St Mark’s
Episcopal Church
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Annual Report for 2008

January 25, 2009
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Agenda

Opening Prayer

Rev. George Smith

Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Rev. George Smith

Dan Conaway is appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting

Rev. George Smith

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

Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden

Rev. George Smith

David Funck and Kris Baier

Appointment of Youth Representative

Rev. George Smith

Phoebe Benich

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

David Funck

Scott Bednas, Ann Cardwell, Martha Sexauer, Andrew Flynn, Elizabeth Lanzillo, Julie Carson, & Jill Bednas

Recommended Changes to St Mark’s By-laws

David Funck

Voting

David Funck

Election of Vestry Candidates:
Cindy Flynn, Perry Knutson, Eric McAlpine,
Doug Page, Kendall Vail

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates:
Gretchen Kenower, Elizabeth Lewis
Changes to St. Mark’s By-Laws

Administrative Reports

Dick Anstee

Finance Committee Report
2008 Year End Budget Report
Restricted Funds Report
2009 Budget

A Vision for St. Mark’s

Elizabeth Lanzillo

Senior Warden’s Report

Elizabeth Lanzillo

Rector’s Report

Rev. George Smith

Questions and Answers
Rector’s Report at the St. Mark’s Annual Meeting, January 25, 2009

It is an historic time. This past week, we have witnessed the inauguration of the first African-American president and a concurrent orderly and peaceful transition in the leadership of our nation. With the eyes of the world watching, we have seen something noble, the highest values and principles of our nation affirmed and celebrated. At the same time, the parades and inaugural balls have not erased the difficult reality we face – a deep recession with record home foreclosures, mounting job losses and few prospects for a quick turnaround. Here in Illinois, we have experienced political crisis, corruption and betrayal of the public trust. It is both a time of hope and fear: hope in an unprecedented election and sound democratic process; fear in a profoundly derailed national and world economy.

Through a time of crisis and change, the Episcopal Church is called upon as it has been in past crises to be a beacon of hope and assurance. It is noteworthy that the Episcopal Church played a prominent role in the inaugural events, with Bishop Gene Robinson offering the invocation prayer and focal worship services held at historic St. John’s and the National Cathedral.

Here in Glen Ellyn, St. Mark’s has been blessed with a spirit of hope, generosity and welcome. In this particular corner of an increasingly inter-connected world, St. Mark’s has continued to strive to be a sign of God’s love and a place where there is good news. A sampling of the highlights of our life and labor of the past year include:

- A strong response to our Giving Campaign.
- Twenty-two new pledges for 2009; a total of 165 pledges to-date – the most in over 10 years.
- Increased attendance at worship services.
- Expanded Parent’s Day Out (PDO) from 2 days a week (2006-7) to 3 days a week (2007-8) and now 5 days a week (2008-9) with full enrollment.
- An extensive renovation of the undercroft, including new cabinets, lighting, and a window seat.
- New Cherub and Chorister’s Choirs for children, led by Marsha Webster; at least 14 children are now participating for weekly rehearsals and singing in worship.
- Plans being readied for a St. Mark’s pre-school.
- Strengthening our relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante, Mexcio where in June a group led a vacation Bible school and repainted the church roof.
- Raised $4,000 for St. Gregory’s School for educational equipment and supplies.
- Raised $18,000 with the 2nd Pumpkin Patch; over $5,000 donated to DuPage PADS.
- Celebrated Katie Wright’s ordination to the Priesthood; Bishop Jeffrey Lee presided, his first official visit to St. Mark’s and ordination as bishop.
- Opened a new “St. Mark’s Café” in Lehman parlor on Sunday mornings.
- Expanded Adult Education offerings to the summer month with the “Living the Questions” series.

One of the exciting projects of the past several months has been the development of a vision statement for St. Mark’s. Beginning with materials from last year’s vestry retreat, a dedicated cross-section of parishioners met for several months, received input from the congregation, prayed, laughed and wrestled with articulating an identity for St. Mark’s that will lead us in the coming years. Such a process is recommended in our Scriptures: “Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18 KJV). A modern sage concurs: “You’ve got to be careful if you don’t know where you are going, because you might not get there” (Yogi Berra). I am grateful to Sarah Adler, Bruce Benson, Eric McAlpine, Jeff Hill, Wilma Linde, Joyce Fletcher and Elizabeth Lanzillo for their commitment, creativity and dedication to this effort. Expect to become familiar the short version of the vision statement: “Rooted in Baptism, Growing in Faith, Branching out into the World.” In worship, education and service, we will claim the good news of baptism, strive for creativity, and grow in vitality. The identity
articulated in the vision statement should not surprise you. It is a reflection of what is already apparent in part at St. Mark’s, and it will help us be accountable and direct us in new ways.

