



St. Mark's

Episcopal Church
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Annual Report for 2011



February 12, 2012

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Agenda

Opening Prayer Rev. George Smith

Appointment of Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Karen Doran is appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Rev. George Smith

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting

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

Rev. George Smith

Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden

Scott Bednas and Paula Zweibel

Rev. George Smith

Appointment of Youth Representative

Cynthia Mote

Rev. George Smith

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

Cindy Flynn, Roby McGovern, Laurie Vanderlei, Joseph Lanzillo, Fiona Miller, Gretchen Kenower, Elizabeth Lewis

Scott Bednas

Voting

Election of Vestry Candidates:

Judy Jackson, Lea Forsman, Cheryl Olsen, Tim Dorgan, Steve Webster

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates:

Eric McAlpine, Sawyer Hill

Scott Bednas

Reports

Finance Committee Report

2011 Year End Budget Report

Restricted Funds Report

2012 Budget

Dick Anstee

Senior Warden's Report

Fiona Miller

Rector's Report

Rev. George Smith

Questions and Answers

Rector's Report for the St. Mark's Annual Meeting February 12, 2012

Harris Bank – BMO has been running a series of ads for the past several months which depict bankers and their clients at various locations around the Chicago area. In each one, a business owner holds up an empty picture frame and looks through it. We see what they see. In place of an empty lot appears a shiny, bustling new transportation center or office building. Imagination, vision, and possibilities are the unstated themes of the commercials. A voice announces, “If you can see it, we can help.” These advertisements have reminded me of St. Mark's and the vision statement unveiled three years ago at the 2009 annual meeting. “Rooted in baptism, growing in faith, branching out into the world” was the frame we held up for our future. Through this frame, we could see a number of things, including a growing inter-generational congregation, an unwavering commitment to welcoming all people, more engagement with the local community, visible outreach efforts, varieties of music and art, spiritual depth, and strengthened finances.

Some of the things that we could envision three years ago in our imaginations are things we can now see with our eyes today. Some might call this a leap from faith to reality. Last Sunday, February 5th, was a fairly typical Sunday at St. Mark's. It started with an 8 a.m. Rite I service. We welcomed guest preacher, **Rich Likeness** from Grace Lutheran as part of the OneChurch Project pulpit swap. You can read more about the OneChurch Project in the February issue of the PostMark. In a nutshell, the five Episcopal and Lutheran churches in Glen Ellyn are exploring ways to work together more closely in the coming years, and this pulpit swap was a way to make our cooperation visible. Rich also preached at the 9:15 and 10:30 services. While these two services were going on, I was preaching and presiding at St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church on Butterfield Road, next to Glenbard South High School. Meanwhile, our Sunday school had over 80 children and youth in attendance from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. **Jeff Hill** led an adult forum class called “Politics, Elections, and Faith in the USA.” Attendance at our 10:30 a.m. service was 285. Many stayed for the post-service coffee hour in Mahon Hall. A number of newcomer families had their pictures taken by **Kelly Allison** in the library. At noon, there was a luncheon for our 7th and 8th grade confirmation youths, their parents and mentors. With the luncheon still in progress, the 1 p.m. Misa en Espanol was underway in the sanctuary with over 40 people in attendance. Afterward, many stayed for a celebration of “Candelaria” – a meal of chicken and pork tamales, fruit, and hot chocolate. Kelly Allison took more photos of these new families for our upcoming directory. There was little downtime before people began arriving for the 5:30 p.m. Organ Concert, given by **Cathryn Wilkinson**. Evensong began at 6 p.m. followed by dinner, prepared by **Matt Gillespie**, at 6:30 p.m. At 8 p.m., the Sunday AA meeting filled the library, hallway and office kitchen area. In summary, on this one Sunday, there were five worship services in two languages, over 400 people in attendance, special music, abundant formation and support for the community. This is what we can see with our vision and through our vision statement.

It is a bold thing for St. Mark's to have held up such an ambitious vision for itself, especially in the wake of the “split” in 2004 and subsequent period of conflict and sadness. It is a bold thing at a time when religion in the United States is experiencing unprecedented turbulence, division, and decline. Small churches are closing, mega churches are churning members, and the general population is increasingly allergic to Sunday morning worship and organized religion in general. Although we cannot ignore these trends, St. Mark's has every reason to be excited about its future as it grows and lives into its vision and the resulting reality.

What we see happening at St. Mark's today is possible because so many people, guided by our vision, have given of themselves – their time, talent, and money as well. Leadership is clearly visible with our wardens, **Fiona Miller** and **Scott Bednas**. Fiona is ending her term as Senior Warden and has guided the vestry with skill, calm nerve, humor, and optimism. During her time as Warden, St. Mark's added the 9:15 a.m. service and launched the Misa en Espanol. Scott takes over as Senior Warden while **Paula Zwiebel** assumes the role of Junior Warden. Scott has been a key leader in assisting the finance committee in creating budgets for 2011 and 2012, and I am looking forward to working with both Scott and Paula in the coming year.

Outgoing vestry members include **Laurie Vanderlei** (liaison to Buildings and Grounds), **Roby McGovern** (liaison to Newcomers Committee), **Cindy Flynn** (Outreach) and **Joseph Lanzillo** (youth liaison). Each has contributed to a dynamic and thoughtful vestry. Incoming vestry members are **Lea Forsman**, **Cheryl Olsen** and **Tim Dorgan**. **Cynthia Mote** is our new youth representative, and our delegates to convention are **Sawyer Hill** and **Eric McAlpine**. **Elizabeth Lewis** and **Gretchen Kenower** are completing their three-year terms as delegates to convention.

Nothing in our vision could foresee the events of last December. **Shawn Somerville's** sudden death brought shock and deep sadness to our church and community. Such a tragedy tests our faith and bonds of community at its deepest level. As Joanie, Parker and Carly continue to be held closely in love and prayer by St. Mark's, I am thankful to so many who have responded with visits, calls, e-mails, meals and monetary gifts to the Somerville Scholarship Fund. These are tangible signs of the Gospel and God's presence. Shawn had served just one year of his three-year vestry term. He brought a wonderful sense of humor, intelligence and gratitude to our meetings and to his work on the finance committee. I am grateful to **Steve Webster** who has agreed to serve the remaining two years of Shawn's three-year vestry term.

Consider other parts of St. Mark's vision that we can see. The St. Mark's Preschool is now in its second year with an enrollment of 26 students. We already have a waiting list for the morning session of the next school year beginning in September. The Preschool was still a dream in 2009. Today, it is a wonderful reality that enriches both St. Mark's and the greater Glen Ellyn community. **Meghan Kaplan** is the director of the Preschool, who is assisted by **Holly Pelsor** and **Savannah Stewart**. Cindy Flynn, in particular, has guided the Preschool to its success. If you visit the Preschool's web site, read its by-laws, look at the classroom in room 101, you will see Cindy's hard work evident in all of it. Both Cindy and her husband Paul, will be greatly missed as they complete their move to California later this year.

Nearly 100 children participate in St. Mark's Parents' Day Out (PDO) program, which operates Monday through Friday. Last year for the first time, PDO offered a summer session. The growth and success of PDO has happened because of the leadership of director **Kathy O'Rourke** and the PDO teachers as well as the PDO board led by **Kim Reed**.

Parish Life is a lynch pin ministry at St. Mark's. The coffee hour every Sunday is possible because of Parish Life. The annual Parish Picnic, Newcomer brunches and Kick-off Sunday party are organized by Parish Life. The Lenten dinners are under the oversight of Parish Life. There are many involved in this ministry. In particular, I want to thank **Joanie Somerville** for her leadership and dedication.

You have heard that this has been a year of records for Giving to St. Mark's. To date, we have received 220 pledges and \$520,000 for the 2012 budget. These results can be traced to the hard work of our Giving Committee co-chairs, **Ellie Dunham** and **Greg Olsen**. They agreed to try a new strategy this year – assembling a team of volunteers to go out and hand-deliver Giving Campaign materials. Over 50 people were assigned two households to visit. There is an old saying that “people give to people.” Personal attention and broad participation are the keys to the success of this year's campaign. Meanwhile, the St. Mark's Capital Campaign, begun in 2010, continues as pledges are paid and new gifts received. After a payment by the treasurer at the beginning of January, the principal owed on the building mortgage now stands below \$1 million. This is both a psychological and fiscal victory for St. Mark's.

I encourage everyone to visit the St. Mark's web site. It is easy to get to by Googling “St. Mark's Glen Ellyn.” This past year, **Paul Flynn** took over as web master from **Bob Cardwell** and migrated our web content to a new platform. Bob did a wonderful job managing our web site for over six years. With the availability of new technology, Paul has brought the web site to a new level. Not infrequently, I receive very positive comments about our web site. With Paul's move to California, **Deanna Ellison** is taking over as web master and is already doing a great job.

A hub of activity at St. Mark's is what we call the "front desk." A group of volunteers (**Kim Reed, Fiona White, Kim Toliver and Edith Jacobson**) and our office manager, **Dellana Mote**, are an amazing team. Everything from calendars, to bulletins, mailings, responses to inquiries of all kinds, prayer lists and newsletters – all are produced in the office. Dellana is a force of efficiency and can-do spirit. One example of her ingenuity is that she was able to have addresses print on envelopes and directly on the newsletter, eliminating the need for labels. This is efficient and saves money. Dellana is always working on new ideas and improvements. Behind the scenes is **Ginnie Judd** who for many years has coordinated the editing of the Sunday worship bulletins. Ginnie also is responsible for managing and sending out Constant Contact e-mails and for creating this annual report.

Another hub of activity is the treasurer's office, where **Dick Anstee** and **Bill Novak** keep the finances of St. Mark's in excellent order. Also helping is **Dave McCarraher** who tracks pledges and oversees restricted memorial funds. We have excellent accounting practices and a very organized system. This past year, **Paul Ruskusky** and **Jack Toliver** conducted a diocesan-guided audit of our books. We passed with flying colors.

In 2011, there was a wonderful transition in our children's ministries as **Jill Bednas** took over as director from **Marsha Webster**. Marsha has devoted her time to the children's choirs and to the 9:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. services. Jill took over in time to recruit new teachers and welcome many new families into our program. Our school classrooms are getting crowded on Sunday mornings. Jill has brought wonderful enthusiasm and energy to all our children's programs. Jill has had many wonderful helpers. Special thanks go to **Judy Jackson** for directing the Advent Pageant, and everyone who assisted her. It was an angel, sheep, and shepherd extravaganza.

I am grateful to be part of our clergy team, which includes three volunteer priests – **Walter Dunnett, Mathew Idicula, and Robin Currie**. Walter preaches and presides on a regular basis. Mathew assists with Wednesday Eucharists and special services. Robin Currie not only preaches and presides. She assists with our Sunday school and edits the PostMark newsletter and helps compile other special booklets, such as those for Advent and Lent. We have welcomed **Victor Conrado** and his wife, **Lucia** and son **David**, to St. Mark's last October. Victor has launched our new Misa en Espanol and is helping us to live into our vision of greater cultural diversity at St. Mark's. The Latino population grew by nearly 50% in DuPage County between 2000 and 2010. We are responding not a moment too soon to welcome these members of our community.

Elizabeth Molitors arrived at St. Mark's in the fall of 2009. She preaches, presides, offers pastoral care, and coordinates our junior and senior high youth ministries. I am especially encouraged that over the past year, attendance at our Sunday morning senior high group has been increasing. **Donnie Boyce**, a senior at Wheaton College, is serving as our youth intern. He is joined by a group of adults who rotate in leading the Sunday morning group. Meanwhile, our junior high has adjusted to sharing space with the St. Mark's Preschool, which both use room 101. They leave messages for each other, recognizing the bonds of community that exist across days of the week and ten years of age.

Catharine Philips is an ordained Episcopal priest who also a licensed professional counselor. She has an office at St. Mark's and has clients both outside of the parish and from St. Mark's as well. She provides counsel at staff meetings and assists with planning and preaches on occasion.

Charles Snider has been at St. Mark's longer than any of the current staff and clergy. He arrived at St. Mark's in November 1986. We are in the year of his silver anniversary, 25 years of service. Charles oversaw the project that procured and installed our Walker pipe organ, and he continues to inspire us with his musicianship and faithfulness to the power that music brings to worship. More information will be coming about plans to celebrate Charles's milestone anniversary.

There can be no end to thanking people. It goes on and on, and I will fail to recognize everyone who needs to be recognized. I would fail miserably if I didn't recognize **Scott and Penny Taback** for organizing last October's Pumpkin Fest. The event raised over \$4,000 for St. Mark's and brought hundreds of people to our campus over twelve hours of programming. Scott also helped plan for the recent Chicago Blues Night that raised \$4,000 for the

Glen Ellyn Walk-in Ministry. **Patsy and David Kinney** were key organizers for both this year's and last year's Blues Nights. Their energy and passion for the combination of music and outreach is phenomenal. **Phil Alder and Joe Campagna** once again organized our Pumpkin Patch for PADS fundraiser. It was a record year. We sold nearly \$20,000 of pumpkins and donated \$6,400 to PADS. For the past several years, **Brian and Cindy Stepien** have recruited and coordinated over 50 volunteers for summer PADS nights. **May Anstee** is the president of the Daughters of the King, whose ministry includes all of the altar set-ups and preparations for Sunday services, weddings, funerals and other services. This is a ministry of details and reverence. They do an absolutely incredible job all of the time. For several years, **Reeny Linstrom** has led yoga classes at St. Mark's during the winter months. I am thankful to her for offering this practice of movement and spirituality that has been very popular. She is taking a break this winter and has organized a "Move Through Winter" series that I hope many people will go to. **Myrna Grant** oversees our Sunday morning adult formation classes and creates both topics and recruits outstanding guest speakers. **Cheryl Olsen** has done an amazing job as head of our buildings and grounds committee, taming a number of long-standing problems with our heating and alarm systems. **Michael Benich and Dick Mylander** give endless hours of their time to repairing the building, whether leaks in the roof or missing ceiling tiles in the library. **Dianne Dinse** delivers flowers and brings communion to home-bound and those in the hospital.

