



**St Mark's**  
Episcopal Church  
*Glen Ellyn, Illinois*

# Annual Report for 2006

January 21, 2007



## Annual Meeting Agenda

- I **Opening Prayers:** Rev. George Smith
- II **Administration**
  - Sarah Adler -- appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting.
  - Approval of minutes from last year's meeting
  - Appointment of tellers
  - Reading of bylaws re: members in good standing
- III **Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden.** (George)
- IV **Recognition of outgoing Vestry Members and Sr. Warden:**
  - Rinda Allison, Michael Benich, Edith Jacobson, Ginnie Judd, Jeff Linstrom (Kim Reed)
- V **Election of Vestry Members and Diocesan Convention Delegates.** (Kim)
  - Vestry Candidates: Sarah Adler, Adrian Buchanan, Dan Conaway, Paul Flynn, Javier Valdivia, Paula Zwiebel
  
  - Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates: Dick Anstee, Edith Jacobson
- VI **Reports:**
  - A. Senior Warden's Comments: Jeff Linstrom
  
  - B. Finance Committee Report: Dick Anstee
    - 2006 Year End Budget Report
    - Restricted Funds Report
    - 2007 Budget
- VII **Questions and Answers**
- VIII **Blessing and Adjournment**



## Message from the Rector

Dear members and friends of St. Mark's,

St. Mark's traces its origins back to a group of Episcopalians who held a worship service in Glen Ellyn on July 11, 1897. They met in Saunders Hall, a building which had previously housed the Congregational Church. Our parish history reports that the hall was packed with people for that first service and that a wheezy organ helped guide the singing of "The Church's One Foundation." The Gospel had found a home among Episcopalians in Glen Ellyn, and we find ourselves gathered over a century later for an annual meeting – a time to reflect on the past year and to look ahead to the next. We also look farther back than just one year and acknowledge and give thanks for the vision and work of those who planted and nurtured this parish. From that small beginning, St. Mark's now has over 250 families, a 7-day per week schedule, and a beautiful, well-maintained and well-used campus that serves both St. Mark's, Glen Ellyn and the surrounding communities.

The past year has been a time of transition, expectation and new beginnings for St. Mark's. As your new rector, I have felt welcomed into your lives and the life of the parish. I thank you for the kindness and warm welcome you have extended to me, my wife and children. We quickly felt at home – both at St. Mark's and in Glen Ellyn. Over the past year, I have gotten to know the parish and many of your individual stories. My guess is that I know faces and names of 75% of those on the parish mailing list. My goal will be to improve upon that in the coming months, reaching the remaining 25%.

The wonderful and exciting news to report about the past year is a growing sense of health and vitality in the parish. Attendance has increased 25% to an average of 250 people at our two Sunday services. Coffee hours following those services are buzzing with conversations and positive energy. New people come to worship every week, and many come back. Throughout the week, the St. Mark's is a busy place, for our parish and for the greater community as well. Bible study is offered on Tuesday mornings, a Eucharist and Prayer Group on Wednesdays, Yoga on Thursdays and starting in February, Morning Prayer on Fridays. Other activities include various parish committee meetings, Women to Women, and the Men's Group. A new anchor of activity is the Diamante Montessori School, which enrolls 70 children in a portion of our education wing. Parent's Day Out continues as well with full enrollment on Mondays and Tuesday. The Boy Scouts, AA and CODA and other support groups use our space for meetings. St. Mark's truly is a center of the community, and we are good stewards of our building and location.

The pages of this annual report contain a summary of the ministries and life of the parish during the past year. A few highlights include:

- The results of the giving campaign, which records as of today 150 pledges and commitments of \$420,000;
- The Lillian Campbell bequest;
- Paying off the \$173,000 line of credit;
- A mission trip last June to Southeast Mexico to begin to develop a companion relationship with San Marco Parish in Nigromonte, Veracruz;
- A new Sunday curriculum for children;
- Events and programs for youth;
- Focus and renewed energy for Mission and Outreach;
- Improved communications including signage, a new welcome brochure, enhanced e-mail announcements, web site and church voicemail;
- A Clean Sweep spring clean up that brought order in and junk out of many closets and storage areas.

Fellowship played an important role in our lives last year. There were celebrations, receptions and fundraisers. The Cathedral Shelter annual benefit was held in Mahon Hall in June. In the fall, our parking lot and yards were

filled with parishioner and neighbors for our first annual block party. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon complete with moonwalk and cakewalk. In November, we celebrated Charles Sinder's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as organist and choirmaster.

The spiritual life of the parish has been strengthened by the addition of a Wednesday morning Eucharist, a Prayer Group, Lectio Divina for young adults, and soon-to-begin Morning Prayer service on Friday mornings. Thanks to Lois Baker, a prayer-chain continues to be available for special and critical needs of parishioners.

As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful for the participation of so many parishioners in their ministries. Jeff Linstrom and Kim Reed as wardens have provided wise counsel and strong leadership to the vestry. Walter Dunnett has been an invaluable support to me and to the parish in worship and pastoral care. Charles Snider has brought beauty to our worship services through his talents of music and expert playing of our organ. A well-cared for facility reflects the dedication of Miguel Briones, who also contributes in countless ways to our worship and parish life. Mary Woodiwiss has prepared a nurturing environment for our children, supporting teachers and overseeing careful planning for events and programs. The office volunteers, under the capable leadership of Wilma Linde, have given their time and talents to greet with a Christ-like presence those who call, visit and contact the parish; they have produced the bulletins, mailings, newsletters and all other forms of communications which inform and bring us together. The list of dedicated parishioners and groups continues, including for example, the treasurers, Daughters of the King, leaders of parish life, and on and on.

The vision for the coming year is rooted in our past – not only the past year but in those first summer days in Saunders Hall. With the joy of the Gospel message and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to place a priority on being a welcoming and giving parish. We will be called to invite and welcome newcomers to St. Mark's, seeking that artful balance of enthusiasm and Episcopal tact that allows space and freedom. Meanwhile, we will also seek to reach out and renew involvement of those who are not new to the parish. I will work with the Giving Committee to obtain another \$40,000 of giving to offset our \$70,000 planned operating shortfall. And finally, I will challenge us to seek and claim a clear identity that is rooted in the love of God known in Christ and in focused ministries of worship, music, formation and mission that are well-integrated throughout the parish.

Yours in Christ,

George

## Warden Candidates



### For Senior Warden

#### Kim Reed

My family and I came to St. Mark's when we moved to Glen Ellyn in 1993. It was an easy decision because it was the church where my dad grew up and where his family has attended for many years. I have been involved in many different capacities including serving on vestry, on search committees, as an office volunteer, in Sunday School, with PDO, on the Mexico Mission Trip and in a variety of other ways. In return, St. Mark's has provided for me a community of friends, acquaintances and family; a community where we worship, have fellowship, learn, work, grieve and celebrate together. Even when we respectfully disagree, we still go to the table as one, held together by our liturgy, our common worship, and our beliefs which we affirm every Sunday when we recite the Nicene Creed. I am so grateful for the many blessings my family and I have received especially through our relationships at St. Mark's, and I feel compelled to serve this community as much as I am able. I am honored to be your senior warden.