One way of seeing our vision is through a process of combining two of our foundational elements: baptism and our Episcopal tradition. The following diagram shows how the dimensions of these elements interact to create the substance of our identity:

![Diagram of Baptism and Episcopal Tradition]

The vertical axis describes the dual nature of our baptism. In baptism we are marked as Christ’s own forever. That is our safety. Our commitment to the baptismal covenant challenges us to seek and serve Christ in all persons. This is uncomfortable.

The horizontal axis describes the identity of St. Mark’s and our Episcopal tradition. For over 500 years, the Episcopal Church has followed a path to ever greater welcome and inclusion. That is our openness. Through our Apostolic claim and catholic roots, we are committed to witness the risen Christ who is known today at St. Mark’s and in every generation back to a group of peasants in Galilee. This is our commitment.

As these dimensions form the context for our life and faith, we are called to welcome, invitation, mission and spiritual renewal. Our vision will inspire us to be creative and take risks as we listen and are guided by the Holy Spirit. What will St. Mark’s be like in five years? Our vision will help guide us to this exciting future.

Today as we appoint and elect new leaders, it is also time to thank those who are finishing their terms of service. I thank…Martha Sexauer for her indomitable spirit and dedication to hospitality and welcome, Scott Bednas for his sense of calm and analytical acumen, Ann Cardwell for unwavering commitment to mission, Andrew Flynn for his bravery and willingness to enter the world of vestry deliberations as our first youth representative, Julie Carson and Jill Bednas for their commitments to the wider church and our diocese, and Elizabeth Lanzillo for her “yes” to serve as warden and her counsel, good humor, and total commitment to St. Mark’s and its future. I am also grateful for the hard work and dedication of our staff—Katie, Walter, Charles, Marsha, Miguel, Dale, Jim and Norma. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,

[Signature]

The Rev. George D. Smith
The Vestry proposes the following changes to St. Mark’s Constitution and By-laws:

1. Adopts Gender Neutral Language
   The official name of St. Mark’s includes the word “vestrymen”. With the purpose of making the Constitution and By-laws gender neutral and to avoid the complicated process involved with officially changing the Parish’s name with the Diocese and the State of Illinois, the last sentence of Article II now states that by using the words “members of the Vestry” or “Vestry members,” the intent is to include both male and female persons. Thus, except for the official title, the word “vestry” and other gender neutral words are used throughout the Constitution and By-laws.

2. Consistent References to National Church
   All references to the national church in the by-laws are made the same so that the by-laws consistently use the term used in national church canons: the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

3. Clarifies The Vestry and a Quorum
   □ The first sentence of Section 1 of Article IV has been divided into two sentences to clarify that it is the 12 Parishioners who are the Vestry.
   □ The final two sentences of Section 3 of Article IV now state that a quorum of the Vestry is a majority of the serving members, and if a quorum is present, a majority vote of those present is required to take action.

4. No Absentee Voting at Annual Meeting (Section 2 of Article VI)
   □ The first sentence now makes it clear that only Parishioners who are actually present at the annual Parish meeting can vote at that meeting.

5. Clarifies minimum age for Vestry Members, provides for Youth Representative (Section 4 of Article VI)
   □ The first sentence reflects the requirement in the Canons of the Diocese that one of the qualifications to be a member of the Vestry is that a Parishioner must be 18 or older.
   □ The final sentence permits the Rector to appoint a Parishioner who is under 18 to be a non-voting participant in the Vestry meetings.

6. Modifies Nominating Procedures (Section 6 of Article VI)
   □ Nominating Committee must nominate at least as many candidates as there are vacancies on the Vestry, changed from present requirement to nominate at least one more candidate than there are vacancies.
   □ Nominating Committee must announce candidates earlier, in mid-December, allowing more time for interested parishioners to nominate additional Vestry candidates by petition.
   □ Rector must appoint the nominating committee earlier, in September, to accommodate the earlier nomination deadline.
   □ New provision: Nominating Committee must publicize procedure for nomination by petition at the time the Nominating Committee’s slate is announced.