Last fall, we witnessed and blessed the ordination of **Miguel Briones**. After ten years at St. Mark's, he has followed a call to ministry that now has him serving at Cristo Rey and La Senora de Las Americas parishes in Chicago. Fortunately, Miguel's wife, **Norma Cid** continues to serve St. Mark's as a teacher in PDO and as our Sunday nursery coordinator. After Miguel left St. Mark's, **Julian Mendoza** arrived and has been invaluable in setting up and cleaning the church on Sundays and at other special events.

Lastly, I want to recognize my family for their support for my particular call and ministry. **Cecilia, Lydia, Frances and Geo** offer unconditional love, patience and constant encouragement. They like to give me a hard time about my second family – St. Mark's. But they love it as much as I do.

As we look through the frame of our vision and see the year ahead, may we continue to be guided by the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the renewing energy of the God's Holy Spirit and the knowledge that God our Father is present wherever we go. Take a look through the frame yourself. What do you see? I promise - you can do it, we can do it, with God's help.

Yours in Christ,



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Vestry and Diocesan Delegate Nominees

We are pleased to announce the list of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee for the 2012 election to St. Mark's Vestry. We have a total of four openings including one for two years, to complete Shawn Somerville's term.

Senior Warden

Scott Bednas

Junior Warden

Paula Zwiebel

Two-year Term

Steve Webster

Three-year Terms

Tim Dorgan

Lea Forsman

Judy Jackson

Cheryl Olsen

Youth Representative

Cynthia Mote

Candidates for Diocesan Delegate and Alternate

Sawyer Hill

Eric McAlpine

For Senior Warden

Scott Bednas



It is an honor to be called to the position of Senior Warden. I value my experience as Junior Warden under the guidance of Fiona Miller, and I am excited for the opportunity to continue to serve this amazing community. I am forever grateful for the love, support, and generosity that our parish bestowed upon my family during my battle with cancer in 2010. I am hopeful that my service as Senior Warden will pay back a small portion of the emotional and spiritual debt owed to the St. Mark's community.

I am a cradle Episcopalian, and my family joined St. Mark's shortly after we moved from Michigan to Glen Ellyn in 2003. Jill and I celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary last year and we continue to enjoy the blessings of our boys Pierce (8) and Reece (4).

In addition to serving as Junior Warden in 2011, I had the pleasure of serving on the vestry from 2006 through 2008. Currently, I also serve as a lay reader. I look forward to continuing to work with the clergy, staff, and vestry as Senior Warden. I will strive to serve the parish to the best of my ability as we continue to grow in faith and branch out into the world.

For Junior Warden

Paula Zwiebel



My husband, Bud, and I have been married for 26 years and have lived in Glen Ellyn for 25 years. We have been members of St. Mark's since the early '90s. Our children, now young adults, grew up in this parish. It is definitely home for us.

I work part time at Loyola Medical Center as a registered nurse in the Outpatient Clinics. About half of my time is spent with a pediatric nephrologist (kidney doctor) and the other half with an internal medicine physician. I get the joy of being with children and the interest of talking with people who have lived longer, interesting lives.

Since coming to St. Mark's, I have been involved in a number of activities. I have been on the PDO board and taught Sunday school. Currently, I coordinate the usher ministry and worship commission and am a member of the Daughters of the King.

I was a member of the vestry a few years ago and found it to be an interesting and rewarding experience under Fr. George's calm and capable leadership. St. Mark's has grown and become a remarkable, vibrant place. I am honored to serve in the role of junior warden with our wonderful clergy and the people that make St. Mark's a living testament to God.

For Vestry—Three Year Terms

Tim Dorgan



Tim and his wife Liz have been members of St. Mark's since January of 2009. Both Tim and Liz are part of the St Mark's/First Congregational Stephen Ministry program that began in the fall of 2010.

Tim and Liz have lived in Glen Ellyn since 1984 where they raised their four sons: Patrick (30), Matthew (28), Andrew (25) and Brian (23). Tim was active in coaching his boys over the years, acting as head coach for multiple baseball, basketball and soccer teams. He, along with his boys, also spent several years coaching Special Olympics basketball in conjunction with Western DuPage Special Recreation Association.

Professionally, Tim is currently part of the management team at Peapod, where he initially met George Smith many years ago during Tim's first tenure with the online grocer.

Prior to re-joining Peapod, Tim was Chief Executive Officer for G2, a \$150MM division of the Grey Global Group that focused on bringing innovative shopper marketing solutions to clients such as Kraft, Procter & Gamble, Nokia and Diageo.

Tim has also held senior management positions at J.Walter Thompson, Ketchum Communications and Bozell.

In his spare time, Tim is an adjunct professor at Northwestern University Medill School of Integrated Marketing Communications where he teaches a graduate level course in Shopper Marketing. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of The Cove School, a Northbrook based school focusing on the education of learning disabled students, K-12.

Lea Forsman



I was born and raised in a French, Catholic home in New York City and spent sixteen years being educated by the Dominicans in both New York and Connecticut. My maternal grandfather studied to be a Jesuit and his two sisters were Carmelite nuns.

What drew me to St Mark's was the Music Program, and I started singing in the choir in about 2006. At the time St Mark's was in the process of finding and selecting a new rector. The arrival of Fr. George and the enthusiasm, intelligence and generosity that he brought with him showed me that the Episcopal Church was a liberal and progressive church that retained the Catholic traditions without following the rigid traditions of Rome.

I was happily accepted and confirmed at St Mark's on April 19, 2009, and I am honored to having been asked to serve on St Mark's vestry.

Judy Jackson



I was baptized Presbyterian, confirmed Methodist, and confirmed Episcopalian by the time I was thirteen. During my adult years, I chose a church to attend dependent upon whether I wanted high church or low church or upon whom I was missing. When I retired from 35 years of teaching English at York High School, I sought avenues of serving. I served dogs through the county animal shelter, I served children in Northern Uganda through a not-for-profit organization established by retired teachers from York High School, and I served students through tutoring. I followed my passion for photography, reading, writing, the North Woods, and my dogs but something was missing. So, I sought a home church. In November of 2008, I decided to check out St. Mark's and in doing so discovered a church home. As I have continued to venture into St. Mark's through participation in weekly Bible Study,

singing in the choir, serving through pastoral care, Stephen Ministry, and Daughters of the King, and assisting in worship as chalice bearer and subdeacon, I found answers to my questions, clarification for my doubts, and faithful purpose to servitude. I found liturgy that sustained the beauty of worship, families that treasured their children, and clergy that walked their talk. I found a passion to serve within the church that enhanced my service outside the church. In essence, I found an expansion of my desire to serve beyond what I had imagined.

I discovered that being a part of St. Mark's, in a community of faith-based people, a community of acceptance and growth, a community of intellect and compassion---that being a part of that makes me feel alive and connected and me. I want to be a part of the energy and love and faith that is growing in this church. Being a part of the vestry would offer me the opportunity to offer what I can to continue the intimacy and the growth of what God has in store for us. I look forward to the opportunity of serving on the St. Mark's Vestry.

Cheryl Olsen



After a Roman Catholic up-bringing, Cheryl Olsen has been a practicing Episcopalian since shortly before marrying her husband Robert almost thirty-two years ago. St. Mark's has been their spiritual home since their move to Glen Ellyn in May 2008.

Cheryl received a BA in Sociology/Criminal Justice Studies minor from the University of Minnesota in 1974, a Certificate of Upholstery from the Minneapolis Technical College in 1989, and a Connecticut Elementary Education License in 2001, while completing all but three credits towards a Masters in Education. Her employment history includes savings and loan teller, hospital floor clerk, welfare eligibility technician, self-employed upholster, substitute elementary teacher, and Children's Christian Education

Director at a Connecticut Episcopal church.

Cheryl has volunteered almost twenty years toward some aspect of teaching/directing children's Christian Education. She has participated in planning and facilitating several VBS programs. She has assisted in planning and facilitating outreach fundraisers and tag sales, and has been an active gardener at three parishes. Cheryl completed three years of vestry service, running Children's Education, at her former Minnesota parish.

Cheryl took over Management of Buildings and Grounds in late August 2010. When first asked to take on this role, Cheryl says, "I just laughed, and walked away. But thankfully, I did rethink the call to this ministry. The St. Mark's facility is a complex and beautiful treasure, and I take very seriously the responsibility the whole parish shares in stewardship of this treasure, so that generations after us may benefit from it. I have learned much about the building's needs in the last 16 months, but there is much still to learn and do. In addition to keeping the building in good repair, safe and clean, the current goals are to grow the B & G volunteer team and establish a B & G management e-file.

For Vestry –Two Year Term

Steve Webster



Having come to St. Mark's from over 20 years serving and attending the First United Methodist Church in Glen Ellyn, it has been a blessing to get to know a new supportive faith community and a wonderful liturgy. If elected, I am looking forward to serving on Vestry and assist in any way possible.

As you may already know, Marsha and I live just over a block away from the Church on Phillips Avenue with over 23 years at that location. We have two children, Ryan (21) a senior at Indiana University and Christine (19) a sophomore at DePauw University. I am Vice President and owner of DS&P Insurance Services, an independent Insurance agency in Palatine, Illinois, working with business owners and individuals for their insurance needs.

With past committee work serving as chair of the Finance Committee, Chair of Trustees and various other volunteer capacities at the Methodist Church, I come to this opportunity wanting to assist in any way I can. I have just completed a Chairmanship of a 35th Anniversary campaign at Family Shelter Service where I have served as a Board Member and various other leadership positions.

Youth Representative to the Vestry

Cynthia Mote



I am a junior at Glenbard West. I am a member of both the girls cross country and track teams. I've been a member at St. Mark's since 2008. I have served as an acolyte for some time and participated in many programs such as the high school youth group, the Mexico mission trip and fundraisers, volunteering with VBS, PADS & PRC. Being asked to serve as the Youth Representative to the Vestry is an honor.

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Sawyer Hill



My name is Sawyer Hill and I've been a parishioner at St. Mark's for 4 ½ years. I'm currently a sophomore at Lake Park High School and am involved in various activities in and out of school, namely various diocesan youth events. I have been going to the diocesan camp since age 7 and have loved the Episcopal Church and what it stands for since. I am the daughter of a priest, so faith has played a major role in my life, but I have found a spot of my own within the diocese. For the past two years I have been a voting delegate at diocesan convention as a youth representing the diocese as a whole. Although I would continue to do that, I would be honored to have the opportunity to represent St. Mark's and what this church stands for at convention this year. I feel that at convention I would be able to integrate the voices of the youth and the voices of the congregation as a whole in order to place votes that thoroughly represent the entire church. I would

be honored to represent the congregation of St. Mark's at the next convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago as a delegate!

Eric McAlpine



Eric McAlpine and his wife Caroline, and 3 children, Will (9), Anna (6), and Katie (5) have been residents of Glen Ellyn since 2002 and members of St. Mark's since 2007. Eric grew up in Michigan, and Caroline grew up in Texas. Eric is an attorney specializing in intellectual property. Eric has been a member of St. Mark's vestry, and participated in St. Mark's visioning committee. Eric and his wife have taught preschool Sunday School at St. Mark's. Eric's wife, Caroline, is active in the women's ministries and likes to bake and decorate cookies.

Report from the Senior Warden

It has been an honor to serve as your Warden for the past two years. This has been a time of excitement and growth for St. Mark's: a result of some incredible synergies, and the hard work of an army of volunteers and a truly dedicated staff. It's not so many years ago that such growth and energy would have been near impossible to predict. New families of all ages are being drawn to St. Mark's, and it is wonderful to see so many new faces mixed with the familiar ones, and to experience all the good things associated with an increasingly vibrant parish.

Of course, little of this growth would have happened without George Smith, our Rector, who continues to be a stalwart and visionary leader. I don't think I have ever met anyone with his ability to put a plan into action in such a short period of time. It is one of the responsibilities of the wardens to be a sounding board and to make sure there are checks and balances in place when the rector comes up with new ideas. I'm cautious by nature and admit I was a little concerned by the speed with which George was moving to implement plans for a third service and, not too much later, the addition of a Spanish language service. I'm happy to admit I was wrong, and I'm thankful that George didn't pay too much attention to my reservations! I really should have known better: George has demonstrated on numerous occasions an ability to move us forward and to challenge us to make right decisions.

This past year, among our many blessings, was the arrival of Victor Conrado and his family and the appointment of Jill Bednas as Director of Children's Ministries. Also in 2011, we were delighted to see Miguel Briones, who had been serving as our Sexton for more than 10 years, complete his seminary studies and be ordained as a Transitional Deacon...on his way to Priesthood.

My fellow vestry members have taken their responsibilities seriously; they care deeply about St. Mark's and the communities it serves, and have put that care into action. They led key initiatives and are active volunteers in many of activities: Pumpkin Fest, PADS, St. Mark's Preschool, and Blues Night, to name a few. They are ambassadors for St. Mark's and have been truly supportive, and it's been a pleasure to work with all of them. Scott Bednas is stepping up armed with a solid business foundation and grasp of the many responsibilities he is undertaking; and I'm confident that he and Paula will do an excellent job as your incoming Senior and Junior Wardens.