### For Junior Warden

#### Elizabeth Lanzillo

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. Most recently, 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 13 years and been active in programs for women. Currently I am a storyteller in children's worship and parish liaison to Bridge Communities.

Leo and I are the parents of four lively boys, ages 4 to 12. 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.

These are exciting times for St. Mark's. We have been blessed with tremendous assets in terms of our faithful people, our talented staff, our beautiful facility and campus, and our extraordinary rector. We are poised for continued growth and a lively impact on our community. I am committed to this parish and honored to be called to take on the job of Junior Warden.

## Vestry Candidates



### **Sarah Adler**

My husband Phil and I came from downtown Chicago to Glen Ellyn and St. Mark's in 2002. Since that time we have seen a lot of change at St. Mark's and at home. In 2004, I retired from practicing law and last year our first child, Charlie, joined the parish when he was born.

My youth in Rockford, Illinois was divided between the Episcopal Church of my parents' upbringing (my uncle is a retired Episcopal Priest and Rector) and the Unitarian Church that my parents, siblings and I attended. While my siblings and I were grounded in the traditions of the Episcopal Church, we were encouraged to explore our faith and its expression. In 2005, I was confirmed at St. Mark's, wanting to strengthen my ties and commitment to the Episcopal Church and grow in my knowledge and faith.

At St. Mark's I am an office volunteer (call the office most Fridays and I will answer the phone) and for the last year and a half I have been Clerk of the Vestry. In addition, I volunteer in the nursery, participated in the Giving Campaign this year, and am active in the Women to Women group.

For me, St. Mark's is a vibrant place of learning and growth thanks to the faith, intelligence and love of its parishioners. I am flattered to be nominated for the Vestry and would be honored to serve St. Mark's in this new capacity.



### **Adrian Buchanan**

I have been an Episcopalian all my life, and credit the church with my love of language as well as my love of God. I was baptized and confirmed at St. Martin's in Houston, Texas.

My family and I have been members of St. Mark's since 1998, where I have been active in Mother to Mother, Women2Women, the Women's Retreat, Children's ministries, Pioneer Clubs and as St. Mark's representative on the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Board.

My vision for St. Mark's is that it continues to be a place of welcome, where people of all ages can come together and reflect the love of Christ to the world around us.



### **Daniel Conaway**

I moved to Glen Ellyn from Minneapolis sixteen years ago, and have been an active member of St. Mark's for seven years. I was a fallen-away Catholic for many years before I discovered St. Mark's in 1999; I was casting around at that time for a place to restart my spiritual life, fell in love with our parish (and Jeannine Mahon) instantly, and was officially received into the Episcopal Church in early 2000.

I have been a lay reader for all seven years now, the occasional worker-bee as needed, and on the Missions & Outreach committee since being asked to join this last spring. I have been susceptible for decades now to the calls of colleagues and friends (wherever) to join in, help out, problem-solve, or just sit and listen to their concerns. Answering that kind of call as often as possible is usually wildly validating for both parties, and I've decided that it is not a bad way to lead one's life. I have prospered as a contract engineer who has seen my work go from being all over the Midwest the last four years to almost all local now and for the foreseeable future. Much of what I do is, quite simply, listening to what the client needs so that we can organize what we have and make a good choice of how to proceed. Not surprisingly for an engineer, that's how I see myself first contributing as a prospective member of the Vestry. We have a lot of work in front of us as we continue to grow St. Mark's, tackle building-finance, and answer all the other challenges to follow – but our growth is also a solution to some of those challenges, and I am so excited about our prospects that I see that work as a positive for us, something that can draw more of us into this place and our faith more fully.

Christianity is (very much for me) something that is guided by teachings and doctrine, but completed by discerning thought and the leap-of-faith that evades logic. I can, for example, miss former parishioners who no longer worship with us – yet also embrace the difference between our interpretations of Scripture, see that my faith is just as strong as theirs, and respectfully allow that “The Truth” might fall somewhere on the spectrum between their understandings and mine. In the bigger picture, my sense of things is that as long as our parishioners feel that all interests are being considered attentively, we will both grow and thrive. I am hopeful that that pairing of commitment and consideration would be useful to the Vestry and to all of us here.



### **Paul Flynn**

My wife Cindy, son Andrew, daughter Abbey, and I began worshipping at St. Mark's about two years ago during Advent of 2004. We had attended St. Mark's occasionally after moving to Glen Ellyn nine years ago, but it was in 2004 that St. Mark's felt like home to us.

I was baptized and raised in the Roman Catholic church, and was introduced to the Episcopal Church through Cindy's family's church outside Cincinnati. I eventually gravitated to Episcopal churches around our home in New Jersey and was received in the Episcopal Church at Trinity Church in Asbury Park, NJ about 17 years ago.

This past year, I've volunteered at St. Mark's as a Sunday School teacher and as a member of the stewardship committee. At Trinity in Asbury Park, I served at various times as treasurer, vestry member, search committee member, warden, lector, Lay Eucharistic Minister, acolyte, usher, and soup kitchen volunteer. I'm excited about the possibility of serving St. Mark's on the vestry in whatever way I can.



**Javier Valdivia**

Hello, I'm Javier Valdivia, I work in graphic design for a downtown Chicago firm. I began attending St. Mark's when I married my wife Elizabeth (Anstee) back in 1997. We also have two boys Ryan (6) and Colin (3). In the years that I've attended St. Mark's, I have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of functions. Currently, Elizabeth and I usher, and I also help out with 3- and 4-year old Sunday school class. Additionally, I participated in the recent Praying Building and Serving Campaign to expand St. Mark's facilities. I feel blessed to be a part of St. Mark's community of faith and am grateful to have an opportunity to serve St. Mark's further as a member of the vestry.



**Paula Zwiebel**

My husband, Bud, and I have been married for 21 years and have lived in Glen Ellyn for 20 years. We have two children. Tim is a sophomore in college and Jenny is a senior at Glenbard South High School. I work part time at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood as a registered nurse in the Outpatient Pediatric Clinic. We've been at St. Mark's since 1990, or so. I've been involved with the usher ministry almost from the beginning. Deacon Jeanine asked my husband and me to consider participating when we were at a church function. I have continued to participate and now co-ordinate/schedule this ministry group. I have taught Sunday school for a couple of years when my children were in grade school. This year I am one of the co-leaders of the senior high school group. A few years ago I joined the Daughters of the King. I would like to continue in my support and participation at St. Mark's by becoming a member of the vestry.

## Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates

 A portrait of Dick Anstee, a man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a dark wood paneling.	<p><b>Dick Anstee</b></p> <p>Our family has been a part of St. Mark's since 1980. My wife, May, and I have been active in several of St. Mark's ministries, and in the process have many, very dear, friends. I have had the privilege of serving on the Vestry several times, including two terms as Warden. I am currently a member of the Finance Committee and sing in the Choir. In recent years I have come to respect the breadth and depth of the Episcopal Church beyond St. Mark's, particularly the Diocese of Chicago. It would be an honor to be your Convention Delegate and represent St. Mark's at the Diocesan Convention.</p>
<p><b>No picture available</b></p>	<p><b>Edith Jacobson</b></p> <p>I've been a member of St. Mark's Church for more than 40 years and have been active in church activities for most of that time. My most recent activities have been the choir, from which I am now officially retired, and the vestry which I leave this January when my term is up.</p> <p>In my "other" life I am the mother of three, all of whom were confirmed at St. Mark's, and grandmother of six ranging in age from 4 to 26. I was a school administrator in District 93, Carol Stream for 24 years before I retired 11 years ago. I have served as convention delegate twice and have attended several diocesan conventions in the past.</p>

## **Report from the Senior Warden**

Praise the Lord, the state of St. Mark's is sound. God gave us an exciting year in 2006. We said goodbye to our interim rector Sheila Ferguson who served us so faithfully in our transitional period. We were blessed with the arrival of George Smith as our new rector. (Thanks again Search Committee!) His ministry has already, in a short time, placed an indelible mark on who we are as a parish. St. Mark's Vestry focused on Growth as our main objective for 2006. Look around at all the new members who are worshiping with us in Christ, becoming active in our parish life and adding richly to the fun we have here and you can see why we hoped to grow. One of the Vestry's most important achievements this year was moving to a unified budget and giving campaign. We concluded our future would be better served if all expenses required to operate the Parish were treated equally and our giving supported this reality. The results of our giving campaign show we have successfully made this transition. (Thanks again Stewardship Committee!) As we look towards the future, the entire parish should be proud of what we accomplished together in 2006 and excited about what God has in store for us around the corner (Thanks again God!). Let's pray for continued blessings as we Grow with St. Mark's!

On a personal note, I experienced tremendous joy working with Sheila, Dick, George and Kim these past two years as well as all the Vestry members during that time.

Jeff Linstrom

## **2007 Giving Campaign**

As of Jan. 10 we have received 149 pledges totaling \$430,000 towards the 2007 Operating Budget. The 2007 Operating Budget combines our operating costs and the mortgage on our building. I'm pleased to report there are 26 new pledging families. We greatly appreciate all the families that support St. Mark's.

I would personally like to thank the Giving Campaign Committee members – Sarah Adler, Paul Flynn, Pat Fry, Gary Gilpin, Steve Harsono, Liz Heun, Gretchen Kenower and Jack Washam. Our team would like to recognize George for his guidance, commitment and encouragement throughout the year. And lastly, a special thank you to all the office staff for their efforts in supporting the needs of the committee.

Jim Jenkins, Chair

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**2007**  
**OPERATING BUDGET page 1**

ACCOUNTS	2006 BUDGET	2006 ACTUAL	2007 BUDGET
<b>Contributions</b>			
<b>Current Year</b>			
Pledge Payments	\$ 276,000	\$ 263,046	\$ 420,000
PBS II Revenue	\$ 146,139	\$ 165,561	\$ -
Open Plate	\$ 29,000	\$ 44,003	\$ 40,000
Special Collections	\$ 13,500	\$ 17,938	\$ 9,000
Campbell Trust			\$ 50,000
Miscl. Offerings		\$ 4,398	
Prior Year Pledge Payments		\$ 1,710	
Prepaid current year pledges		\$ 6,275	
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 464,639</b>	<b>\$ 502,931</b>	<b>\$ 519,000</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Usage Fee Income	\$ 25,100	\$ 22,588	\$ 11,000
Montessori Rent	\$ -	\$ 14,603	\$ 35,000
PDO Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ 20,420	\$ 20,205
Misc. Income		\$ 5,499	\$ 2,000
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 25,100</b>	<b>\$ 63,110</b>	<b>\$ 68,205</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 489,739</b>	<b>\$ 566,041</b>	<b>\$ 587,205</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Payroll</b>			
Salaries	\$ 132,872	\$ 126,680	\$ 152,641
Payroll Tax	\$ 9,909	\$ 15,403	\$ 11,679
Pension	\$ 19,847	\$ 20,628	\$ 19,542
Housing	\$ 28,583	\$ 17,206	\$ 23,000
Benefits	\$ 34,945	\$ 46,767	\$ 41,497
Expenses	\$ 3,150	\$ 2,381	\$ 2,400
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$ 229,306</b>	<b>\$ 229,065</b>	<b>\$ 250,759</b>
<b>Worship</b>			
Adult Education	\$ 300	\$ 713	\$ 1,000
Fellowship	\$ 750	\$ 3,625	\$ 4,000
Woman to Woman	\$ 300	\$ 504	\$ 500
Worship Supplies	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,617	\$ 2,200
Miscl. Our Church	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,108	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>\$ 4,550</b>	<b>\$ 7,567</b>	<b>\$ 8,700</b>
<b>Music</b>			
Program	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,290	\$ 4,000
<b>Total Music</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,290</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
<b>Administration</b>			
Office Supplies	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,154	\$ 5,500
Accounting Services	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,023	\$ 3,500
Office Equipment	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,356	\$ 6,000
Printing Costs	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,229	\$ 3,000
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,762</b>	<b>\$ 18,000</b>

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**2007**  
**OPERATING BUDGET page 2**

ACCOUNTS	2006 BUDGET	2006 ACTUAL	2007 BUDGET
<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>			
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 13,500	\$ 21,217	\$ 15,000
Security Monitor	\$ 1,500	\$ 956	\$ 1,500
Telephone	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,614	\$ 5,000
Utilities	\$ 36,000	\$ 27,691	\$ 43,200
LOC interest			\$ 3,660
Mtge Interest Expense	\$ 148,942	\$ 149,188	\$ 129,534
Mtge Amortization			\$ 47,712
Montessori Support		\$ 7,945	\$ 3,600
Fire and Liability Insurance	\$ 29,000	\$ 28,079	\$ 34,800
<b>Total Buildings and Grounds</b>	\$ 233,942	\$ 239,690	\$ 284,006
<b>Our Children</b>			
Youth Ministry Program	\$ 2,500	\$ 857	\$ 3,000
Christian Education Program	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,059	\$ 5,600
PDO Expenses		\$ 19,899	\$ 20,205
<b>Total Our Children</b>	\$ 4,500	\$ 24,815	\$ 28,805
<b>Mission and Outreach</b>			
Other Agency Support	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,600
Rector Discretionary		\$ 3,833	
Diocesan Support	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000
<b>Total Mission and Outreach</b>	\$ 27,400	\$ 31,233	\$ 33,600
<b>Rectory</b>			
Rectory Mortgage Interest	\$ 8,860	\$ 8,449	\$ 8,860
Rectory Mortgage Amortization	\$ 7,600	\$ 7,980	\$ 7,600
Utilities Rectory	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,145	\$ 5,000
Rectory Maintenance	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,602	\$ 5,000
<b>Total Rectory</b>	\$ 26,460	\$ 23,176	\$ 26,460
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Supply Priest/Substitute organist	\$ 500	\$ 1,250	\$ 2,500
Search Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,468	
Interim Rector Expenses		\$ 53	
Rector Moving Expense	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,333	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,104	\$ 2,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 552,658	\$ 580,702	\$ 656,830
<b>Total Income</b>			
2006 Income	\$ 489,739	\$ 566,041	\$ 587,205
<b>Net total</b>	\$ (62,919)	\$ (14,661)	\$ (69,625)

# ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## 2006 Summary of Restricted Accounts

MEMORIAL FUNDS	BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/2006	INCOME & DISBURSMENTS	ENDING BALANCE 12/31/2006
John Hess Memorial	\$145.36		\$145.36
Ida Hanson	\$5,000.00	(\$2,815.20)	\$2,184.80
K. Johnson Kneelers	\$1,174.90	(\$933.00)	\$241.90
Tom&Marilyn Cooke Memorial	\$1,544.50		\$1,544.50
Bruce Mahon	\$1,105.00		\$1,105.00
Jean Lattan Memorial	\$635.00		\$635.00
Marjorie Truesdale	\$250.00		\$250.00
Budzicz Memorial	\$0.00	\$310.00	\$310.00
Emily Reed	\$175.00		\$175.00
Ione Douglas (Books)	\$400.00		\$400.00
Lehman	\$311.75		\$311.75
Jeffery Alan Hughes	\$500.00		\$500.00
Martin Cook Memorial	\$265.00	(\$215.32)	\$49.68
Jessica Jones	\$50.00		\$50.00
Stephen Ministry	\$866.20		\$866.20
Central Amer. Hab, H.S.	\$5,518.52	\$269.00	\$5,787.52
Mission & Outreach	\$13,913.23	(\$9,330.39)	\$4,582.84
Lisa McMahan Memorial	\$1,670.00		\$1,670.00
Youth Program Development	\$2,713.62	(\$1,000.00)	\$1,713.62
Pelham Fund	\$14,883.96	\$121.83	\$15,005.79
StanleyTursman	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Aurilla Lattan	\$1,160.00		\$1,160.00
Bill Edwards(\$60.00 Plaque)	\$160.00		\$160.00
Lillian Campbell	\$545.00		\$545.00
Joe Lewis	\$1,085.00		\$1,085.00
Bernice Lewis	\$800.00		\$800.00
Lewis Trust Fund	\$224,771.22	\$20,562.93	\$245,334.15
Thanksgiving Fund	\$2,468.30	(\$1,994.16)	\$474.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$283,611.56</b>	<b>\$4,975.69</b>	<b>\$288,587.25</b>

\$51,000.00 Community BankCD (Memorial Fund) , which matures on 4/3/2007, Interest 5.15%, Yield of 5.29%

\$34,000.00 Community BankCD (M&O) , which matures on 4/3/2007, Interest 5.15%, Yield of 5.29%

## DESIGNATED MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND TRANSFERS 2006	CONTRIBUTION	DISBURSMENTS	ENDING BALANCE 12/31/2006
Frank Halbeck Memorial	\$455.00	(\$455.00)	\$0.00
George Kidd Memorial	(\$112.60)	\$112.60	\$0.00
Ellen Young	\$630.00	(\$630.00)	\$0.00
Tangeman (columbarium)	(\$181.00)	\$181.00	\$0.00
Porter (Recital Series)	\$1,035.00	(\$1,035.00)	\$0.00
St. Gregory's School	\$154.99	(\$154.99)	\$0.00
Lions & Lambs	\$7,033.95	(\$7,033.95)	\$0.00
Wade Jacobson	\$675.00	(\$675.00)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,690.34</b>	<b>(\$9,690.34)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

## Children's Ministry

*Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

Prayer for the Care of Children  
The Book of Common Prayer

Whenever I encounter this prayer, or pray it when meeting with Children's Ministries volunteers, I am moved by it, and struck by its simplicity and completeness. It reminds us that children are truly blessings -- God's gifts -- and that we can receive them with joy. It speaks to the calm, strength, patience, and wisdom that are constantly needed as we love and live with the children in our midst. It calls us to attend to our Lord Jesus, and to love "whatever is just and true and good" on behalf of the children in our care, when much of our daily lives exist in realms where the opposites are celebrated and ever before us.

I am thankful to be working alongside so many who are dedicated to the spiritual growth and well being of the children of our parish family. Children's Ministries can only thrive with the commitment of those who give their best to help nurture and teach our younger members in the faith. And of course, our children benefit most from these gifts, shared with and among them, when their parents make the commitment to encourage and provide for their participation in the life of our parish.

Over 50 families and around 90 children, infants through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, participate in Sunday School, Nursery and/or Lamb's Chapel or Children's Worship.

Fifty parishioners are regularly involved with children (infants through 5<sup>th</sup> graders) in our Sunday morning ministries. Dozens of others have been essential to the special events and programs designed with children and families in mind.

Our fall program began September 10<sup>th</sup> with a festive reception for the whole parish in Mahon Hall. It was a time to welcome families, introduce children to their teachers and classmates, display curricula, and inform adults about Adult Education classes.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the St. Nicholas Parish Lunch & Gift Collection provided both fellowship and an opportunity to share with others in our local community. One hundred parishioners enjoyed a lunch provided in Mahon Hall, and donations of \$205 (in gift certificates and checks) and gifts estimated at \$700 in value were made to People's Resource Center's "Share the Spirit" program. Nikki Fry, Danna Gross, Amy Schilling, and Mary Woodiwiss coordinated the event, with assistance from Shannon Burgess, Frances Smith, Lydia Smith, Kirsten Ward, and Camille Woodiwiss. David Fletcher made possible the special appearance by "St. Nicholas". Special thanks also to: Miguel Briones, Dan Conaway, Ginnie Judd, the Linstrom family, and Kenny Wilson.

Other highlights of the past months include: Advent wreath making (grateful thanks to Reeny Linstrom for providing materials and instruction!), Advent devotional materials offered to families, Advent Bedtime Stories (in the church library on Thursday nights, with warm drinks, snacks, quilts, and middle & high school youth and adults assisting as guest readers), Advent Sunday School Collection (to provide farm animals for needy families through Heifer International and Partners International), and the Christmas Eve Pageant, directed by Janice Campagna, Martha Idler, Martha Pfefferman, and Mary Woodiwiss, and enhanced by the talents of seven young musicians -- Abbey Flynn, William Lanzillo, Alex Kapsalis, Frances Smith, Lydia Smith, Camille Woodiwiss, and Daniel Woodiwiss.

### ***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. Current volunteers are: Sarah Adler, Laurie Baker, Jen Chavez, Beth Figler, Ted Figler, Emily Jenkins, Phyllis Jenkins, Kathleen Leid, Jamie Littlefield, Zach Littlefield, Sue Mylander, Marylu Olsen, Cheryl Treleaven, Mallory Treleaven, Kara Ward, and Kirsten Ward.