7. Updates Methods for Notifying Parish of Vestry Meetings (Section 9 of Article VI)
   The language has been modified to reflect more modern and expeditious ways to provide Parishioners with advance notice of regular and special Vestry meetings.

8. Increases Vote needed to Change By-Laws (Article VIII)
   It takes a two-thirds vote of Parishioners attending a Parish meeting to change the Constitution and By-laws, thus replacing the present majority vote.
Vestry and Diocesan Delegate Nominees

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following nominations for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates, to be elected at our annual meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009, immediately following the 10:30 service. The parish will elect four Vestry members (three-year terms), one Delegate to Diocesan Convention, and one alternate Delegate (three-year terms). Warden and Vestry Youth Representative positions (1 year terms) are also announced. These were the nominations confirmed as of press time for the Postmark; if there are additional nominees, they were posted by December 25 on the bulletin board outside the parish office and on our website, stmarksglenellyn.org.

For Senior Warden

David Funck

I am fortunate to be the husband of Jennifer Grant and the father of two wonderful girls, Mia (6) and Isabel (8), and of two terrific boys, Ian (10) and Theo (12). I work in technical management in the software industry. My family and I joined St. Mark’s in 1999. We arrived already feeling like a part of St. Mark’s because my wife had been active in Mother-to-Mother for a few years and my mother-in-law, Dr. Myrna Grant, was already a parishioner.

I have served as Junior Warden for the past year, have been a member of the choir for several years, and am a storyteller for the Children’s Worship program. I recently served as a member of the Search Committee. Jennifer teaches Sunday School, and in the past served for several years as editor of the PostMark, and director of VBS. Theo and Isabel serve as acolytes. All six of us cherish our friendships at St. Mark's.

I consider myself blessed to have found a true church home in St. Mark's. I feel very fortunate to be part of a church community that I can wholeheartedly recommend to anyone. At St. Mark’s, I am surrounded by parishioners who seek after God, care for one other and the world, are passionate about worship, and who know how to have fun. And we are all blessed to be led by a rector as committed and capable as George. I am honored to have been asked to stand for the position of Senior Warden, and humbly offer my best efforts to the parish community.
For Junior Warden

Kris Baier

My husband, David, and I have been members of St. Mark’s for 28 years since we moved to Glen Ellyn from Evanston. I was raised in New England in the Congregational Church—United Church of Christ, and David is a cradle Episcopalian from Philadelphia. Both of our children, Brooke and Charlie, were baptized, confirmed and married at St. Mark’s. And now our grandson AJ has been baptized here. I have been involved in many different ministries during my time at St. Mark’s. I have been head of VBS, worked on the annual bazaar for many years and recently served 3 years as Diocesan delegate where I was able to participate in the election of our new Bishop, Jeffrey Lee. Currently I am a sub-deacon and a Daughter of the King. Through the Daughter’s of the King I am involved in the altar ministry, the funeral ministry, and I head up the wedding ministry. Along with Kathleen Leid, I head up the new prayer shawl ministry. Over the years, there have been many changes at St. Mark’s, some good times as well as some very sad times. Right now is a very exciting time for St. Mark’s as we see what God can do for us and through us with the very energetic leadership of George, Katie, and Walter. I am honored to be given the chance to be your Jr. Warden and will do my best to help take St. Mark’s in the direction that I believe God is leading us.

For Vestry

Cindy Flynn

I was born and raised in Cincinnati and am a life-long Episcopalian. My husband Paul and I have lived in Glen Ellyn with our son Andrew (18) and daughter Abbey (16) for eleven years. We have been members of St. Mark’s for the past five years and I currently serve as a Co-Chair of the Giving Campaign and as Adult Coordinator of the PADS Lunch Program. This year, I am also serving on St. Mark’s Pre-School Exploration Committee.

I have a Masters degree in Social Work Planning, Policy and Administration and have held a wide variety of volunteer positions in School District 41 including PTA President and Music Education Foundation Board (MEF) Secretary. I currently am Glenbard West’s representative to the D87 ACTS (Advocating Character Through Service) Committee and helped to start Glenbard West’s Field Hockey program. I have enjoyed many seasons on the soccer field in Glen Ellyn coaching both Park District house league and travel soccer teams.
Perry Knutson

I consider it an honor to be asked to serve on the vestry of St. Mark’s Church. I’ve been a member of the church for the past three years. My wife, Sue and I have found this to be a wonderful church home. We often serve as parish hosts at the 10:30 service.