With the support of the Diocese, and through the generosity of our congregants and the expertise of our Treasurer and Finance Committee, we have been able to reduce our debt, significantly. We are fortunate to have a beautiful building in which we can worship and share and encourage fellowship. Of course, we still have considerable financial obligations and a responsibility to maintain high standards of programming to encourage our children and adults to deepen their relationship with God; to make sure our physical plant is in good repair; and to support our outreach programs and serve the wider community to the best of our ability. The years ahead will require that we do as much as we can to support the operating budget to ensure our continued successes in these areas.

Although our faith stories and the paths that brought us to St. Mark's are varied, we are all members of the St. Mark's Church family, linked and guided by our vision statement, "*Rooted in Baptism. Growing in Faith. Branching out into the World.*" Let us all continue or begin to seek God's guidance to find ways to serve Him through our work, worship, and fellowship here at St. Mark's and in our local and global communities so that we can ensure we are good stewards of the gifts we have been given.

May God's Peace be with us in the years ahead.

Fiona Miller

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2012 Operating Budget**

Revenues	2011 BUDGET	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET
Current Year Contributions			
Pledge Payments	\$ 495,000	\$ 478,925	\$ 555,000
Open Plate	\$ 45,000	\$ 42,499	\$ 45,000
Special Collections	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,318	\$ 1,000
Fund Raising Events	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,099	\$ 10,000
Gifts to Outreach	\$ 3,100	\$ 12,156	\$ 6,400
Prepaid pledges	\$ -	\$ 5,580	
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 5,000	\$ 397	\$ 4,000
Diocese Grant	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,500
Usage Income	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,175	\$ 5,000
Other Income	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,282	\$ 5,000
Spanish Lang Service	\$ -	\$ 14,563	\$ 61,900
St. Mark's total revenue	\$ 620,600	\$ 626,994	\$ 695,800
St. Mark's Pre-school	\$ 25,000	\$ 47,055	\$ 45,000
PDO Cost Reimbursement	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,908	\$ 60,000
Total Revenue	\$ 695,600	\$ 734,957	\$ 800,800
Expenses			
Clergy Payroll (incl Benefits)	\$ 215,440	\$ 205,046	\$ 212,585
Other Expenses:			
Programs	\$ 12,900	\$ 21,675	\$ 14,870
Music			
Staff	\$ 59,464	\$ 60,329	\$ 63,212
Program	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,485	\$ 3,500
Administration			
Staff	\$ 25,200	\$ 29,373	\$ 25,836
Program	\$ 21,249	\$ 21,109	\$ 21,000
Buildings & Grounds			
Staff	\$ 20,376	\$ 12,631	\$ 12,918
Program	\$ 215,850	\$ 233,616	\$ 209,400
Our Children			
Staff	\$ 23,619	\$ 18,864	\$ 27,235
Program	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,405	\$ 5,900
M&O	\$ 46,681	\$ 50,804	\$ 51,454
Rectory Expenses	\$ 15,050	\$ 13,594	\$ 19,150
Spanish Language Service	\$ -		
Staff	\$ -	\$ 14,416	\$ 53,800
Program	\$ -	\$ 431	\$ 8,180
St. Mark's total expenses	\$ 665,329	\$ 688,778	\$ 729,040
St. Marks Pre-School	\$ 25,000	\$ 43,763	\$ 45,000
PDO Expenditures	\$ 50,000	\$ 57,844	\$ 60,000
Total Expenses	\$ 740,329	\$ 790,385	\$ 834,040
St. Mark's Net Total	\$ (44,729)	\$ (61,784)	\$ (33,240)
Transfer from Campbell	\$ 40,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 25,000
Transfer from M&O Reserve	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,095	\$ 3,400
Transfer from B&G temp restricted		\$ 7,193	\$ 5,000

Accounts	Last Year	This Year	
Assets			
Operating Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
1101.00 - Checking Community Bank	\$36,010.54	\$16,635.99	
1103.00 - Capital Campaign - Community Ba	\$118,555.17	\$80,159.01	
1106.00 - DK Checking	\$3,939.75	\$2,262.52	
1107.00 - PDO-Checking	\$16,559.80	\$10,518.72	
1109.00 - St. Mark's Preschool checking	\$3,648.17	\$24,553.21	
1110.10 - Memorial MMKT-Community Bank	\$294.20	\$7,803.08	
1115.00 - Rector's Discretionary Community	\$10,843.51	\$8,167.72	
1117.00 - Molitors Discretionary Account	\$1,710.78	\$1,487.33	
1118.00 - Conrado Discretionary Fund	\$0.00	\$881.84	
1125.00 - Restricted Funds CD	\$58,358.08	\$48,887.54	
1135.00 - M & O Reserve Fund CD	\$34,772.43	\$35,126.60	
1150.10 - Thanksgiving Chkg-Community Ba	\$4,563.70	\$3,368.05	
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$289,256.13	\$239,851.61	
Investments			
1201.00 - Diocesan Foundation	\$8,890.42	\$8,770.14	
1209.00 - Wayne Hummer-Operating	\$676.22	\$3,505.44	
1211.00 - Wayne Hummer Lillian Campbell T	\$84,632.46	\$51,602.56	
1215.00 - Wayne Hummer - Lewis	\$197,278.86	\$204,477.46	
Total Investments	\$291,477.96	\$268,355.60	
Total Operating Assets		\$580,734.09	\$508,207.21
Non-operating Assets			
Property and Equipment			
1701.00 - Church Buildings	\$4,535,250.00	\$6,098,900.00	
1705.00 - Furniture and Fixtures	\$417,000.00	\$703,000.00	
1710.00 - Computer Equipment	\$654.65	\$1,139.51	
1715.00 - Stained Glass	\$0.00	\$163,000.00	
1720.00 - Rectory	\$305,765.91	\$473,000.00	
Total Property and Equipment	\$5,258,670.56	\$7,439,039.51	
Total Non-operating Assets		\$5,258,670.56	\$7,439,039.51
Total Assets		\$5,839,404.65	\$7,947,246.72
Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
2110.04 - Due to Other Organizations	\$505.00	\$0.00	
2140.00 - Rental transmittal	\$828.39	(\$1.00)	
2141.20 - Rectory Security Deosit	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
2150.00 - Wedding Transmittal	\$10,478.50	\$0.00	
2151.00 - Funeral Transmittal	\$1,375.00	\$608.23	
Total Current Liabilities		\$15,186.89	\$2,607.23
Long Term Liabilities			
2172.00 - Building Mortgage Payable	\$1,562,599.71	\$1,128,646.67	
2173.00 - Debt Reduction loan -Diocese of C	\$0.00	\$547,844.00	
2701.00 - Rectory Mortgage Payable	\$131,912.45	\$125,291.33	
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$1,694,512.16	\$1,801,782.00	
Total Liabilities		\$1,709,699.05	\$1,804,389.23
Fund Balance			
3100.00 - General Fund Balance	\$1,048,464.02	\$1,324,980.20	
3200.00 - Investment in Property & Equipmen	\$2,547,634.05	\$4,384,014.98	
Excess Cash Received	\$16,026.03	(\$20,277.93)	
Total Fund Balance and Excess Cash Received		\$3,612,124.10	\$5,688,717.25
Restricted Funds			
Total Temporarily Restricted	\$320,302.64	\$249,662.78	
Total Permanently Restricted	\$197,278.86	\$204,477.46	
Total Restricted Funds	\$517,581.50	\$454,140.24	
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds	\$5,839,404.65	\$7,947,246.72	

ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2011 Summary of Restricted Accounts

MEMORIAL FUNDS		BEGINNING BALANCE 1-Jan-11	CREDIT ADJUSTMENT	DEBIT ADJUSTMENT	ENDING BALANCE 31-Dec-11
Bequests Received	8120	\$456.28		(\$456.28)	\$0.00
John Hess Memorial	8120.06	\$145.36		(\$145.36)	\$0.00
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	\$835.00	\$250.00	(\$835.00)	\$250.00
Marjorie Truesdale	8120.27	\$250.00		(\$250.00)	\$0.00
Budzicz Memorial	8120.28	\$310.00		(\$310.00)	\$0.00
Philip Carter	8120.31	\$3,595.00			\$3,595.00
Marion Hoffman	8120.39	\$125.00		(\$125.00)	\$0.00
Meryl Wiggins	8120.41	\$185.00		(\$185.00)	\$0.00
Rachel Dinse	8120.42	\$1,583.00	\$250.00		\$1,833.00
John Schmuck	8120.44	\$375.00			\$375.00
Fred Dinse	8120.45	\$548.30	\$250.00		\$798.30
Wesley Hookham	8120.47	\$740.00			\$740.00
Fred Lundgren,	8120.48	\$100.00		(\$100.00)	\$0.00
Marion Hesterman	8120.49	\$200.00			\$200.00
Virginia Whiting	8120.51	\$50.00		(\$50.00)	\$0.00
Peggy Scopinski	8120.52	\$325.00			\$325.00
Keith Schoen	8120.54	\$20.00			\$20.00
Dorothy Peterson	8120.53	\$450.00			\$450.00
TOTAL		\$13,582.74	\$750.00	(\$2,456.64)	\$11,876.10
Lewis Trust Fund	9101. 10	\$197,278.86	\$20,064.33	(\$12,865.73)	\$204,477.46
Lillian Campbell Fund	8440. 15	\$84,632.46	\$20.10	(\$33,050.00)	\$51,602.56
Memorial Fund CD 7/9/2012		\$48,755.96	\$131.58		\$48,887.54
Mission & Outreach CD 7/9/2012		\$35,009.51	\$117.09		\$35,126.60
Pelham Fund Diocesan	8430. 10	\$8,890.42	\$899.65	(\$1,019.93)	\$8,770.14
Pelham Fund	8430. 20	\$5,135.07			\$5,135.07
Thanksgiving Fund	8440. 10	\$4,563.70	\$2.27	(\$1,197.92)	\$3,368.05
TOTAL		\$397,848.72	\$21,985.02	(\$50,590.22)	\$369,243.52
Memorial Fund Balance 12/31/2011		\$294.20	\$10,008.88	(\$2,500.00)	\$7,803.08
Debit adjustments from Memorial Fund \$2456.64 used for Pre-School Furniture Bill Mark Memorial contributions, transferred to the Music Fund					

Update on The Second 100 Years Capital Campaign

In March of 2010, Bishop Lee came to St. Mark's to help us kick off our Capital Campaign, "The Second 100 Years," which was our campaign to reduce our mortgage debt. Our initial goal was to raise \$600,000 and the Bishops and Trustees Committee of the Diocese had agreed to match our fundraising dollar for dollar with an interest free loan.

We ultimately raised pledges for \$800,000. We have already received more than \$670,000 from Parishioners, which has allowed us to ask for and receive all \$600,000 of matching funds from the Diocese. In January of 2012, we made the latest pay-down of our mortgage, an additional \$130,000. In all, we have reduced our mortgage on the Church building by \$1,230,000 and now have a mortgage of less than \$1 million.

The impact of this reduction goes directly toward reducing our operating expenses. In 2009, we were paying over \$15,000 per month in mortgage payments. Starting in February, our payment will be less than \$7,000. That is a reduction of nearly \$100,000 per year and a giant step toward our original goal of reducing our debt to a manageable level.

Dick Anstee

2012 Giving Campaign

The ministries and activities of St. Mark's are funded primarily by the regular contributions of our members. Each fall we hold a giving campaign to solicit pledges for the coming year. These pledges enable the Wardens and Vestry to create a responsible budget for the year.

The Giving Campaign Committee experimented with a new approach to fundraising this year. We enlisted the help of about 50 volunteers to deliver campaign materials to newcomers and to members who had not pledged in the past. Each campaign volunteer attended a training session, and was then tasked with calling upon two families. Though part of the job included dropping off pledge cards and campaign materials, in fact the most important task was reaching out and building relationships with these folks. We learned a lot about what people like about St. Mark's, and what we could do better as a parish. Campaign workers enjoyed the positive interactions they had while making their calls, and many created new and promising connections. A post-Campaign debrief and feedback meeting was held on January 15th with the volunteers who supported the efforts. The Giving Campaign committee recorded items to continue that were successful, how to address challenges, and suggestions for the 2013 campaign. It should not go unrecognized that members of the Vestry and many volunteers hand delivered the campaign materials and returned with valuable input regarding St. Mark's, its impact on our parishioners' lives, and its effect on our Christian Community.

As of January 31, we have received commitments totaling \$521,000 towards our goal of \$555,000 for the 2012 budget. We are happy to report a record number of pledges with 220 collected to date, exceeding our goal of 210. We greatly appreciate all the parishioners who support St. Mark's as they embody this year's theme: In giving, the many are one!

In order to reach the dollar pledge goal of \$555,000, a second request by e-mail and letter has gone out to the parish. Results will be reported at the annual meeting.

We wish to recognize the efforts of several key volunteers: Javier Valdivia designed amazing graphics; Ted Figler procured the delicious bread that was available for every family on Consecration Sunday; Marsha Webster provided critical help in our initial planning; Michael Boskovic printed our materials; Dellana Mote and the office volunteers

organized all of our materials, labels and envelopes; the finance committee worked hard at creating our budget for 2012; Father George provided support and energy throughout the Giving Campaign.

Our success is a reflection of the amazing parishioners at St. Mark's, the Giving Campaign Committee thanks you for your encouragement and support!

