's and cares about communicating this carefully via the website. Bob not only makes time to participate in various functions, but diligently collects parish information and looks for ways to communicate what happens at St. Mark's on the web. Coming soon will be further enhancements to St. Mark's look on the web. Any suggestions or contributions to the website can be emailed to: r.cardwell@sbcglobal.net.

The PostMark – Jen Grant continues to do a tremendous job in producing the PostMark monthly newsletter. Jen works hard to keep tabs on upcoming events at St. Mark's and does so with an informative and creative monthly newsletter. The PostMark is also now emailed to parishioners via Constant Contact emails (details below). Any suggestions or contributions to the newsletter can be emailed to: jen@grantfunck.net.

Media Relations – Jamie Littlefield continues as St. Mark's media liaison. Jamie's journalism background and media contacts were definitely needed in communicating a very busy year at St. Mark's to the local press, events which included our very successful Art Auction in March 2007, Pumpkin Patch for P.A.D.S. in November and communication of our Christmas Basket efforts this past Christmas. Many thanks for your hard work in publicizing what's going on at St. Mark's. Also, thank you to those of you who took time to place ads for St. Mark's in various publications – your efforts are definitely appreciated and helped to communicate our efforts at St. Mark's. Any suggestions or contributions can be emailed to: jamie1005@aol.com.

Church Bulletin/Parish Emails/Mailings – Ginnie Judd does a tremendous job in producing our weekly church bulletins that you see in our Sunday Church programs and also via email. Ginnie and the office staff also create parish emails that go out via Constant Contact, a service the Church uses to maintain a complete list of parish contacts, which as of December 07 was at 307! There is also the St. Mark's Yahoo email group, a more informal email network that is for any parishioners interested in receiving or being able to make announcements about parish events and needs. If you would like to be added to either the Constant Contact or St. Mark's Yahoo email groups, please email the parish office at: frontdesk@stmarksglenellyn.org.

We thank all those who give up their Friday mornings in order to assemble our worship bulletins and the monthly PostMark newsletter. A special thank you to both Audrey Halbeck and Marie Sutherland for agreeing to 'interpret the office staff's cryptic notes' and for dependably guiding the Friday Morning Folding Group.

Bulletin Boards – Dale Byrnes and the office staff do a tremendous job in organizing and maintaining St. Mark's bulletin boards and signage in our parish. Many, many thanks for their efforts in getting information out and keeping content updated. The office staff does a Friday "walkthrough" where they will put up new bulletin board materials and remove old notices. Submissions can be turned into the office; please specify which bulletin board you would like, when you want the notice removed, what color paper you need and contact information. Email any questions to: frontdesk@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Creative Visuals – this was a banner year for St. Mark's. Literally, there was not an event for which we did not produce a banner and display outside for those passing by St. Mark's. Whether it was for the Art Auction, Blacktop Bash, Lessons and Carols, Pumpkin Patch, Christmas season, these banners creatively gave people a heads up on what's going on at St. Mark's. For assistance in creating a banner, email: jvaldi01@comcast.net.

Javier Valdivia

Newcomers Commission

In 2007, St. Mark's started an independent commission to welcome guests and newcomers.

The Newcomers Commission has started reaching-out to guests by visiting their homes and delivering a baked-good and information about St. Mark's. This lets guests know that we noticed and appreciated their visit, provides an opportunity for us to answer any questions they might have, and introduces them to a parishioner so that they know a person the next time they come to St. Mark's. We have hosted two events to welcome our newcomers and introduce them to more parishioners and newcomers.

Since September of this year there has been a person at the front door to greet you on the first Sunday of each month. This has been related to our Name Tag Sundays. On the first Sunday of each month Greeters encourage everyone to wear nametags to the services. This both helps newcomers to see who St. Mark's parishioners are and allows current parishioners to learn the names of those they don't know. Going forward we will have Greeters at the door every Sunday. This helps all of us get to know each other better and helps us to welcome guests, who receive a goody-bag of information and a guide within the building should they need one.