### ***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 are: Nikki & Pat Fry, Liz & Doug Page, Penny & Scott Taback, and Phoebe & Kenny Wilson.

### ***Children's Worship***

During the 10:30 service, children from age 4 through 1<sup>st</sup> 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 are: Joyce Fletcher, David Funck, Elizabeth Lanzillo, and Mary Woodiwiss.

Greeters are: Jen Grant, Danna Gross, Leo Lanzillo, Paul Sexauer, David Schilling, Greg & Karen Halverson Scheck, and Camille Woodiwiss.

### ***Sunday School***

Classes are offered during Education Hour each Sunday (September through May) from 9:15 - 10:15. Dedicated teachers lead each grade level, Preschool through High School.

The Preschool class uses "*Hands On*" Bible materials. Classes K-5 use *All Things New*, a curriculum new to St. Mark's this year. *All Things New* lessons are based on the same Scripture passage across grade levels, and are closely tied to the church year. This curriculum includes a music CD, parent calendars, take home pages, art posters, and a child's Book of Common Prayer.

During the second semester, the 2nd grade class focuses on worship and Holy Eucharist, using the texts *New Life* and *Alleluia! Amen*. The course culminates in special recognition during the 10:30 worship service and a reception on May 20.

Children are welcome to join their appropriate class at any time during the year.

Sunday School teachers for Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are: Liz & Javier Valdivia (Preschool), Lisa Baker & Amy Schilling (K/ 1<sup>st</sup> grade), Gail Kramer (2<sup>nd</sup> grade), Kim Toliver & Julie Walor (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Laurie Kapsalis & John Glavin (4<sup>th</sup> grade), May Anstee & Reeny Linstrom (4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade).

Adrian & Trey Buchanan continue to lead groups of our children in singing contemporary worship songs, accompanied by Trey's guitar. Every class (K - 5<sup>th</sup>) attends "Sing Out!" once a month.

I'd like to conclude with a glimpse into our Sunday School classes via our teachers' words:

## **Preschool**

One of the best things about teaching preschool Sunday School is that you get to be a kid yourself when teaching Bible stories with the aid of glitter glue, markers and stickers! Spontaneous hugs and hellos in church are always a wonderful surprise!

## **Kindergarten/ 1<sup>st</sup> grade**

We were studying Abraham and, when asked if there were any more questions, one little girl asked, "Why didn't you mention the slaves?" We told her we would study the slaves later...then one of the little boys asked, "Are you talking about Abraham Lincoln?" and the girl said "Yes"...so much for our teaching:)

But, of course, the sweetest glimpse into our class is when we bow our heads to pray- or when we hold hands...all of those sweet, still slightly pudgy fingers interlaced...you can't help but thank God.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> grade**

I would like to say how truly interested the second graders are in learning about the Bible and St. Mark's Church, and how well they are doing in class! And of course, how much I am enjoying getting to know them all!!

{ed. note: and the walls are filled with drawings and words to express their growing faith and understanding }

## **3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

We recently studied about Joseph, his family and his famous coat. The children are very proud of the coat we created as a class and they all enjoyed taking turns trying it on and wearing it around the classroom. (Stop by and take a peak at Joseph's coat!)

Also, many of the 3rd graders are starting to acolyte this year and both of us are chalicers, so we feel a special bond to serve on the altar with many of our 3rd grade students.

## **4<sup>th</sup> grade**

An endearing feature of our class is our depiction of creation, with our insistence that it has to be true to the story. Well, we had great intentions "in the beginning." Adding to it as we have free time, we have a true "goldfish" (snack cracker), a moose, a fox, and a very true to life tiger. The kids are disappointed if we go a few weeks without adding to our "creation."

## **5<sup>th</sup> grade**

has been sighted making colorful crosses, drawing water from the well (or, rather, from the "well" below their second story classroom window), and settling into class while a bluesy version of the well-known spiritual "People Get Ready" is playing.

Just a few of the many reasons I look forward to Sunday mornings!

Mary Woodiwiss

## **Vacation Bible School**

From August 7-11, 2006, 60 children from the parish and Glen Ellyn/Wheaton community participated in St. Mark's VBS. Parishioners Laurie Vanderlei, Karen and Greg Halvorsen Schreck; Cecilia, George, Lydia, and Frances Smith; Bob Linde; Dan Conaway; Elizabeth Lewis; Elizabeth and Joseph Lanzillo; Marie Sutherland; Molly Toliver; Lizzie Kramer; David and Joyce Fletcher; MC and Tricia Benich; Penny Taback; Miguel and Norma Cid Briones; Reeny, Cali, and Patrick Linstrom; Karla Hogan; Jill Bednas; Phoebe Wilson; Kathleen Leid; Nikki Fry; Emily and Caroline Jenkins; and Martha Sexauer all helped to create and staff the program. VBS is a St. Mark's tradition. The intragenerational staff of volunteers, the fact that we welcome many non-parish children into the program, and the visibility of the program reflect the heart of our warm and welcoming parish.

Jen Grant

## **Blythe**

Blythe is a fellowship group for middle school girls that meets every other Wednesday September through May. Our meetings are 1 ½ hours. The first half is spent doing a fun activity, often something crafty but also has included treasure hunts, written reflections, and service projects. The second half of our time together is spent in Bible study. Last year we studied the entire Gospel of Mark. This year we've studied 1<sup>st</sup> John and are now into James. There are 8-10 girls that attend our meetings. The group is lead by Tricia Benich.

Tricia Benich

## **St. Mark's Youth**

The Youth Program has gone through some changes this past year. Upon the departure of Michelle and Len LaBonar, Andrew Dorn and Reeny Linstrom volunteered to coordinate youth gatherings and events until a more permanent solution could be found. Jill Bednas and Paul Flynn came in to take over the middle school Sunday classes, and Joel Dillon continued with the high schoolers. Kathleen Leid taught and coordinated the 7th grade confirmation, and Tricia Benich ran and continues to run her popular middle school Bible study group, Blythe.

With the help of Father George, we organized a Youth Leaders Group and started meeting monthly to make decisions and set a direction for St. Mark's Youth. One of our first goals was to arrange a mission trip which we collectively decided would be to San Marcos in Nigromante, Mexico. We got a group of interested high schoolers and adults, and with the leadership of Father George and Andrew Dorn and the assistance of Christ Church, we set a plan and began fundraising for the trip. Our mission was to start building relationships with the parishioners and community of San Marcos. The trip was a tremendous success, and we plan to return in the summer of 2007.

Over the summer, the Youth Leaders met again to structure the coming school year for our youth. We decided to divide middle school into two classes: 6th and 7th grades, combined, and a separate 8th grade class. We kept the high schoolers together as one group. Sunday classes are taught by three to four adults who plan the lessons and lead the classes. Our primary focus is to develop relationships: the students with each other, the adults with the students, the class with the church and in the community and beyond. Of course, an understood primary focus is to continue developing our relationship with God, increase our understanding of the Bible and our church and understand how all of this fits in with our world. We will be moving confirmation to eighth grade beginning next school year. More information will be forthcoming.