Ellie Dunham and Greg Olsen

Our Fourth Service: A Spanish speaking Congregation, A New Journey

The moment I walked into St. Mark's Church in Glen Ellyn and Fr. George Smith pointed to the banner and the three words above the altar; Rooted in Baptism; I felt that this community was not a static, sleepy parish. The project of wanting to have a Spanish-language Eucharist celebration added to the regular Sunday services confirmed this.

I joined St. Mark's staff on October 1st with the task of planning and launching this service. My first thought was that such a project could not be done successfully without the involvement of the current St. Mark's members. That is why we decided to create a group that we called the Bridge Group. The purpose of this group was to advise, plan and carry out our Strategic Plan. But one of the most important functions of the group is to continuously assist the Spanish-speaking members integrate into St. Mark's parish life.

We celebrated our first Eucharist on December 11, 2011 at 1pm. We had a great turn out from the local Spanish-speaking communities. The support and participation of St. Mark's members was felt indeed. They welcomed our newcomers with love and willingness to serve in whatever way they could. It was a family celebration. On that day we were humbled by the presence of representatives from the Diocese, our deanery, and from our neighboring Spanish-speaking parishes. This was a moment in which we could truly say that the Episcopal Church welcomed everyone. St. Mark's has grown even more in its vision of being a vibrant, growing inclusive community rooted in our shared baptismal covenant together.

I have been blessed by being part of St. Mark's and to work together with George, Elizabeth, and the vestry in this project. After every Sunday service, it is a blessing to truly welcome people and to see how their faces changed from fear to feeling at home. I know for many of our new members it is an invitation that sounds threatening because for many years they were not welcomed as they are. I know that the radical welcome we offer affects not only we who welcome but also those who are welcomed. We offer to accept the newcomers as they are, but that puts the newcomer in the position of presenting whatever he or she brings to the church.

I feel happy to see my wife Lucia talk to people and invite them to be part of this parish family and to organize different activities that I have never thought of. She is teaching me a lot about traditions and ways to bring more and more peoples' culture into the liturgy. I am blessed to know that I can count on her.

The journey continues. Our Bridge Group will continue to look for ways to make our new members feel at home. We are now facing the reality that people come with their many physical and spiritual needs and we need to find ways to respond to some of them.

In order to respond to some of these needs we have decided to:

- Open a discretionary fund to help with some immediate and small financial needs some of the parishioners present;

- Refer people to different Human Services agencies in Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, and Lombard. We have updated some of the information we already had in St. Mark's. We want to be a bridge to these different agencies in the area;
- Continue inviting people to join the 1:00pm service every Sunday and to help those who are already attending the service to be more involved and at home with the different activities we offer here at St. Mark's;
- Start a Bible Study Group that meets every Thursday at 6:00pm and to offer a space to pray with the Rosary on Saturday at 9:30am and a Eucharist celebration at 10:00am;
- Begin the preparation to Celebrate Holy Communion. We have four children who are now in the process and will join the group that is already being prepared here in St. Mark's;
- Involve some of the members who are participating in the Sunday Eucharist in ushering, welcoming, acolyting, and helping to set up for the different liturgical services;
- Visit the families of those who are regulars to the Sunday Eucharist and other services. We have been blessed with the presence of some key families who want to get involved in inviting others to come and join us.
- We sent out another mass mailing to let people know what we offer, and invited them to come and see. Our first mass mailing brought some families to us and helped us be known in Glen Ellyn, Lombard, Wheaton, and Glendale Heights.
- We continue to approach the different businesses that offer services to the Hispanic population in the area.

We in the Episcopal Church have a lot to offer to our brothers and sisters of the Latino/Hispanic communities that have carried a lot on their shoulders. We have seen how life is given back to some who felt dead. They have been reintegrated into a community of believers with great dignity and love. We have seen how people start to see a more inclusive way of being Christian and a more family oriented approach to them.

We in the Episcopal Church offer our brothers and sisters of the Latino/Hispanic communities the opportunity to receive the radical welcome and to worship together, each as we are.

Rev. Victor Conrado

Children and Youth Formation

Youth Living Faith (YLF) – Middle School Youth Group

In the fall of 2011, the St. Mark's middle school youth group - known the past few years as Blythe & Basement Boys – underwent a change: new name, new meeting date/time, new focus. YLF (Youth Living Faith) is a gathering where middle school youth translate the words of faith (loving your neighbor, treating all with dignity) into lives of faith. Our youth need to know that they have a role in God's plan to transform the world; as much as any adult, they, too, can be Christ's hands and feet and voice in the world.

The group meets once or twice a month, Sunday afternoons, 3:30-5pm for activities and projects, along with friendship and fun. This year, the service projects have included making food for the PADS Sunday night dinners at First Congregational, creating holiday cards for the pastoral care team to take to homebound parishioners, and making pencil cases for the children of OWL (Opening the World through Literacy, a tutoring program for African refugees, based in Glen Ellyn).

At each gathering, the youth are welcome - and encouraged - to bring their non-St. Mark's friends. Surveys and studies about youth and faith consistently show that the most important predictor of youth having a vibrant faith life is the example of their parents. I hope that you will make this gathering a priority for your son or daughter, and lend your support. If you have questions, need more information, or wish to volunteer, please contact Rev. Elizabeth Molitors.

Junior Mission Camp

Thirty middle school youth from St. Mark's, First Congregational and Grace Lutheran churches spent July 11 – 15, 2011 in Junior Mission Camp, a week of service projects, learning and fellowship. The theme for the week was "Allies and Neighbors," and activities were focused around that theme. The youth weeded yards, collected canned goods and supplies for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry (138 bags!), visited the Holocaust Museum in Skokie, packed shelf-stable meals at Feed My Starving Children (about 17,000 meals) and learned about budgeting and money management during "Reality Fair," an experiential learning game like the old board game of Life. Many thanks to all the youth who participated and the parents and other members of St. Mark's who helped with the week.

Youth Formation – 7/8th grade

The core of St. Mark's youth formation is Sunday mornings. From 10:15-11:15 a.m. during the program year (September thru May), the youth gather in one of the downstairs classrooms (7/8th grade in room 101; high school youth meet in room 103) to share, learn, and grow as a group. They are also encouraged to attend one of the Sunday morning Eucharist services and participate in a worship ministry (acolyte, reader, usher, thurifer, chalice bearer or sub-deacon).

The time that the 7/8th graders spend together on Sunday is framed by the Rite 13 program, which uses stories in scripture, both Old and New Testament, to help the youth discover what it means to be made in the image of God, valuing the way God has made them, and how to be and grow in relationship with God. Preparation for Confirmation is also woven into this time, and the youth are invited to meet and talk with the clergy, and make a decision in the spring of their 8th grade year, whether they wish to be confirmed. The youth also participate in various service and social activities, including work at the People's Resource Center; packing lunches for PADS; volunteering at a PADS site; help with the St. Nicholas Day brunch; unloading pumpkins and working shifts at the Pumpkin Patch; and social activities including laser tag, Paintball and the Christmas (Semi) Progressive dinner.

One of the changes this year affecting the 7/8th grade youth program had to do with the space they use on Sunday mornings. If you walk by classroom 101, you will see signs identifying the room which, at first, seem contradictory: 'St. Mark's Preschool' and '7/8th grade Sunday School.' As the Preschool entered its second year, more space was needed to accommodate the growing program, a move to room 101 took place over the summer of 2011, necessitating the room becoming a shared space. Consistent with the Preschool's Reggio Emilia teaching philosophy, the shared space situation allows these two groups to interact, even if the kids never meet each other. The room's white board is the place where 'conversation' takes place, with notes passed back and forth each week. Art projects by the 7/8th graders hang on the room's walls, and the Preschool teachers invite the older kids to do some of the same projects that the younger children are doing (the cookie preference survey, inquiries about pets, measuring things with pumpkins). Many thanks to the Preschool director and teachers – Meghan Kaplan, Savannah Stewart, Holly Pelsor and Amy Kalten – for making this shared space approach work productively.

Special thanks and recognition go to the adult leaders of the 7/8th grade youth on Sunday morning. Kim Reed and Paul Flynn have been a dedicated and committed teaching team the past several years; with Paul's relocation to the west coast, I am grateful also to Jeff Linstrom, who readily agreed to step into the role as a Sunday morning leader. Kim, Paul and Jeff have made the 7/8th grade room a great place to come each week.

Youth Formation – Senior High

This year, the leadership of the High School Sunday Morning Group is a shared effort, rotating between 5 couples and/or individuals who each bring a special focus and passion to their area of expertise. Rachel & Chad Alcorn, and Kelly & Seth Allison – who have lead the high school discussion group the past 1-2 years – continue with the 'Journey to Adulthood' curriculum, which invites young people to know and better understand themselves, in relation to others and to God; the Alcorns and Allisons also lead an occasional "Music Sunday" with the group. Peter and Virginia Vagt facilitate discussions on the intersection between science and faith, and how we know what we know about these topics. Steve Webster explores current events, looking at the happenings of the world through

the lens of scripture. And Donnie Boyce, a Senior at Wheaton College majoring in Philosophy, History and Business, shares his observations on philosophy, faith and the 'big' questions of life, as well as providing continuity and connection from week to week.

The senior high youth also take part in service activities throughout the year (serving dinner at PADS, working shifts at the Pumpkin Patch, running the games at Pumpkin Fest, loading the Cathedral Shelter truck), volunteer in the nursery, participate in a worship ministry (acolyte, reader, usher, thurifer, chalice bearer or sub-deacon) and attend social activities including Paintball and the Christmas (Semi) Progressive dinner.

Rev. Elizabeth Molitors

Children's Ministry

Children: Nursery Age through 6th grade

Christian Education

St. Mark's offers several faith formation opportunities for children, nursery age through elementary school. These are made possible because of the large number of volunteers who commit their time and talents to be with the children. Children's programs include Sunday School, Worship, Nursery Care, Vacation Bible School, and Music. In May of 2011 I began training for the position with Marsha Webster, who was kind enough to continue the transition until the fall kick-off on September 11. I took over the Children's Ministries role, while Marsha specializes in music.

Highlights from each area are as follows:

Nursery – Norma Cid has a staff of rotating teen and adult volunteers who keep our nursery running smoothly during the 8:00, 9:15 and 10:30 services where we average 1, 4, 7 children respectively in the nursery each week, and the number of infants during the 10:30 service is growing. The nursery is also staffed on Thursday mornings for NOVA which has been averaging 3-5 children. Winter/Spring 2011 was staffed by Tara Schoen & Carrie Pihl and Fall 2011 by Carrie Pihl & Carrie Gowans. The two Carrie's will continue to staff the 2012 "Move Through Winter" and Spring NOVA offerings

Sunday School

Classes are offered for children age 3, through 6th grade. We purchased a new online accessible curriculum called "Weaving God's Promises" which was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. It can be tailored to each class based on age and covers topics of the Holy Scripture, the church and basic Christian principles. The Fall program year kicked off on September 11th, with the Sunday School hour at 10:15 – 11:15. Average attendance for Winter/Spring of 2011 was around 50 children per Sunday. We have several new families in attendance and average 7-8 children per grade each Sunday to bring to around 67 children per Sunday for Fall 2011. It took a few weeks of adjustment, but classes are running smoothly and keeping our staff of volunteer teachers busy. The size of the two preschool classes forced the preschool age 4's to use the Children's Worship room which is much larger and can accommodate the fluctuation of preschool age children (our largest growth area) that we experience each week. Classes are broken down as follows: preschool age 3, preschool age 4, Kindergarten, First, Second, 3rd/4th grade combined and 5th/6th grade combined.

As part of our outreach, the children donate food each week (by class) to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.

Children's Worship – We continued to offer two age appropriate worship experiences for our youngest members: Children's Worship (Godly Play) – Ages 4 – 1st grade, and Lamb's Chapel – Ages 2-3. Children's Worship has

averaged 3 children this fall. The attendance averaged 4-5 early 2011 and dropped to 3 this fall. I will try marketing the program more and see if that helps attendance or move it to a summer only offering.

Attendance at Lamb's Chapel fell off in Winter, Spring & Summer at which point it made more sense reallocate our resources to other programs and we closed Lamb's chapel in Fall 2011. Many thanks to those who volunteered and participated. Also a big Thank You goes to the Parent's Day Out Program for funding the replacement of several windows in the undercroft which allows fresh air into the Children's Worship Room.

Thank you also to KaiLonnie Dunsmore and Mark Engelsman and Kristeen Peiffer who maintain the cloth worship bags to help children navigate the "adult" worship service.

Vacation Bible School – Inside Out and Upside Down: On Main Street was the theme for our annual VBS offering, which was held Aug. 1 –5, 2011. This year we had very high interest in our program which filled up to capacity of 62 children. The program ran successfully thanks to the 16 adult leaders and 17 youth leaders who volunteered that week. Special thanks go to Caroline McAlpine for creating the many backdrop, decorations and props for the program; and to Gretchen Kenower for contributing her sewing talents. During VBS we collected food for the People's Resource Center.