Finally, we have worked on small but important other projects and programs including: creating new pew cards, rearranging the Narthex in an effort to create a more welcoming place, and a program of greeting guests and each other at the end of each service.

The Newcomers Commission is still forming its practices and welcomes any counsel and help in its outreach to those interested in making St. Mark's their home.

Sarah G. Adler

Parish Life

The Parish Life Mission Statement is to coordinate, plan and orchestrate activities and events that foster community at St. Mark's.

Examples include coffee hour, receptions and special events.

Accomplishments for 2007 include coordinating the following events:

- * March - Art Auction raised over \$10,000
- * May - Ice Cream Social
- * June - Church Picnic at Churchill Woods Park
- * October - Blacktop Bash and Pet Blessing
- * December - The St. Nicholas Lunch
- * Weekly coffee hour coordination after the 10:30 Sunday service.
- * Provided food services for other receptions and baptisms.

Jill Bednas

Men's Group

Men's group had a terrific year. We certainly accomplished our top goal, which was to build fellowship and camaraderie among the men of the church. The group grew in numbers and in activity throughout the year. We met as frequently as twice a month for coffee and prayer; and we also held several "offsite" social activities and "onsite" work projects. Most importantly, we gained the participation of quite a few new participants -- some new to the group, and some new to St. Mark's. We look forward to continuing all of these trends in the new year.

Kenny Wilson

Women to Women

W2W has three goals it seeks to accomplish: 1) to connect the women of St. Mark's together, 2) to welcome newcomers to the parish and 3) to strengthen the experience of community among us. Some of the ways we accomplish these goals is through monthly salad suppers, weekly daytime meetings and an annual weekend retreat. W2W also provides welcome baskets to new babies born into our parish family. We also sent 14 care packages to college students in our parish.

This year we had 8 salad suppers, an Advent brunch and our annual ornament exchange. An ensemble from the Glen Ellyn Children's chorus, Carpe Diem sang at the May Salad Supper and the St. Gregory's choir sang at the Advent Brunch. About forty-five women, including several newer parish members, attended the annual Ornament exchange hosted by Elizabeth Lewis.

Our weekday meeting schedule changed in September. W2W now meets one Wednesday morning a month and NOVA meets two Wednesday mornings a month. NOVA provides an excellent opportunity for those "nurturing our very active" to establish supportive relationships and explore issues in common. Childcare is provided during these meetings.

For this year's retreat we returned to DeKoven. Four women in the parish described how creativity and God's presence are experienced in their lives. These women then helped us explore four creative expressions: flower arranging, yoga, journal writing and drawing.

Women to Women is an evolving, loosely structured group that is always seeking ways to strengthen our community. Participation and input is always welcome.

Kathleen Leid

NOVA

NOVA- Nurturers of the Very Active is a fellowship for parents with young children. NOVA's topics will relate to parenting, self-care, spirituality, and generally setting a course for your family and keeping the ship afloat in this fast-paced world. Our format varied each meeting including discussion, study, activity, project, or an occasional outing with kids. Some of our discussions this Fall were a Children's Book Review, the \$100 Christmas, Spirituality and Yoga in your daily living, a Mommy pampering outing for manicures and pedicures to name a few. We provide free childcare to insure all can join. We are moving the time up for 2008 to 9:30 a.m. every other Wednesday. Please contact Penny Taback with any questions or thoughts.

Penny Taback

Parents' Day Out

Parents' Day Out ("PDO") is a ministry of St. Mark's to provide once-a-week day care for children of the community between the ages of 2 and 4. In September of 2007 the program expanded to three days a week in its current format. The program is operating at capacity with substitute lists on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The program includes fine and large motor skill activities, arts and crafts, songs and stories, as well as lots of fun play time.