Our goal is to have quarterly events for the youth including demi lock-ins, movie nights, laser tag/paintball-type outings plus events tied to our missions such as Sleep Out Saturday and Cathedral Shelter Baskets. The eighth grade hosted a UNICEF collection and party and raised over \$300 for UNICEF. The Youth continue to make PADS lunches on the third Sunday of the month directed by Andrew and Cindy Flynn.

Preparations are now underway for the 2007 Mexico Trip and its fundraising. Already, a number of youth and adults have expressed interest in going and or helping.

We have an increasing number of youth who are ready to take active roles in our church serving as acolytes, lay readers, on committees, and helping with our missions and outreach. We want the youth to be integral members of St. Mark's, and we all have a lot to gain from working with and getting to know these very important members of the St. Mark's community.

Kim Reed

## **Adult Education**

From January '06 to January '07, adult education has welcomed 12 parishioners as presenters in our forum, plus 4 speakers from outside our congregation, leading our class in sessions of from 2 week to 4 week series. Topics have included "Forgiveness," "Care of a New Rector," "Science and Scripture," "Issues in Parenting," "Everyday Ethics," "The Women in Matthew One," and "Anglican History." Special series were offered for the weeks of Advent and Lent.

The Commission continues to seek ways of encouraging parishioners to consider joining in on our Sunday morning group by extending the coffee hour before class, writing articles for Postmark, announcements in our group email and started this January, offering a second Bible Study track in the library.

We are slowly growing and especially appreciate the support and encouragement of our rector. Fr. George has a standing "slot" for an open-ended meeting with adult ed every 6 or so weeks. The rector has also given us valuable and much appreciated ideas and contacts, even to attending one of our planning meetings.

Our commission is small but mighty (!) Members are Julie Carson, David Fletcher, Sarah Borden, Lynn Wollstadt and Walter Dunnett.

Future plans include considering an evening social, more participation as leaders by class members and innovative ways to use media in presentations.

Myrna Grant

## Music

What a difference a year can make! I have taken delight in the progress our parish has continued to make and have been so pleased to see so many new people here.

The Trebles made another valiant showing at the festival held at St. James' Cathedral in February with guest conductor, Frank Boles, from St. Paul's Church in Indianapolis.

The next thing you know we're welcoming a new Rector and his family. Again let me say I don't think the Search Committee could have found a better person, and I thank them for their diligence, discernment, and hard work.

Soon after George arrived I had to be away for a couple of weeks due to the death of my Father in Georgia. It was so comforting to know that I had the loving and prayerful support of this fine parish at such a difficult time, and for that I am grateful beyond words.

Our concert offerings included a performance in late February by a brass quintet called Synergy. They presented a very energetic and exciting performance in the nave before a crowd that certainly could have been a bit larger. Soon after that we were encompassed by the fullness of Holy Week and Easter with brass returning this year for the celebration.

After a refreshing summer vacation which included the national convention of the Association of Anglican Musicians in Indianapolis, the adults returned to Green Lake, Wisconsin for another wonderful retreat hosted by Ginnie, Gerrit, Quincy, Bob and June. This was our first year in their new home on a different part of the lake, and while I wax nostalgic and deeply miss the old house, this one was equally beautiful and elegant. We owe a great debt to the Judd family for their limitless hospitality!

This past fall we resurrected an organization from years gone by called Friends of Music. After sending out a mailing to the entire parish we received support from a large number of people which will help us fund our fledgling recital series for this year, beginning with a program in October given by organist, Bruce Barber, and violinist, Bernard Zinck. What a stunning program they played! As I looked around the pews I wished that more people could have been present to hear this amazing program. Don't let these opportunities slip by! My thanks to so many of you who responded to our appeal.

November brought with it the observance of my twentieth anniversary as parish musician. I was overwhelmed with the cards, gifts, and contributions from so many people, and I deeply appreciate your kindness and generosity. To say that it has been a pleasure to serve this parish for so long would be an understatement. I feel very fortunate indeed to be a part of Christ's work which is being done here.

This year's service of Lessons & Carols was the best attended in quite a while. Our added attraction was the inclusion of 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 almost \$800 in contributions which we sent to Canon Andrew White's work and organization in Iraq.

With some previous funds, money from cheesecakes sales, and many other generous contributions we had plenty of funding for brass players at Christmas Eve. Our thanks to so many of you who generously contributed to this musical experience.

I have taken great pleasure in getting to know George these last eleven months. He has been so very supportive of our music program, recognizing, as he does, that it can be such an important tool for liturgy and ministry in a parish. I have appreciated his sermons, his attention to detail, his natural compassion and sensitivity, and his willingness to loan Cecilia to the Adult Choir. Besides all that, there's likely no other priest in the diocese who can sing the liturgy as well as he does.

If that doesn't get me a raise, I don't know what will.

Charles Snider

## **Ushers**

The ushers are often the first to greet and meet newcomers to our church. It is not a difficult task but an important one. There is always a need for new ushers (many ushers make for a less frequent rotation). The coordinator of this group is Paula Zwiebel.

Paula Zwiebel

## **Lay Readers**

Lay Readers read lessons and prayers at all regularly scheduled Sunday services, and many other services as well, like Ash Wednesday and Thanksgiving and Christmas. Readers are committed to conveying the wonderful words of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer to the congregation (large or small) as meaningfully as possible. To that end, over the years we have had many meetings and workshops, and hope to get back on a regular schedule for these. We are currently blessed with a large number of readers, including several youth members of the congregation, but are always interested in hearing from anyone who is interested in joining us. Current readers are Rinda and Sandy Allison, Lisa and Steve Baker, Jill and Scott Bednas, Phoebe Benich, Bruce Benson, Bob Cardwell, Phil Carter, Dan Conaway, Eric Dinse, Joan Eorgoff, David and Joyce Fletcher, David Funck, Johann Hille, Gretchen Kenower, Sue Knudson, Joseph Lanzillo, Katherine Lawrence, Zach Littlefield, Fiona Miller, Sue Mylander, Nancy Schmitt, Bonnie Schwanz, Paul Sexauer, Cecelia, Frances and Lydia Smith, Don Sutherland, Ken Wilson, Ashley and Daniel Woodiwiss and Jane Zaccaria. When you see them, please thank them all for their fine 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 welcomed three new members this year, Ann Cardwell, Fiona Miller and Jackie Tack. All women of the parish are welcome to attend our meetings which are held in the library on the third Monday of each month. For more information, please contact May Anstee (889-0933)

May Anstee

## **Pastoral Care**

The Pastoral Care Committee is comprised of the heads of the ministries that provide assistance to members of the parish as they need it. Provision of the Eucharist to shut-ins, of meals to those who are ill or have new babies or are recovering from surgery, of prayer for those in need of it are just some examples. We have a group of persons who deliver altar flowers after a Sunday service to parishioners. We delivered poinsettias to some shut-ins and others at Christmas, in collaboration with Blythe, whose members made cards to accompany the plants. Current members include Diane Dinse, lay Eucharistic Ministry, Barbara Newsom, Stephen Ministry, Liz Valdivia, Meals, Mary Woodiwiss, Kathleen Leid, Katherine Lawrence. Like so many other parish efforts, we welcome new members who want to assist with current efforts or who have new ideas for us to pursue. Please call!