Other Educational Opportunities at St. Mark's

- Summer Parenting Series – During the summer a team of volunteers led a 4 week summer educational offering for school-aged children that ran in conjunction with an adult offering on parenting. Unfortunately the program did not attract any elementary age children.
- Trick or Treat for UNICEF– This year the Sunday School classes tried something new. The pumpkin decorating contest was a great success during coffee hour on Sunday, October 30th. Additionally, children & their families brought in boxes of change and currency which totaled over \$500 for the UNICEF collection.
- Advent Wreath Making – Offered on the first Sunday of Advent as a "do it yourself" activity in Mahon Hall. A SPECIAL THANK YOU goes to Dick Mylander who transformed a piece of an old church pew into several advent wreath bases.
- Christmas Pageant – Presented on December 18th. Over 70 children were involved in the production of "Good News of Great Joy" who performed for a full house. It was directed by Judy Jackson and a wonderful core team of volunteers: Karen Doran, Marsha Webster, Virginia Vagt, Melissa Creech, Marilyn Justus, Kristin Margaglione, and Sarah Delany (who helped behind the scenes during both rehearsal days). It was an all-female holy family this year and we added a 2nd sheepdog which worked out well. Many others stepped in and out to help make the pageant a success.
- St. Mark's Preschool and Parents Day Out – I serve on the board of both the St. Mark's Preschool the PDO program and am in regular communications with both groups.
- St. Nicholas Luncheon, was held December 18 and was our largest yet. New this year, Marsha Webster brought in a piano and everyone sang Christmas Carols while the children visited with St. Nicholas.

Marsha Webster and Jill Bednas

Adult Formation

2011 was an exciting year for Adult Formation. We are continuing to broaden the scope of what makes up Adult Formation at St. Mark's. January kicked off with the third year of "Yoga with Reeny" on Thursday mornings in Mahon Hall. This gentle yoga class was offered January through March and was well attended by the community as well as members of St. Mark's.

On January 19, 2011, St. Mark's partnered with Wheaton College to bring Eboo Patel and Skye Jethani to Coray Auditorium for a discussion of Religious Pluralism. The talk was preceded by a dinner and informal talk about interfaith relationships with Patel and Jethani and was open only to Wheaton College youth leaders and St. Mark's High School youth. Over fifteen of our High School youth attended this event along with a few our youth leaders and clergy.

In May a few parishioners attended "An Interfaith Event on Religious Persecution" at the Ahmaddiya Muslim Community's Jaamey Mosque. On September 11, about 10 St. Mark's parishioners gave blood at the Mosque participating in a nation-wide blood drive sponsored by the Ahmaddiya Muslim community.

We continued our One Book-One St. Mark's Summer Reading Series by reading Cabin Fever by Tom Montgomery Fate. At 7pm on October 20, a small group of parishioners participated in a lively dialogue with Mr. Montgomery Fate about the book and his writing.

In addition to these programs, the Wednesday Morning Prayer Group continues to meet and pray for our parish prayer list. The St. Mark's Book Group is still going strong and meets monthly at various members' homes.

The cornerstone of Adult Formation at St Mark's continues to be the Adult Forum offerings on Sunday mornings. The committee is led by Myrna Grant and committee members are David Fletcher, Bruce Benson, Peter Vagt and Lynn Wollstadt. The theme for January to Lent in 2011 was, "Science and the Christian Faith." In Lent we considered "The Seven Virtues" to compliment last year's Lenten series which focused on "The Seven Deadly Sins." We ended in May focusing on the four women included in the Matthew genealogy.

For Fall 2011 the theme was "Tell the Truth and Telling It Slant" which considered the indirect or controversial pictures Scripture gives us of Messianic prophecies, kingdom parables, Jesus' teaching on women and salvation. Our Advent series considered Advent in other cultures, the hymns, symbols, art and traditions of Advent.

This year for the first time, the 9:15am class was repeated at 10:15am, giving the congregation the option of either class to attend. Generally around 12-15 people attended the earlier class and 2-5 people attended the later offering. We have publicized the classes by posting notices in the bulletin, on the church's bulletin boards week by week, by articles in the Post Mark, by notifications on our Website and by distributing brochures. We appreciate the rector's notice of the classes from the pulpit.

We are also very grateful for the continuing support and advice of our St. Mark's pastoral staff.

Myrna Grant and Reeny Linstrom

Music

Due to various conflicts and scheduling complications, our first-Sunday Evensongs did not resume until March. These services still remain a wonderful source of contemplative worship for those who attend. Soon enough we were into Lent, Holy Week, and the great celebration of Easter with a fine brass quintet.

Also in March, members of the Organ Historical Society asked if they could pay a visit to St. Mark's in order to see our Walker pipe organ. While our instrument is not old enough to be historical, it was on their way between two other churches, and while they were in the area they wanted to see an instrument about which they had heard many favorable comments. We were, of course, delighted to have them pay a visit.

In May the Treble Choir sang for the Evensong, and the One Voice Choir of Glen Ellyn held a performance in the church. Things then relaxed a bit for the summer months.

In September the Adult Choir participated in the glories of our retreat to Green Lake, Wisconsin where we experienced the legendary hospitality of Bob, June, Ginnie and Gerrit. This always is such a wonderful way to begin the new academic year as we prepare the music for services up to Christmas. Also in the same month our parish hosted members of the American Guild of Organists Fox Valley Chapter for their opening dinner in Mahon Hall.

October opened with another Evensong which included a wonderful prelude recital given by Marsha Webster and Kathy Christian. Together they presented a captivating program of organ duos, and even wore matching ensembles! Later that month the Adult Choir sponsored a booth at the Pumpkin Fest selling various desserts and baked goods.

In November the first-Sunday Evensong was offered in a more expanded version with the Adult Choir singing the canticles and an anthem for All Saints' Day. The Litany of the Saints was sung and past members and family members of the parish were memorialized in the liturgy.

Advent brought another celebration of Lessons & Carols with the Adult and Treble Choirs, and the Madrigal Singers from Glenbard East High School with their director, Brandon Catt. The service was especially well attended this year, and a collection was taken once again to aid Father Andrew White and his ministry in Baghdad.

The three-service Christmas Eve schedule was expanded to four; the 3:00pm and 5:00pm services being designed more for families with young children, the 8:00pm with brass, and the 10:00 with brass and choir. A special appeal was placed in the bulletin for contributions for the brass, with a need to make up a deficit from earlier in the year. The response was overwhelmingly generous, and for this we are very grateful indeed.

Lastly, I want to thank all the members of the music program, from the youngest to the oldest, for their contributions of talent and time. So many people have involved themselves in playing an instrument during our worship services, which adds enormously to the beauty of our corporate worship. I'm also deeply grateful for the priceless contributions made to our program by my associate and colleague, Marsha Webster. Her involvement in so many aspects of the parish, in addition to the music program, enriches us in countless ways, and I am continuously reminded how very fortunate I am that she is with us.

Charles Snider

Music Programs for Children and Youth

Our music program for children and youth took a number of turns in 2011. First of all, our Choristers for the 2010-2011 school year numbered 8. We developed a nice core of children, who were in kindergarten last year, who then came back to be a strong foundation for the start of the new year in September 2011. This school year we have 15 K – 2nd graders in Chorister Choir. We sing monthly, mostly simple and repetitive Bible songs, and our rehearsals also allow time for some liturgical and elementary music study. The highlight of the year was to get t-shirts made for the group. They wear them on the Sundays in which they sing. New singers are always welcome to join Choristers!

The Treble Choir, for 4th – Senior High Youth, is organized in a much more relaxed manner this year. After singing nearly twice a month for the 2010-2011 school year and attending the "Come Children Sing" music festival at Grace Episcopal Church Oak Park, we had only 2 Treble Choir singers return for this year, due to extra-curricular commitments and family relocation circumstances. Two additional youth were interested in joining in the fall; however, the rehearsal schedule was not convenient for them. As a result, I am now working with the youth on a less regular rehearsal basis as a way to "catch and draw" them into music at St. Mark's. Those interested in singing come to the choir room on designated Sundays after the education hour to learn 2 – 3 pieces, which are then

presented in worship at 9:15. We sing hymns, as well as verses for the Taize choruses, which often accompany either healing or communion during worship. The confirmation youth also learned “Unidos, Unidos” during their education hour and then sang it on a later Sunday. It was an opportunity for this group to experience a portion of worship from the choir loft. A Senior High Girls ensemble has also sung in worship twice. Given the demanding school and extra-curricular calendars of our youth, this seems to be the best way to involve them in music at St. Mark’s.

We have also had a number of youth share their talents by playing a solo on their instrument. These include Amelia Benich, Emily Bergman, Anna Creech, Henry Figler, William Figler, Abbey Flynn, Theo Grant-Funck, William Lanzillo, Alex Margaglione, Elise Olsen, Frances Smith, and Christine Webster. We will continue to recruit youth to play and participate in small ensembles for worship.

Coming up on Friday, March 9th at 7:30 p.m., we are hosting a concert by the Vivaldi Strings, a youth string ensemble of the Community School of the Arts at Wheaton College. This group is highly acclaimed and recognized for their excellence. All are welcome to attend this performance, and families with elementary age children are especially encouraged to attend.

I continue to work with the preschoolers on Sunday mornings, at the beginning of Sunday School, on Thursdays for Parents Day Out, and on occasion when asked for the St. Mark’s Preschool. It is a joy and privilege to sing, clap and move around with these little ones. Indeed, music is a universal language and an offering of prayer to God!

Marsha Webster

Usher Ministry

The ushers do the visually obvious tasks at the worship services, such as handing out the bulletins, collecting the offering, and releasing the congregation for communion. They also offer assistance to anyone who might need it, directions or assistance with finding classrooms or restrooms, or help with seating at heavily attended services. Another important aspect of being an usher is greeting people as they enter church. This is often the first impression of St. Mark’s for newcomers.

Confirmands, families with children, singles, and couples have participated in this ministry. We are happy to have their help and welcome any one who would like to join this important ministry.

Paula Zwiebel

Lay Readers

Lay Readers (also 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, etc. 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 meetings with the clergy and others to learn how to do this and how to fit smoothly into the services they are part of. There is always something new to learn for even the most experienced readers.

At this time we are blessed with a large number of readers, with more joining our ranks all the time. Young people are welcome, as are older and in-betweens! Contact a member of the clergy or Rinda Allison if you would like more information. Please let the readers know how much you appreciate their hard work.

Rinda Allison

Daughters of the King

St. Anne's Chapter

St. Anne's chapter was chartered in August of 1931, and has served St. Mark's continuously for 80 years. 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 prayer, service and evangelism.



At St. Mark's we meet in the church library on the third Monday of every month except July and December. You will most easily recognize us by the distinctive silver cross we wear.

Daughters serve St. Mark's by acting as the altar guild, by preparing food for funerals, and by acting as liaisons for weddings. In addition, many Daughters serve individually. They bring flowers to parishioners, they work in the nursery, they bring communion to the homebound, they volunteer in the office, they wash dishes in the kitchen, they teach Sunday School, they serve on the vestry, they take responsibility for Buildings and Grounds, they even serve as wardens at the request of the rector.

Despite all of this activity, Daughters of the King are not called to do, but to be. We desire to align our lives more closely to God's will, and in order to more effectively achieve this goal we meet, pray and study together as a group. Are you a woman who feels that your spiritual life is in disarray or is in need of direction? Would meeting, praying and studying with others who feel the same way help you in your spiritual journey? All women of the parish are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. For more information contact May Anstee, Chapter President, or talk to any woman wearing the cross.

May Anstee

Wedding Ministry

The Wedding Ministry at St. Mark's is designed to provide assistance to the officiating clergy and the bridal party during what can often be a very busy and detail-laden time. During the months and weeks before the wedding, we are available to the bridal party to answer questions, provide suggestions and support them in any way possible. On the day of the rehearsal and actual day of the ceremony, we provide a welcome to St. Mark's for any visiting clergy, the bridal couple, family and guests. We also provide an experienced guide through the whole process. Many mothers of the brides and visiting clergy have written to us after the wedding to tell us how invaluable was our help and presence. During 2011 we had 3 weddings at St. Mark's, all former parishioners who grew up in St. Mark's.

Kris Baier

Worship Commission Report

The purpose of the Worship commission is to assist in reviewing, monitoring, and evaluating the various aspects of worship at St. Mark's in order to honor God, to promote spiritual and physical growth of the parish, and to meet the needs of the community. Managing of the Sunday four service schedule (including the Spanish language service) is ongoing with changes being made as needed. Adjustments from the various areas (listed below) are constantly being made and, to the credit of all involved, all is apparently running smoothly. Whatever the adjustments, everyone involved has been willing to do his/her part with positive concern and enthusiasm.

2010 saw the increase from two to three services on Sunday mornings and adult formation forums at 9:15 and 10:15.

September 2011 marked the 1st anniversary of the 3 service schedule and the addition of a 4th service, a Spanish language service, and the addition of Victor Conrado to the clergy to lead the Spanish services. A Bridge committee was formed to consider aspects of the integration and needs of the Spanish Language Service.

The Worship Commission meets quarterly--recent meetings were held on:

- 9-7-11 Discussions centered around the kickoff of our program year. The Wednesday Eucharist resumed on 9/14. The 8:00 am service saw minor changes such as one chalice bearer and opening and closing hymns.
- 11-2-11 Discussions centered on the schedule through Advent and the upcoming Spanish Language Services. Bridge meeting scheduled for Nov. 13th.
- 1-12-12 Discussions centered on the schedule for Lent through the Easter Services and a review of Christmas. Christmas Eve services at 3:00 and 5:00 were well attended.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 18 at 7:30

People and Resources: The following people are responsible for securing volunteers in the various areas which constitute the Worship Commission — acolytes, bulletin production, chalice bearers, chapel intercessors, clergy, Daughters of the King, liturgist, music, subdeacons, and ushers:

Fiona Miller/Fiona White	Acolytes, Subdeacons, Chalice Bearers
May Anstee	Daughters of the King
Charles Snider/Marsha Webster . . .	Music
Rinda Allison	Readers
Paula Zwiebel.	Ushers
David Fletcher	Liturgist
Ginnie Judd / Dellana Mote.	Bulletin

Paula Zwiebel

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Commission seeks to provide support to parishioners who would be comforted by caring church members reaching out to them. For those unable to attend our services we offer Eucharist. Our young people from middle school have made lovely cards, which are sent along on appropriate holidays. We are providing rides to parishioners otherwise unable to attend church. The prayer shawl ministry, the prayer ministry and the meal ministry provide much needed caring for those who need comfort at difficult times in their lives. We give financial support to local agencies (Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service, Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center and NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness). An important part of Pastoral Care is our Stephen Ministry. We have 5 active Stephen Ministers now and 2 parishioners who are beginning their ministry. We would welcome anyone who would be interested in participating in these ministries.