PDO boasts some interesting enrollment statistics. Most children enrolled this year attended PDO last year, although many changed the day of their attendance. The children who did not return either aged out of the program or moved. Additionally, many "new" enrollees are actually members of returning families who had children in the program years ago, and now have infants old enough to attend. Therefore, PDO has a committed following in our community.

This year the PDO Board added several activities to connect more with our enrollees and their families. "Coffee and Bagel mornings" were offered three times during the year for the mothers dropping off children, on: the first day of the session, the Christmas party day, and Mother's Day/last day of the session. George Smith also received rave reviews for distributing puppets (thanks to Jen Grant) with information about St. Mark's programs to the children after their first day this fall.

In administrative matters, PDO's account was moved to Community Bank where St. Mark's maintains its accounts. All of the PDO staff have received "Keeping God's People Safe" training. Further, PDO maintains an excellent relationship with the Montessori group at St. Mark's, and shares activity space with them.

PDO continues to cover its operating cost and provide cash and service benefits St. Mark's. In addition to financial contributions, PDO coordinated and paid for facility upgrades at St. Mark's, including bathroom sinks and toilet stalls, Rainbow Room coat hooks and decoration, and window treatments in the undercroft.

We thank Kathy O'Rourke and her staff, Cindy Glavin, Melody Mordini, Miguel Briones and Norma Cid, for their endless enthusiasm and dedication to these children. Current members of the PDO Board are: Kim Reed (Chair), Leslie Arlasky, Jill Bednas, Doris McCarraher, and Elizabeth Lewis (Secretary). Registration for the 2008-09 program will begin in April, with members of the parish receiving priority.

Elizabeth Lewis

Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Team continued its service to the St. Mark's family during 2007. The Parish facilities and grounds were well maintained and cared for under the capable leadership of John Baker and Michael Benich, our Facilities Managers, and Miguel Briones, our Sexton. Additionally, many hours of volunteer effort were graciously expended by members of the Parish on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Team.

Special thanks to the Men's Group who organized and staffed a number of B & G related projects during the past year, to Troop 44 for its continued support in providing leadership and workers during the Spring and Fall grounds clean up Saturdays and to Susann Rhoades for organizing and kicking off the Gardening Angels project.

Some of the more noteworthy things that the Buildings and Grounds team addressed in 2007 were:

- ✓ Rectory maintenance including painting of the exterior and the bathrooms, tile and plumbing repairs and refinishing the hardwood floors
- ✓ Renovation of the Office bathroom
- ✓ Addition of lighting in the narthex and stairs
- ✓ Addition of spot lighting to areas of the nave
- ✓ Annual Spring and Fall landscape cleanups

Some areas that will require our attention in 2008 include:

- ✓ Roof repairs
- ✓ Plaster repairs
- ✓ Upper parking lot renovation
- ✓ Undercroft window replacement
- ✓ Library kitchen renovation
- ✓ Landscape bed maintenance and renovation with the assistance of our Gardening Angels

The Buildings and Grounds Team appreciates everyone's help in treating our facilities with care and respect as this helps to reduce the cost of ongoing maintenance and repair. We look forward to continued support and assistance from the Parish in 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
John Braly

Parish Register

Average Sunday Attendance: 218

Baptisms

Aaron Robert Thomas Bass, Jr.
Reece Alden Bednas
Lillian Josephine Boskovic
Marilyn Justine Boskovic
Rebecca Ann Boskovic
Grant Robert Bouchard
David Joseph Campagna
Madeleine Mae Diamond
Thomas Graham Diamond
William Glenn Diamond
Mason Grant Dunham
Claire Gae Dunne
Mary Catherine Friesen
Eleanor Jeanne Hill
Danielle Lee Kent
Jaydn Audrey Kent
Timothy Charles Lawrence
Pat William Mercadante
Matthew Joseph Rausch
Michael Alexander Rausch
Dylan Robert Repetowski
Tallulah Violet Shock
Isobelle Nina Stephani

Confirmed

Haverly Jean Snyder
Evan Andrews Fischl
Caitlin Shea Felde
Lydia Rose Smith
Daniel Thomas Coburn
Michael John Boskovic