Rinda Allison

## **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

## **Meals Ministry**

During 2006 parishioners provided meals for families with new babies, those recovering from surgery or illness and for one special move to Glen Ellyn. The meals ministry has 10 new 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 2007.

Liz Valdivia

## Mission and Outreach

The Mission and Outreach Commission began early in 2006 to select a group of organizations to receive high priority support from St. Mark's. Over a two- to three-year cycle we will focus our efforts to assist this group of approximately twelve organizations.

Bob Bernero compiled a directory of resources in DuPage County, giving contact information, services offered, and operating hours. This directory is available to those who come to St. Mark's seeking help.

Dan Conaway submitted our application to the John W. Squire Fund and secured \$2500 which M&O was able to donate to our youth group to help fund their very successful trip to S. E. Mexico.

During Lent Elizabeth Lewis organized our United Thank Offering collection. These funds provide grants for ministries locally, nationally, and internationally as an outreach of the Episcopal Church.

During August Mary Woodiwiss again with great success collected school supplies and money for shoes for the young men at St. Gregory School.

In September M&O made available from the M&O Reserve Fund \$2000 each to: Peoples Resource Center, St. Gregory School, Glen Ellyn Walk-in Ministry, and PADS.

In November led by Leo Lanzillo and Tom Hogan, fifteen sleepers from St. Mark's and six Boy Scouts from Troop 44 raised \$1075 for Bridge Communities during Sleep Out Saturday. Also in November Joan Eorgoff and her crew of St Mark's crafters and workers raised \$2000 for Mission and Outreach. The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry continues to receive regular donations of food from St. Mark's from the collection box in the church narthex and from special collections. The food pantry also receives help from St. Mark's volunteers who give out food and shop for perishable items needed by the pantry.

Father George Smith ran the Chicago Marathon for the benefit of the Peoples Resource Center and raised over \$2000. The PRC was also helped by St. Mark's people who were involved in two events in December. The St. Nicholas Luncheon in Mahon Hall was attended by ninety-eight people and supplied both cash and many toys and gifts for PRC clients. Mary Woodiwiss and her crew made this success possible. Martha Sexauer chaired the "Home for the Holidays Luncheon" at Danada House. Several St. Mark's women enjoyed this lovely event and \$20,000 was raised for the PRC.

Thanks to all who helped make the Cathedral Shelter Christmas Basket collection a success. 198 people will have a Merry Christmas thanks to your generosity. Thanks to Ginnie Judd and her team for their hard work.

Dan Chambers and Jennifer Phillips arranged for a speaker from PADS to visit St. Mark's to increase our awareness of what is needed in DuPage County.

Thank you to everyone who helped make St. Mark's outreach a success in 2006. In 2007 we look forward to: Blanket washing for PADS in January, UTO collection in Lent, a spring benefit for St. Gregory School, helping with the Bridge Communities garden walk, and more to come.

*M&O Committee: Bob Bernero, Dan Chambers, Dan Conaway, Nancy Gier, Tom Hogan, Elizabeth Lewis, Fiona Miller, Barb Newsom, Jennifer Phillips, Marie Sutherland, Nancy Schmitt, Ginnie Judd, Ann Cardwell*

Ann Cardwell

## Communications Group

The Communications group was established following the February 2004 Vestry Retreat to enrich communication of events and activities of St. Mark's, inside and outside the parish. Co-chairs are Rinda Allison and Ginnie Judd.

Jen Grant, as editor of the *PostMark*, continues to do a wonderful job putting out an informative, timely, and inspiring newsletter each month, with a combined issue for July/August.

And of course, we must thank Wilma Linde, queen of all things printed, and her team who fold and address (who refer to themselves as the St. Mark's Folding Machine): Lois Baker, Janet Budzicz, Audrey Halbeck, Bettye Hille, Betty Morrison, Sue Mylander, Holly Nelson, Anna Panor, Marie Sutherland, and Betty Tursman, without whose devotion we would not get a printed copy of the *PostMark* or other special mailings that go out. Additionally, Barb Braly and Edith Jacobson have taken on much of the weekly printing and folding responsibilities as part of their office volunteer work. This ministry is a crucial one to the communication of information to our parish.

Since taking over as webmaster of the St. Mark's website in late 2004, Bob Cardwell continues to do stellar work keeping the site updated with current information, events, and pictures of St. Mark's life. He takes pictures at events and pays attention to what is going on in the parish, and from that generates a lot of the information on his own, without waiting for someone to ask. In 2006, Javier Valdivia designed a new home page and banner for us. If you haven't looked at the site lately (or ever), please take a look: [www.stmarksglenellyn.org](http://www.stmarksglenellyn.org).

The online calendar implemented in September 2005 continues to be a great resource for the parish; the information is maintained by the office volunteers. Services and events with their locations are listed months in advance. We ask that planners of events check the online calendar to be aware of what else is happening that might influence their plans. To view the calendar, go to our web site and click "St. Mark's Calendar."

Fr. George Smith has introduced a new form of electronic communication, which allows us to send notices with graphics for upcoming events, to all those people for whom we have email addresses. If you haven't been getting these emails, please email your address to the church office, and ask to be added to our email lists.

The St. Mark's email group is a different form of e-communication; it is for any parishioners interested in receiving or being able to make announcements about parish events and needs. The content of messages includes the announcements and calendar from the Sunday bulletin each week for those who may have missed the services, announcements about special events, requests for volunteers, and follow up news or pictures. It currently serves about 80 of the parish households. If you would like to be added to the email group, please contact Ginnie Judd at [fabernjudd@comcast.net](mailto:fabernjudd@comcast.net).

Jamie Littlefield stepped in early in 2006 to take over as media liaison, and she had lots to share with the local press. A total of 12 press releases (which covered a variety of topics) were sent to the local media this past year and included: news of our new rector George Smith; a parish profile for the "Faith in Our Towns" feature in the Sun newspapers; calendar events like the Pet Blessing in October and Lessons and Carols in December; service schedules for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Christmas; and follow up articles on the Cathedral Shelter Christmas Baskets program.

Rinda Allison maintains the posting of news and events on the two main bulletin boards: Hillside entrance and office entrance.

Vestry meeting (unofficial) notes are posted on the bulletin boards and published in the *PostMark* to improve communication of that news to the parish.

Ginnie Judd

## **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. Our Wednesday morning meetings, salad suppers, Advent brunch and ornament exchange provide wonderful ways for us to meet each other. Additionally 23 women attended the annual retreat that was held this year at DeKoven. W2W also provided welcome baskets to new babies born into our parish family. In November Elizabeth Lanzillo organized a special salad supper in which angels and other items from Jeannine Mahon were offered for sale. All the women of the parish are invited to participate in the W2W activities.