During 2011 parishioners provided meals for families with new babies, those recovering from surgery or illness, moving to new homes or for a tragic loss for a family. The meals ministry has more than 40 active volunteers. Thanks to all who have participated during the past year. Your help and home cooking were much appreciated. Please contact Lisa Baker if you would like to be added to the meals ministry list or if you have suggestions for 2012.

Dianne Dinse

Church Tellers

I would like to thank all of the Church Tellers, who counted the weekly offerings every Monday last year. Your accuracy is appreciated, not only by me, but also by Dick Anstee and Bill Novak in the Treasurer's Office. Additional work sheets had to be prepared, prior to making the deposit at the Community Bank.

A special thank you to: Sandy Allison, May Anstee, Doug Armantrout, Bob Cardwell, Barbara Colombo, Bob Judd, Gretchen Kenower, and Barbara Stephani who were responsible for this weekly counting.

A new member is Ms. Karen Evans, and we welcome her to the team.

Dave McCarraher

New Fundraising Event: Pumpkin Fest

To say that Pumpkins are a big part of St. Mark's fundraising efforts would be an understatement! In 2011, St. Mark's not only raised approximately \$19,500 for PADS with our annual pumpkin patch, but we extended the pumpkin theme to include a brand new fundraising effort: Pumpkin Fest. Pumpkin Fest raised over \$4,000 in its inaugural year where all funds supported St. Mark's capital budget. Pumpkin Fest presented the Glen Ellyn community an autumn themed, pumpkin inspired festival providing food, children's games, pumpkin carving, haunted house, Two Brothers beer, and a full day of music from some of the area's top musicians. Given its successful debut, we believe Pumpkin Fest will provide St. Mark's an annual fund raising event for years to come.

Danna Gross and Scott Taback

St. Mark's Outreach Committee 2011 Summary

Event	Date	Key Sponsors	Beneficiary	Notes	Amount Raised	
					2010	2011
School Uniforms	Lent	Outreach Committee	Diocese of Chicago	Nets For Life \$2,100	\$1,804	No MDG s* projects held
Parable of Talents Challenge	Lent	Elizabeth Molitors and Outreach	H.S. donated to programs of their choice	New Project		\$530
UTO Blue Boxes	Lent	Elizabeth Lewis	UTO		\$570	\$923
Operation Bear Hug	Palm Sunday	Stephen Baker	Bishop Anderson House	New Project		150 plus Teddy Bears and stuffed animals
Blues Night	February	David and Patsy Kinney	PRC	New format for Jazz Night		\$4,300
Spring Jazz Concert	May	Angela Adkins	St. Mark's Preschool Scholarship Fund		\$1,965 Preschool Scholarship Fund	Not held
Cake Auction	Jan	Trey Buchanan	SE Mexico Trip		\$1,700	\$1,500
Mother's Day Rose Sale	May	Andrew Dorn Evelyn Cabrera	SE Mexico Trip		\$1,000	\$736
Cinco de Mayo Dinner	April	Kim Reed	SE Mexico Trip		\$3,300	\$4,000
SE Mexico Projects/Support Scholarship	Fall	Outreach Gift (Squire Grant)	SE Mexico Trip			\$2,275
St. Mark's Preschool Scholarship Fund	Fall	Outreach Gift (Squire Grant)	St. Mark's Preschool	Half the cost of tuition for one child		\$1,125
Crop Walk	Spring	Paul Flynn	Church World Service		\$1,090	\$1,800
PADS Shelter	Summer	Brian and Cindy Stepien	PADS for	Dollars estimated on 3 meals (\$20 total) x 60	\$5,000	\$5,000 strong participation
Pumpkin Patch	October	Joe Campagna, Phil Adler	PADS (1/3)/ Native American Farmers (2/3)	Dollar amount: Approx 1/3 for PADS	\$17,673 (\$6,066 to PADS)	\$19,495 (\$6,317 to PADS)
Sleep Out Sat.	Nov	Elizabeths Molitors/ Lanzillo	Bridge Communities		\$400	Individual pledges
Unicef	Nov	Jill Bednas	Unicef Trick or Treat & Party		\$186	\$305
Christmas Baskets	Dec	Ginnie Judd	Cathedral Shelter	\$ Estimated on \$150 avg per family X 66 families adopted	\$9,900 (66 families)	\$10,500 (70 families)
Children's Concert	Dec	Jill Bednas	GE Food Pantry	With Jim Gill	Not held	Not held

Event	Date	Key Sponsors	Beneficiary	Notes	Amount Raised	
					2010	2011
St Nick's Brunch	Dec	Jill Bednas	PRC		\$750 cash, gift cards toys	\$750 cash, gift cards and toys
Peoples Resource Ctr Food Collection	Dec	Elizabeth Molitors	PRC	Fall food donations from Blythe and Basement Boys	Food donations	\$600 (Outreach gift)
Andrew White	Dec	David Fletcher	FRRME		\$563	\$795
Glen Ellyn Food Pantry	Sept-May	Jennifer Bergmann and Wendy Valluzzi	GE Food Pantry	Sunday School classes rotate weekly donations	Well supported with food donations	\$600 (Outreach gift) Well Supported with food donations and Thanksgiving envelopes
PADS Lunches	Oct-May	Leslie Delaney/ Graham Smith (Past sponsor Reeny Linstrom)	PADS – First Cong Site	\$100 per month in donations X 8 months	\$800 Well supported with food donations	\$800 Well supported with food donations
Annual Support	All Year	St Mark's	Chicago Diocese		\$34,650	\$38,981
GE Walk-In Ministry	All Year	Bob Bernero	GE Walk-In Ministry	\$1,895 Outreach gift + \$1,056 from George's Marathon	\$1,600	\$2,951
			Totals:		\$82,951	\$98,116**

* United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

** Includes Cash and In-Kind Estimated Cash Donations

Thank you to St. Mark's for all your support of our parish's outreach efforts in 2011!

Cindy Flynn

St. Mark's 2011 Mission Trip to Mexico – A Companion Parish Relationship

In January, the Rev. George Smith and Kim Reed, as part of a delegation from the Diocese of Chicago which included Bishop Lee, attended the annual diocesan synod at the Anglican Center in Tuxtepec, Mexico. The delegation also had an opportunity to visit San Marcos as well as many other congregations within the diocese. Additionally, while in Xalapa, the state capital of Veracruz, some members of the group, including George, met with government officials to discuss freedom of religion and church efforts on behalf of people in poor rural and city areas. The delegation heard over and over again throughout the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, from many priests and congregations alike, that they would like to have a relationship with a church in the Chicago Diocese similar to the one San Marcos has with St. Mark's. Upon their return, George and Kim invited St. Mark's parishioners and others in the deanery to a presentation on the visit. They also spoke at a Cinco de Mayo program at Trinity in Wheaton to help generate interest at Trinity in starting their own companion parish relationship in Mexico.

Fundraising events for the June 2011 trip also started up in January, beginning with the Annual Cake Auction and Bake Sale, followed by the Cinco de Mayo Dinner and Silent Auction, and then the Mothers' Day Rose Sale. We

raised a total of \$6236 from these events, some of which offset expenses for the trip; the majority of the proceeds was sent to the Diocese of Southeast Mexico to provide needs assistance at San Marcos. Once again, we are so grateful for the participation in and support of these fundraising efforts. We would like to give special thanks to: Norma Cid and Miguel Briones for their time and effort given each year for the Cinco de Mayo Dinner, to Evelyn Cabrera for taking charge of the Rose Sale, to Andrew Dorn for his continued assistance with the Rose Sale and Cake Auction, to Trey Buchanan for heading the Cake Auction, to Julie Carson for creating and updating our brochure every year, to Dan Conaway for donating a laptop to help San Marcos to start their computer lab, to Horacio Chavez for his continued leadership in this ministry, and to the many parents and other interested parishioners who assist with the fundraising and planning.

With the help of all who have participated in these fundraisers, along with a gift from the Squire Trust, we were able to donate \$7300 to the Diocese of Southeast Mexico this year, allocated as follows:

- Emergency Assistance for Padre Senobio's hospital expenses -- \$1300
- Padre Senobio's Salary contribution-- \$2500
- Education Scholarships for youth -- \$2500
- Computer lab – laptop donated by parishioner
- Installation of the floor and miscellaneous expenses --\$1000.

On June 20th, fourteen youth and adults traveled for our sixth visit to Nigromante: the Rev. George Smith, the Rev. Elizabeth Molitors, Reeny Linstrom, Lane Reed, Kim Reed, Lydia Smith, Frances Smith, Emily Bergman, Molly Toliver, Egan Montgomery, Joseph Zaccaria, Megan Glavin, Cynthia Mote, and Cali Linstrom. We helped with Vacation Bible School, again bringing music, Emily with her violin and Egan with his guitar. We helped install a tile floor, assisted with the community dinner, and visited with our old and new friends in Nigromante. We asked each trip participant to pay \$400 and to consider donating \$78 per person as well. They were also required to fully participate in all fundraising events.

The Sunday following our return, the group narrated a slide show at each service, as we have done after each trip to San Marcos. All the participants wrote reflections published in the Postmark. In August, we invited members of the parish to attend a free Taco Bar Lunch Presentation to hear more about our recent visit and companion relationship.

In November, Molly Toliver, Megan Glavin, Egan Montgomery, and Kim Reed were part of a Mission and Outreach presentation on St. Mark's Global Missions. Later in the month, St. Mark's was delighted to host Bishop Benito, his wife Angelica, and son Eigner for a couple days during their visit to the Chicago Diocese for its convention. We had an opportunity to share our plans for a Spanish Language Service and took them to visit nearby places and missions that serve our local Latino community. Additionally, with the help of Marsha Webster, we held a small music concert featuring St. Mark's Choristers and many other talented, young musicians. This visit also included a dinner at St. Mark's for Bishop Benito and his family; all interested parishioners were invited to attend.

Additionally, St. Mark's has participated in regular meetings of the Global Ministry Commission Sub-Committee on the Diocese of Southeast Mexico. Plans are currently underway for the 2012 trip to Mexico – it will be our 7th year!

Excerpts from the 2011 Trip Reflections:

*In the past, we have purchased spaghetti, sauce, cookies and other food from the Costco in Veracruz. This year, we wanted to plan a meal using all local ingredients. Instead of spending money at Costco, we would be helping the economy. The women of San Marcos took the lead, deciding to make “Pollo Adobo” – a favorite local dish. We purchased many of the ingredients at a tienda (small store) in Nigromante. Twenty chickens, freshly slaughtered, rice and some other ingredients were purchased in Playa Vicente, a much larger town about thirty minutes away. For dessert, we bought 150 pieces of “pan dulce” (sweet bread) from the San Marcos bakery. Although the women of San Marcos did most of the work, some of our group spent hours with them, helping to chop, sort and cook as they directed. As the evening approached, two long tables were set up in front of the church. There were six or seven seatings, beginning with children, then teenagers, women, men, our group from St. Mark’s and finally the women who had prepared the meal. In the end, over 200 people enjoyed this delicious and filling meal. The food, the abundance and the feeling of community for me was a glimpse of the heavenly banquet we hear about in Scripture and in worship. As you can imagine, I am looking forward to our next trip – and to more unexpected surprises and ways that this relationship between St. Mark’s and San Marcos will continue to grow and deepen. –**The Rev. George Smith***

*I cannot possibly share everything I was lucky enough to experience or all that I learned from the people of Nigromante, because there was so much that I learned and that I saw that I cannot put it all into words. This was definitely one of the best experiences of my life and I cannot wait to come back to this village. –**Megan G.***

*We had to learn to be humble enough to accept their kindness towards us. I wanted to serve the community and the church. I had it in my head that we had the resources and talents to do so, but the trip wasn’t about that. It was about relationships and learning how to be served. In this, I learned about God. We cannot possibly give back all that we are given. But, we can learn to have a relationship with God, and try to be humble enough to receive, even when we think we could be giving. –**Emily B***

Communications

Website

The year of 2011 was a year of change for the St. Mark’s communications committee. After years of service, Robert Cardwell retired as St. Mark’s Webmaster. Paul Flynn took over the position. In August, Paul renovated our St. Mark’s Website by migrating the Website software to a new platform called WordPress, which allows multiple users to make changes and additions. Before WordPress, all notices, changes or deletions had to go through Bob Cardwell. Now individuals with passwords can make updates and add news directly to the Website. Paul also used WordPress to create the St. Mark’s Preschool Website.

Former parish project intern Chuck Tupta left St. Mark’s to return to his home parish. Chuck helped in gathering basic information for the Website and helping with the format. Javier Valdivia helped maintain the Website.

Unfortunately, we lost Paul as our Webmaster late in the year when he moved to California to begin working for Apple. Paul has trained several members of the church in using WordPress. Caroline McAlpine created pages for the women’s ministries, Leo Lanzillo for men’s group, and Joanie Somerville for parish life, after being trained by Paul.