Received

Sheila Fischl

Marriages

Elizabeth Kathleen Melka and
Erik Thomas Therkildsen
Stephen F. Evans and Tracy J. Merkendorfer
Maureen Louis Draths and
David Rockaway Isphoroding
Amanda Jena Bertrand and Pat William Mercadante
Madeleine L. Montoya and Juan Guillermo Moreno

Funerals

Drusilla Groth Carter
Philip Vinton Carter
Rachel Dorothy Dinse
Harriet Hesterman
Mignon Beatrix Hickey
Bruce Jon Holding
Marion Anna Hoffman
William Donald Kautenberger
Mary Jane McCormick
Meryl Gay Wiggin

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Glen Ellyn, IL

Mahon Hall St. Mark's Episcopal Church
January 21, 2007
11:30 a.m.

Present:

Rev. George Smith, Rector
Jeff Linstrom, Senior Warden
86 parishioners

- I. Opening Prayer
Rev. George Smith led the parish in prayer.
- II. Appointments
 - S. Adler appointed clerk of the meeting.
 - Z. Littlefield moved to approve minutes from 2006. Motion seconded and approved by voice vote.
 - M. Sutherland, G. Kramer, F. Miller, G. Kenower were appointed tellers.
 - K. Reed read by-laws to clarify qualifications to vote.
- III. Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden
 - K. Reed appointed Sr. Warden by Rev. George Smith.
 - E. Lanzillo appointed Jr. Warden by Rev. George Smith.
- IV. Recognition of outgoing Vestry
 - The parish expressed gratitude to outgoing Vestry Members Rinda Allison, Michael Benich, Edith Jacobson, Ginnie Judd, Jeff Linstrom.
 - A painting of St. Mark's Episcopal Church was given to Jeff Linstrom in gratitude for his service as Senior Warden.
- V. Election
 - A. Vestry Members
Candidates: Sarah Adler, Adrian Buchanan, Dan Conaway, Paul Flynn, Javier Valdivia, Paula Zwiebel
Elected: Sarah Adler, Adrian Buchanan, Javier Valdivia, Paula Zwiebel
 - B. Diocesan Convention Delegate and alternate
Candidate: Dick Anstee, Edith Jacobson
Dick Anstee elected delegate, Edith Jacobson alternate
- VI. Reports
 - A. Senior Warden's comments – J. Linstrom
 - B. Finance Report
 - i. Giving Campaign Report – Jim Jenkins
 - There are 150 pledges for 2007. Twenty-six of them are new.
 - The average pledge for 2007 is \$2,800.
 - ii. Finance Committee Report – Jack Toliver
 - J. Toliver reviewed the 2006 budget.
 - We will be consolidating the Building (PBS) and Operating Budgets.
 - Questions:
 - Please talk specifically about the mortgage and line of credit.
We paid down the line of credit, which had a floating interest rate. The mortgage has been interest only. This year it will no longer be interest only. 25-30% of the budget will go to paying down the mortgage.
 - How much cash do we currently have?
We have just over \$28,000 cash on hand.
 - Please review building repairs and maintenance.
This year we replaced a water heater and furnace.

VII. Rector's Report And Question & Answer Period

Rev. George Smith reported on church activity during 2006.

- Thanks to Lillian Campbell for her bequest and generosity to parish.
- There is an automatic increase in the cost of medical benefits for employees, energy costs and insurance.
- Building – The liability of our mortgage is offset by the beautiful asset.
- Diocesan Pledge – Our payment was up by 20%. The Bishop is pleased with the parish.
- Office Manager – We have hired Dale Byrnes as our Office Manager.
- 2007 projected deficit of approximately \$70,000
- Montessori – there is a decrease in the cost of Diamante Montessori because there will not be start-up costs in 2007.
- Rectory – The rectory will be an issue for the Vestry in 2007.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah G. Adler
Clerk