Kathleen Leid

## **Men's Group**

The Men's Group met a few times in 2006, but without much consistency. We are restarting the group in 2007, and intend to plot a new course for the group at our first meeting on January 13th. Our first formal activity will be to host a pancake supper for the parish on Shrove Tuesday.

Kenny Wilson

## **Parents' Day Out**

Parents' Day Out (PDO) is offered by St. Mark's during the school year for children 2 to 4 years who attend one of two days, either Monday or Tuesday, for structured playtime that includes crafts, songs, story time as well as some free play. Nineteen children are enrolled per day, and a substitute list is available. The program is open to the community; however, St. Mark's parishioners have priority registration. Registration for the 2007-08 program will be in the spring of this year.

We are blessed with an excellent staff; PDO continues to be led by director Kathy O'Rourke and staffed by our dedicated teachers (and parishioners): Miguel Briones, Norma Cid, Cindy Glavin, and Melody Mordini. The PDO program is overseen by a governing board made up of parishioners: Lesley Arlasky, Jill Bednas, Elizabeth Lewis, Doris McCarraher, and Kim Reed.

PDO, as part of the move to the Undercroft, arranged and paid for much-needed repairs, updates and repainting in the bathrooms and hallway near Lehman Parlor Youth Room as well as in the Rainbow Room. The move to the Undercroft and an adjoining classroom went smoothly.

This past fall, as part of an effort to involve PDO in St. Mark's Mission and Outreach, PDO families made contributions to the Food Pantry and to the Cathedral Shelter Baskets. The PDO families were also invited to participate in our UNICEF collection and party as well as other activities and events at St. Mark's. In addition, Father George has reached out to the PDO children and their parents by reading to the children and addressing the parents during the welcome meetings.

For more information on PDO, contact Kathy O'Rourke at 790-1229 or any of the above-mentioned board members.

Kim Reed

## Buildings and Grounds

The St. Mark's campus facilities performed exceptionally well in 2006 and enter 2007 in remarkably good condition. This is due in large measure because of the capable leadership of John Baker our Facilities Manager and Miguel Briones our Sextant, as well as the many hours of volunteer effort lovingly expended by members of the Parish on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Team.

Even so, as all of us who maintain property know, even in the best of times *things* happen that require attention. Some of the more noteworthy things that Buildings and Grounds were called on to address in 2006 were:

- ✓ The stone St. Mark's sign on the front lawn was cleaned and re-lettered
- ✓ An Episcopal flag was mounted on the front of the building
- ✓ A new, energy efficient furnace was installed in the Office Building
- ✓ Additional insulation was installed in the attic of the Office Building
- ✓ PDO renovated the undercroft bathrooms across from Lehman Parlor
- ✓ New storage areas in the basement were built by Boy Scout Troop 44
- ✓ A "Clean Sweep" clean up day removed yards of junk from the building
- ✓ A new bulletin board with lighting was installed in the Narthex
- ✓ Incandescent bulbs were replaced with energy efficient florescent bulbs in the Narthex and many of the hallways
- ✓ Building security was improved by having all lockable exterior entrance doors as well as "in-between" inside access doors at first and second floors re-keyed
- ✓ Annual Spring and Fall landscape cleanups were conducted with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 44
- ✓ Eagle Scout Ray Barriball from Troop 44 conceived, designed and led a project to expand the playground sandbox and update landscaping in the area
- ✓ Bob Cardwell organized the purchase and installation of brass grave markers in the Columbarium

The Buildings and Grounds Team appreciates everyone's help in treating our facilities with care and respect during 2006 as this helps to reduce ongoing maintenance costs and looks forward to continued assistance from the Parish in 2007.

Michael Benich and John Braly

## Parish Life

Parish Life is comprised of socialization activities and newcomers. This year, Parish Life was responsible for 3 large events and several small ones, along with activities and events related to newcomers.

Chairperson Martha Sexauer helped implement the Lent Event, a parish-wide fundraiser that netted over \$10,000, meeting its goal. Also, in the summer, the parish-wide picnic was a huge success and was held at Herrick Lake. In the fall, the first Blacktop Bash was held on parish grounds. The goal was to introduce the neighbors to Saint Mark's and to show the community that St. Mark's is a vibrant parish. Although neighbor turnout was low, the Blacktop Bash was successful and a good time had by all. Next year, public relations will be more aggressive in seeking neighbor attendance.

It should be noted that Matt Gillespie successfully implemented the late service coffee hour at St. Mark's. Coffee hour, held after the 10:30am service in the library, has been extremely well attended and staffed. Parishioners have had the opportunity to talk with new and old friends, conduct church business, and the children have been able to have fellowship as well. The coffee hour has been a significant part of St. Mark's efforts to meet and greet newcomers as they arrive.

This year, St. Mark's Newcomers saw a definite surge in new members. A brunch was held at the home of Sandy and Rinda Allison and a wine and cheese reception was held at the home of Jeff and Reeny Linstrom. Both were structured around introducing newcomers to various members of the parish. Other receptions throughout the year were also marked for newcomers, including the picnic, and St. Mark's had a very good response to its efforts.

It should be noted that there were a significant amount of receptions in Mahon Hall this year. It started with goodbye to the interim rector Sheila Ferguson and continued with a welcome reception for Fr. George Smith and family. Outside of Parish Life's direct responsibilities, The Daughters of the King implemented many of the receptions held throughout the year, and Children's Ministries and the Men's Group implemented a minor amount. With a much greater amount of social activities in 2006, St. Mark's saw a large increase in costs and reimbursements for these events. Budget for 2007 will reflect the need for a budget line item for "fellowship." The line item will encompass all social activities.

2007 will see an increase in all areas of socialization and newcomers.

Martha Sexauer

# Parish Register

**Average Sunday Attendance:** 250

## **Baptisms**

Carmen Elizabeth Chavez  
Molly Rose Creech  
Charles Gates Figler  
Abigail Rose Bergmann  
Charles Whitman Adler  
Meredith Anne Baker  
Bryce Oliver Taback  
David Gabriel Woodiwiss  
Ava Elia Dunham

## **Confirmed**

Kelsey Barajas, Matthew Buchanan, Katherine Dorn, Lauren Hookham, Emily Jenkins, Elizabeth Kramer, Lisa Mordini, Paul Nicholson, Danielle Olsen, Jeremy Rhoades, Taylor Rhoades, Philip Warman, Daniel Chambers.

## **Reaffirmed**

Holly Nelson and Jennifer Phillips

## **Marriages**

Elizabeth Hillyer / Joseph Wallner  
Suzann Kathlyn Smith / Jeffrey Joseph Bainbridge  
Carissa Saccotelli / Charles Wesley Baier  
Heather Kent / Lincoln Ludwig  
Heather Ann Ferguson / William Michael Gaydo  
Shannon Lynn Braly / Brandon Burnett

## **Funerals**

Jerrold Wade Jacobson  
Stanley Tursman  
Lillian E. Campbell  
Francis Hanson  
Joseph Thomas Lewis  
Bernice Skelly Lewis  
Janet Pagnotta