Bob Cardwell was honored for his years as Webmaster at coffee hour on Sunday, Sept. 25. He established the foundation for a St. Mark’s Website that improves every year. Paul’s work in 2011 built on that foundation and has contributed to a vibrant, attractive Website that offers news on current and upcoming events as well as basic information on the parish. Photos taken by several photographers within the congregation enhance the welcoming look. Information on the new Spanish service which began in December is offered in Spanish.

One feature that illustrates the flexibility of the Website is the special page on the December death of parishioner Shawn Somerville. Friends and family have been able to use the blog to write about their memories of Shawn, and support his family.

Media Relations

Nancy Gier continues to maintain the list of media contacts and send out press releases on special services and events. Scott Taback has posted news of special events on newspaper Websites. News of the ordination of Miguel Briones as deacon was reported in an article in TribLocal. Miguel was featured in an article by Susan Dibble in the Nov. 2 edition of the Daily Herald. St. Mark's was featured in TribLocal when the church hosted a discussion sponsored by One Wheaton, a Wheaton College alumni group formed to support LGBT students.

Internal Communications

Robin Currie is editor of the PostMark, St. Mark's monthly newsletter, which is produced in both email and print form. Ginnie Judd facilitates Constant Contact, a database tool that includes all of St. Mark's email contacts. Information on parish events and services is sent to parishioners several times a week through Constant Contact.

Office manager Dellana Mote is central in producing Sunday bulletins and helping with all of St. Mark's email needs and other communication efforts. She and other office staff members also keep the parish bulletin boards fresh with weekly updates.

Creative Visuals

St. Mark's regularly uses posters and banners outside the church to inform the community of special services and special events. Javier Valdivia continues to help with his exceptional skills in graphic arts.

We look forward to another busy year as we strive to establish new members of the committee and improve communications in 2012.

Nancy Gier

Newcomers Committee

The mission of the Newcomers Committee is to welcome visitors, newcomers and members of our community to the St. Mark's family by expressing warmth and graciousness, providing information, and welcoming them into the community of St. Mark's. The St. Mark's water bottle became the new welcome gift in 2011 and is a big hit. Careful washing is recommended as version 1.0 has a tendency to melt in the dishwasher.

The Newcomers Committee is co-chaired by Joanie Somerville and Gil Long and made up of the following groups:

Ambassadors – The goal for this group is to visit all identified newcomers within two days of their first visit to St. Mark's. The ambassadors are assigned weeks (every 6th week at present). Ambassadors make an unannounced visit and bring a current copy of the PostMark, St. Mark's water bottle (filled with brochures and treats), a baked good, and a personal note of introduction. Newcomers become known by filling out the card found in the pews, registering at the office, or via conversations with the clergy, staff or parishioners. As members of St. Mark's, we are all ambassadors. Talking about our church community with friends and others you know casually and encouraging them to visit is one of the best ways for new people to become involved in our community. We would like to continue to improve and try for 100% of newcomers visited within two days of their initial visit.

Greeters – Greeters serve at the 10:30 am service to offer a warm welcome and direct people to various places in the church (Mahon Hall, Sunday School rooms, restrooms, etc.) Those who identify themselves as guests or visitors

are provided a St. Mark's water bottle filled with brochures and treats. We are always looking for more friendly faces to serve as greeters at the 10:30 am service. The time commitment is minimal (15-20 minutes prior to the service).

Brunch Coordinators/Hosts – Newcomers Brunches were held in the Spring and Fall of 2011 at the home of Sandy and Rinda Allison. The Allison's continue to be gracious and willing hosts for these events. We invite all newcomers to these events (held after the 10:30 am service), with the idea of providing an informal way of meeting new people in the parish. The clergy attends, as well as the coordinators and a few other members. The next brunch is planned for March 2012.

Joanie Somerville

Parish Life

The Parish Life vestry position functions as the liaison between the vestry and the Parish Life committee, Women's Ministries, and Men's Ministries.

Parish Life:

Joanie Somerville chairs the Parish Life committee. In addition to the following events, Joanie oversaw Coffee Hour for the 9:15 and 10:30 services as well as the Newcomers Brunches. Contact: jlsomerville@comcast.net

Since the first of the year:

Parish Annual Meeting: February 13
Lenten Suppers: March 16, March 23, April 6, April 13
All-Parish Picnic: June 5
Kick-Off: Sunday, September 11

Upcoming events:

Parish Annual Meeting: February 12
Lenten Suppers: March 7, March 14, March 21, April 4
All-Parish Picnic: June 5
Plans for the future:
Kick-Off Sunday, September TBD

Men's Ministries:

Leo Lanzillo chairs the Men's Ministries committee. Contact: llanzillo@gmail.com

Monthly Breakfast:

The men meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Glen Oak restaurant in Glen Ellyn, usually the first Tuesday of the month. For more information about the Tuesday breakfast, contact Dick Anstee at ranstee@comcast.net.

Bi-monthly meetings:

The St. Mark's men meet on the second and fourth Saturdays in the Parish Library. The groups viewed and discussed a church history video series a series by Marcus Borg. Contact Leo Lanzillo at llanzillo@gmail.com.

Bar-b-cue at the Rector's house:

The men meet at the home of George Smith the first week of August for a bar-b-cue. This is an annual event.

Women's Ministries:

Elizabeth Lanzillo chairs the Women's Ministries Steering Committee. Contact: eschnell123@gmail.com

W2W (Women to Women)

Since the first of the year:

Games with Joyce: February 23

Salad Supper: September 21

Last fall's supper included The Birthday Present Project, wrapping birthday gifts for impoverished children in DuPage County.

Cookie Exchange: November 16

Women were invited to bring a dozen plus cookies and take a dozen home. Cookies were decorated for donation to the People's Resource Center.

Ornament Exchange: December 14

Women snacked on appetizers and desserts and swapped ornaments in an exchange led by Fiona Miller.

Plans for the future:

Swap Party February 15

This fun ladies' night out provides a chance to swap good quality accessories in wearable condition. All unclaimed items are donated.

Annual Retreat March 16-18

The annual retreat for the women of St. Mark's provides a weekend of sisterhood, spiritual growth and rejuvenation at the Abbey Resort and Spa in Fontana, Wisconsin. Contact Fiona Miller at fionam@comcast.net.

Spring Tea April 28

The annual tea, a formal affair with scrumptious fare and lovely desserts prepared by the parish women.

After Hours (for moms)

After Hours is when moms take a night off and get together on a Wednesday evening in the parish library. Topics are geared toward the childrearing years, but all are welcome. Contact: Caroline McAlpine at (630) 858-7008 c_mcalpin@hotmail.com

Since the first of the year:

Easing the Mealtime Madness with Janet Spiech: March 2

Stirring the Volunteer Spirit with Kids by Kathy Blair, Executive Director of Giving DuPage: April 27

The Truth of Parenting: October 26

A discussion about the different journeys to parenthood and how to listen and learn from all of them, led by Jennifer Grant, author of Love You More.

Fun @ Cosmo's Beauty Bar: December 1

An evening of pampering with treats and beverages.

Winter Break Social: December 28

A gathering at Susan Shorney's home for a low-key post-holiday Girls Night Out.

Birth Order Revelations: January 18

Psychologist Dr. Maniaci examines how sibling relationships influence personality development.

Plans for the future:

Mama Goes Green: April 18

Join author Tracey Bianchi as she talks with great wit about life, faith, the planet and too much caffeine.

Building Stronger Love Relationships: May 16

Inspired by the book Hold Me Tight by Susan Johnson, Rachel Alcorn and Kelly Allison will lead a lively discussion on a revolutionary new way to see and shape love relationships.

NOVA (Nurturers of the Very Active)

Nurturers of the Very Active (NOVA), our weekly group for parents of young children, meets every Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 am, alternating between play dates and outings for parents (childcare provided) the next week. contact Elizabeth Lanzillo at eschnell123@gmail.com

marriage discussion: April 7

casual play date in Mahon Hall: September 22

book discussion on Mindful Parenting in the parish library: September 29

NOVA will take a hiatus while the “Move with St. Mark’s” occurs during February and March. NOVA contact is Elizabeth Lanzillo at eschnell123@gmail.com.

Judy Jackson, Parish Life Vestry Liaison

Parents’ Day Out Ministry

Parents’ Day Out (“PDO”) is a ministry of St. Mark’s to provide once or twice-a-week day care for children in our community between the ages of 2 and 5. The program is in session five days a week and is operating at capacity with more than 90 children and substitute lists. PDO has a committed following in our community, with the majority of participating children returning to the program again this year. In keeping with our mission, we offer scholarships and flexibility to suit a variety of circumstances, and several families currently enrolled take advantage of this opportunity.



Last June we kicked off our first month-long summer session and enjoyed full enrollment and community support. Our able staff welcomed students for some extra fun to start their summer. As with our regular program, our care included fine and large motor skill activities, arts and crafts, songs and stories, as well as lots of fun play time. PDO plans to repeat its successful June session again this summer.

PDO repeated several successful PR and organizational activities. Each child was given a school bag with the PDO logo to welcome them on their first day. Parents enjoyed bagel and coffee treats at drop off several times during the year. Lesley Arlasky provided unique and defining photos of PDO children and their siblings again this fall. This fund raiser and community building event provided photos cherished by all participating families.

Due to enrollment in this beloved ministry, PDO continues to cover its operating cost and provide cash and service benefits to St. Mark’s Parish. In the spring PDO gave \$6,000 to the Parish’s general operating fund. Additional funds raised by PDO’s enrollment allowed for a donation to the St. Mark’s Preschool in addition to numerous

significant facility improvements, including replacement of the windows in the undercroft, finalizing the furnishing of the Rainbow Room, and other indoor maintenance and repair projects.

After more than a decade of service, we said good-bye to Miguel Briones, who resigned in October as a PDO teacher due to his other commitments. We were immediately blessed to welcome Carrie Pihl as a new teacher who has integrated beautifully with our staff. We truly thank the rest of our staff, Kathy O'Rourke (Director), Cindy Glavin, Melody Mordini, Beth Figler, and Norma Cid, for their endless enthusiasm and dedication to these children. Current members of the PDO Board are: Kim Reed (Chair), Lesley Arlasky, Jill Bednas, Doris McCarraher, and Elizabeth Lewis (Secretary). Registration for the 2012-13 summer and fall programs will begin in April, with members of the parish receiving priority.

Kathy O'Rourke

St. Mark's Preschool

This year was a significant year of growth and accomplishments for our students and St. Mark's preschool program. Most significant was the completion of our first school year in May, 2011. On a beautiful May day at Lake Ellyn Park, our three teachers Meghan Kaplan (Director), and Savannah Stewart (Assistant Director), Holly Hampson Pelsor (Teacher) and our inaugural class of nine students celebrated the completion of an amazing year and wished our first four graduates James and John Boyd, Benjamin Saucedo, and Bryce Taback well as they said goodbye to St. Mark's Preschool and looked excitedly ahead to kindergarten.



In response to a growing number of applications for the 2011-12 school year, the Preschool Board voted in April to expand the program from one to two classes. Classes continue to be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with one session in the morning and a new class in the afternoon. In keeping with the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education, both classes would continue to be mixed aged classes of three and four year olds.

To prepare for more students, summer vacation was a busy one for our staff, as they moved down the hallway to a larger classroom to accommodate our desired target class size of fifteen students. We are grateful to the church for the opportunity to move to Rooms 101 and 102 and our students are truly enjoying sharing their room with the 7th and 8th grade Sunday School Class. Walls were repainted, a phone installed, additional furniture was purchased and other improvements were made. This move also necessitated an amendment to our DCFS license that was granted by the State. We are also grateful for the use of room 114 as our Project and Art Room. This additional art studio space is a hallmark of the Reggio Emilia curriculum and will enable the children have the space to get messy as they explore and express themselves through the use of a wide variety of art materials. I would like to thank Cheryl Olsen and Michael Benich for all the time they put into getting our new space ready and Dellana Mote for her help in getting our Parent Handbook and other materials ready for the school year.

This brings us to September! With everything ready and in place, and home visits completed, Ms. Meghan, Ms. Savannah and Ms. Holly greeted 25 preschoolers to our school as we opened our doors for our second year. This year we were very excited to have the opportunity to welcome seventeen families to our school who are not parishioners at St. Mark's.

I am very proud of how our curriculum and program continues to grow stronger. Our commitment to and understanding of the Reggio philosophy is deepening, our preschoolers chapel visits have increased to twice a month thanks to the effort and creativity of George and Elizabeth. A strong enthusiasm and interest in the program by our parents has increased the use of parent volunteers in the classroom and created a developing parent

education program. In addition, we are financially strong and self-supporting. I would like to thank Kim Reed for her help in co-chairing both our very successful Talent Night and Resale Fundraisers.

Lastly, I would like to thank our amazing Preschool Board (Rachel Alcorn, Jill Bednas, Rebecca Boskovic, Janice Campagna, Jen Chavez, Deirdre Churchill, Ann-Marie Cudzillo, Penny Taback, George Smith, Elizabeth Molitors, Meghan Kaplan, Savannah Stewart and Holly Hampson Pelsor) for their commitment to our school. Their talents and energy truly make our preschool a joyful place to teach, learn, play and grow.

Cindy Flynn

Buildings and Grounds

As the Buildings and Grounds chairperson, Cheryl Olsen oversees the identification, coordination, follow-up and completion of the services and repairs required for maintaining both St. Mark's church building and the rectory.

Topping the list of first quarter issues were the following accomplishments:

- Meeting the latest fire inspection requirements
- New sanctuary sound system – researched and installed
- Repairs to the oven in the rectory
- Kitchen stove, oven and vent cleaned

Two B&G Team Meetings were held this year, the first being on February 12th. Volunteer team leaders stepped forward to become project leaders; Dick Anstee (pest control), John Delaney (lighting and light timers), Jeff Hill (ServiceMaster and drains), Michael Benich (rectory issues and sound system), Steve Rossignol (heating, cooling and boiler room), Cheryl Olsen (fire safety), Ted Figler (data support system/information tracking), and Edna Heatherington (procedures manual).

Second quarter accomplishments:

- Installation of new lighting in the Nave in May
- Replacement of two electrical panels
- Health inspection of the pre-school area. Two items needing subsequent correction were the water temperature in the boys/girls bathroom and cleaning of the heat/air vent grills and duct area
- Fire alarm inspection
- Replacement of sump pump in the elevator shaft
- Cleaning of gutters
- Kitchen coffee makers repaired

Spring Clean-Up was held on April 30, 2011, with a concentration on general cleaning up, along with raking and weeding outdoor flower beds and landscaping areas.

Third quarter accomplishments:

- Diagnostics and repairs to the A/C units on the Library roof cooling the church, balcony, narthex and library were accomplished in late July and into August.
- The flue exhaust motor for boiler A was replaced (as it was still under warranty there was no charge).
- Controlled Environmental Systems (CES) determined that one of our boilers was wired incorrectly, the panel was mislabeled and didn't match the boiler labels and was not wired properly to the two main pumps. Wirings from the control panel to all connections were traced and reconnected to the boiler units and the two main circulating pumps to correct firing sequence.
- Repair was made to the nonfunctioning three-way mixer valve and activator enabling better temperature control of the radiant heated areas.

- The induced draft motor for the small forced air furnace for the pre-school was rewired, making it again operational.
- Installation of a new Honeywell economizer control package with controller, damper actuator and sensor on the classroom rooftop unit.
- Installed new OEM temperature sensor for the Mahon Hall rooftop unit.

The second B&G Team Meeting was held on September 10th, attended by nine team volunteers; George Smith, Bob and Cheryl Olsen, Jeff Hill (drains, grease trap), Edna Heatherington (communications, procedures), Dick Mylander (emergency lights, misc repairs), Michael Benich (rectory, sanctuary sound system, misc repairs), Laurie Vanderlei (vestry liaison), and Ted Figler (Data support/e-file development).

Our Fall Clean-up was held on September 17 with hardworking volunteers Michael Benich, Ted Figler, Fiona and Richard Miller, Laurie and Russ Vanderlei, Torsten Chase, George Smith, Judy Jackson, Gretchen Kenower, Jeff Hill, Don Sutherland, Elizabeth Molitors, Bob Olsen and Edna Heatherington. Outside beds were cleaned, planting done around the columbarium, shrubs and vines were cut, woodwork trim in the sanctuary cleaned, boiler room was cleaned, circuits were labeled on the custodial room electric panel, powder room next to the office was detail cleaned, most ground floor windows were washed on both sides, and the second floor windows were washed inside.

Fourth quarter accomplishments:

- New fencing installed on the north and west side of the rectory in October
- Blue spruce on northwest side of property died suddenly from a fungus, and was removed
- Damaged Honey Locust tree bordering the lower east parking lot was trimmed at the expense of Sandy and Rinda Allison
- Red Oak tree on Hillside preschool entrance was treated for chlorosis
- Autumn Blaze Maple near the PDO playground was trimmed by Michael Benich
- Carpets in PDO and Rainbow Room carpets were cleaned in November
- Water valves located in the boiler room were inspected in early December and passed inspection

One of our many answered prayers has come in the way of Julian Mendoza who is serving as our Sunday porter and special events set-up person. He will also complete our consumable products inventory, shovel/salt/snow-blow walks, clean the kitchen and shampoo carpets.

The cost of maintaining our beautiful (old) building and the lush grounds surrounding is never-ending. While we were budgeted to spend \$25,000 on maintenance in 2011, numerous unplanned expenses amounted to an actual expenditure of \$44,606.

Thankfully, another answered prayer came in the form of additional monies toward the many scheduled and unforeseen expenses. The \$5,000 anonymous challenge grant was successfully attained, netting a total of \$10,150 toward the B&G budget. Another generous donor pledged an additional \$10,000 with specific usage designated toward our heating/cooling systems to be divided between the 2011 and 2012 budgets.

The Buildings and Grounds team is indebted to our dedicated volunteers, and we always welcome additional help. Technical skills are not a necessity; there is always something we can accomplish together and no hands will remain idle for long! Buildings & Grounds is a complex ministry that needs many to accomplish the tasks we face. Let's think "concretely" about our commitment to care for the church building and grounds—the bricks and walls and pews and soil and grass and trees—as part of our Christian, indeed human, commitment.

We are all called to be good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us so that it not only benefits us, but also stands to benefit all that come to us in the future.

Cheryl Olsen

Parish Register 2010

Baptism

Haley North Graves
Mason Andrew Ruskusky
Charlotte Sarah Alcorn
Miriam Dorothy Alcorn
Soren Paul Alcorn
Jack James Rice
Brooks Walter Rice
Aiden Joseph Chase
Rebekah Autumn Pusateri
Dylan Jonathan Rudy
Emily Ann Hug
Andrew Lenhart Putko
Liam Michael Treleven
Abigail Lauren Baier
Natalie Katherine Pope
Caleb Thomas Roberts
Olivia Adrianna Mercadante
Alexander Thomas Dyer
Margrete Marie Smith
Sarah Angelina Gomez
Lydia Sophia Gomez
Ella May Dymbrowski

Marriages

None

2010 Average Sunday Attendance: 301

Confirmations

Caroline Elizabeth Arlasky
Connor MacKenzie Gross
William Elias Lanzillo
Spencer Ty Mariottini
Elise Marie Olsen
Kenneth James Toliver
Robert Jeffery White

Funerals

Dephane A. Rose
Stephen M. Wilson
Alice T. Rush
Richard C. Korbar
Susan G. Tursman
Barbara R. Graves
Douglas F. Graves
William Mark
Shawn D. Somerville

Transfers In

Robert Allan Brooks
Connie Lee Brooks

Transfers Out

Ashle Woodiwiss
Mary Woodiwiss
Daniel Woodiwiss
Gabriel Woodiwiss
Katherine Rudolph
Carol Hookham

Minutes of the Annual Meeting – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church – Glen Ellyn IL 60137
13 Feb 2011 – 12:20pm-2:15pm

Presiding: The Rev. George Smith, Rector
Kris Baier, Senior Warden for 2010
Fiona Miller, Senior Warden-Designate for 2011

Recording: Sarah G. Adler

74 parishioners in attendance

1. Opening: Fr. George Smith called meeting to order, led opening prayer, and announced agenda.
2. Appointment of clerk: Sarah G. Goddard was appointed clerk for the meeting.
3. Review and Approval of minutes from last year’s meeting: George Smith requested that the word “Finance” be underlined by number 8. Tanya Carey moved to accept the minutes from Jan 2010 annual meeting as amended; seconded by Catherine Phillips and approved by voice vote, with zero “no” votes.
4. Appointment of new Wardens: Fr. Smith appointed Fiona Miller as Senior Warden and Scott Bednas as Junior Warden by Fr. George Smith.
5. Appointment of Youth Representative: Joseph Lanzillo was appointed Youth Representative to the Vestry.
6. Recognition: Fiona Miller:
 - o Outgoing Diocesan Convention delegates: Danna Gross and Brett Baker;
 - o outgoing Vestry: Lydia Smith (youth representative), Joe Campagna, Eric McAlpine, Perry Knutson, Joyce Fletcher and Kris Baier (outgoing Senior Warden);
7. Voting: Kris Baier:
 - o Four parishioners are on the ballot for the four open Vestry seats: Dianne Dinse, Nancy Gier, Shawn Somerville, and Scott Taback;
 - o Two parishioners are on the ballot for the one-year term-completions of two vestry seats vacated early: Judy Jackson and Roby McGovern;
 - o Two parishioners are on the ballot for Diocesan Convention Delegate and Alternate: Horatio Chavez and Virginia Vagt;
 - o Joe Campagna and Gail Kramer are appointed Tellers for the ballot voting.
 - o approval of the six (unopposed) vestry candidates was sought and obtained by ballot;
 - o election of the Diocesan Delegate and Alternate was sought by yes/no ballot vote. Horatio Chavez was elected Delegate and Virginia Vagt was elected Alternate;
8. Finance: Eric McAlpine:
 - o For 2010 we overestimated our revenue and underestimated our expenses. Therefore, we had to use over \$100,000 from the Lillian Campbell fund. We only have \$84,000 left in the fund.
 - o Therefore, the budget for 2011 is more realistic and conservative.
 - o We will need to do a fundraiser to support our operating budget.
 - o The Vestry will do a review of our budget and our actual revenue and expenses at half way through 2011.
 - o Questions
 - Julie Carson - We anticipated \$32,000 more in revenue for 2010 than we actually had. Why are we optimistic again? Eric McAlpine stated that we are already closer to our budgeted pledge revenue

than we were last year at this point. Fr. Smith embellished by stating that we already have \$485,000 of the \$495,000 budgeted and there is more to come. He feels that the budgeted amount is realistic.

- Andrew Dorn - What is the proposed fundraiser and how much is it budgeted to contribute? Fr. Smith stated that it is budgeted to raise \$8,500 towards the operating budget and some parishioners will be receiving calls for assistance with developing and executing the fundraiser.

- Jeff Hill - Where is the capital campaign's revenue in the budget? Eric found that the copier had cut-off a portion of the budget figures when the reports were printed. However, he stated that it shows-up under buildings & Grounds numbers and is in the notes. Dick Anstee, St. Mark's Treasurer, stated that the budget will be posted on the web page.

- Tanya Carey - Why isn't the rectory mortgage paid-off? Eric McAlpine and Fr. Smith stated that the funds raised and matched by the diocese must be used to pay the church building's mortgage according to the terms of the agreement with the diocese. Thus, only funds we raise from the capital campaign in excess of \$600,000 will be used to pay down the mortgage for the rectory.

- John Glavin - Have we looked into refinancing either of our loans (the building or the rectory) because of the very low interest rates? Dick Anstee stated that the rectory already has a very low rate on its loan. The building has a commercial loan which is different. However, the bank has been VERY flexible in regard to this loan, applying over payments immediately to capital each month and thus, bringing down our payments immediately.

- Elizabeth Lanzillo - Is the preschool covering its costs? Dick Anstee stated that the preschool will go forward. The only expense has been the start-up cost of the first year, 2010-2011. However, going forward, the preschool will pay St. Mark's an amount matching its expenses, as does the parents-day-out program.

9. Outgoing Senior Warden's Report: Kris Baier:

- Capital Campaign - We surpassed our goal before we even formally kicked-off.
- St. Mark's preschool - last year was the first year of the preschool after several years of hard work. We had a great year and ALREADY have full enrollment for next year.
- We have made the transition to three services every Sunday. This has allowed continued growth in our Sunday attendance.
- We have our beautiful new kitchen by the office, and
- We are blessed with our wonderful clergy - Fr. Smith, Pastor Molitors, Fr. Dunnett and Pastor Currie.

10. Rector's Report: Fr. George Smith:

- Vision Statement - Rooted in Baptism, Growing in Faith, Branching out into the World. We use it. We live it. For example, in the last few weeks we have celebrated the baptism of a fifth generation parishioner at St. Mark's. We have hosted a memorial service for a young man in the community. His family was not having an easy time finding a church that would do this for them and we could and we did. We opened our doors and many parishioners worked to welcome this family and provide them a place during their time of suffering. Then, this past Saturday a couple who are engaged to be married and not members of St. Mark's came to consider celebrating their marriage at St. Mark's.
- Year's highlights
 - In our culture generally, there is declining church attendance. The old reasons that bound people to their churches are gone. We must ask ourselves why we are here at St. Mark's. What is our personal purpose and what is St. Mark's purpose? Fr. Smith believes the answer is four-fold: 1. Worship, 2. Prayer, 3. Formation, and 4. Outreach

- Capital Campaign - Our goal was \$600,000. We have \$795,000 pledged.
 - Pre-School
 - Added the third services
 - In addition, we launched the one-year, one-book adult education program; we have our new kitchen in the office area (thanks to the Zwiebels), seventeen people from St. Mark's traveled to San Marcos for the fifth year of our relationship and Elizabeth Molitors became a full-time clergy member thanks to the assistance of the Lilly Foundation.
- 2011 - Looking Forward
 - We are considering adding a fourth service. It would be a spanish language service and formation program on Sunday afternoons. Spanish speaking clergy in the diocese have expressed interest.
 - We will have our sixth trip to San Marcos.
 - Keeping this building clean and safe and open to the community is one of our ministries. Thanks to Perry Knutson's efforts and Cheryl Olsen's great work on this.
- Thanks
 - Thanks to the outgoing vestry members.
 - Thanks to Susan Shorney for editing the PostMark for two years.
 - Thanks to Liz Valdivia for the meals ministry.
 - Thanks to Dale Byrnes for her work in the office.
 - Thanks to all of our staff, especially Miguel Briones, who will be prepared for ordination to the diaconate this year and then priesthood.
 - Thanks to the Smith family and thanks to St. Mark's, Fr. Smith's larger family.
 - Thanks to those in the kitchen (Joanie Somerville and Jill Bednas) and all of those who have prepared the food for today and watched the children so that we could meet.

11. Questions, comments, and announcements from the floor: None

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Submitted:

<signed>

Sarah Goddard Adler, Clerk