Before coming to St. Mark’s, we were active members of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Bloomingdale. Among the many responsibilities I accepted at Incarnation were: junior warden, senior warden, bishop’s committee member for 10 years, property chairperson, choir member, men’s group co-founder, Sunday school teacher, parish host, pumpkin patch coordinator for several years, and St. Nick every December.

In addition to volunteer service at church, I’ve also accepted leadership roles in the WestTowns Barbershop Chorus and the Bloomingdale Lions Club. I also belong to the American Legion. After College I served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam years.

I’m retired from Navistar a.k.a. International Harvester after 35 years. My wife Sue and I live in Roselle. Between the two of us, we have four children and six grand children.

It is with great honor that I look forward to the opportunity to serve St. Mark’s as a member of its vestry.

Eric McAlpine

Although our family has only been attending St. Mark's since 2007, Caroline and I immediately felt a connection and appreciated the warm welcome that everyone provided. We have three children (Will, 6; Anna, 3; and Katie, 2). Since coming to St. Mark's, we have been helping teach Lamb's Chapel, and I have enjoyed participating on St. Mark's 5-year visioning committee. I grew up Methodist in Michigan, and Caroline grew up Catholic in Texas, Alabama and Kentucky. We have found St. Mark's and the Episcopal church to be a good fit for us.

I am currently senior counsel for intellectual property matters at Zebra Technologies Corporation, a manufacturer of hardware and software for automatic identification and supply chain applications. Before attending law school, I was a software engineer in the automotive industry. Caroline, previously a graphic designer, is currently staying at home with our children and enjoys decorating cookies.
Doug Page

I am honored to be nominated to the Vestry, and hope to serve as the congregation brings St. Mark's vision to fruition over the next few years.

My wife, Liz, and I have been members of St. Mark’s for the last six and a half years. We have two boys, Jeffery, six, and Christopher, five, both baptized here.

Since 2003, we’ve been involved in the Nursery, Lamb’s Chapel and, currently, I’m assisting the teachers at Children’s Worship. It’s rewarding to watch our sons grow up in St. Mark’s. The parish is also very fortunate to have Norma Cid working with our youngest members. She’s one of the warmest people I know.

Liz and I met at a Presbyterian Church youth group in Connecticut during our high school years. We were married in 1988 and didn’t attend church regularly until Liz was expecting. Just prior to Jeffery’s birth – he’s a 9/11 baby – we decided that St. Mark’s would be a wonderful place to bring up our children.

I’m a freelance writer and have been involved in a number of media-related projects, including voiceover acting, since 2005. Prior to this, I spent 13 years at Tribune Media Services, Tribune Company’s syndication arm, where I was the sales director for domestic syndication. My career includes time working as a reporter, editor, in advertising sales as well as in circulation and distribution. I have an MBA from Northwestern University and a BA from DePauw University.

George and his team should be commended for their many accomplishments at St. Mark’s. If elected to the vestry, I want to learn more about their successes, listen to what they think can be done to make St. Mark’s better, and determine where my background and skills might help our parish grow.

Kendall Vail

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have attended St. Mark's for four years. I have three great children: Cooper (grade 5), Grayson (grade 3) and Campbell (grade 2). I was lucky to stay at home with my children until this year. I am a fourth grade special education aide at Whittier School in Wheaton. I also coach girls lacrosse at Glenbard West High School and the girls’ youth league in Naperville.

I help Jim Hamilton out with Senior High youth group, as often as I can. If there were one area I am most passionate about, it would be community service and outreach. I believe St. Mark's is striving toward increasing its outreach ministry, and I am proud to be a member of this parish.
Youth Representative to the Vestry

Phoebe Benich

I have been an Episcopalian since I was baptized at St. Mark’s in 1992. I have attended St. Marks since then and was confirmed in 2005. At St. Mark’s, I am a reader and a member of the Senior High Youth Group. I am a Junior at my high school, Glenbard West, where I participate in Key Club, Eco Club, Amnesty International, and Spanish Honors Society. Outside of school, I play violin through Wheaton College Community School of the Arts where I play in "Vivaldi Strings" and other chamber ensembles. I also am a member of the Youth Symphony of DuPage. I am honored to have been chosen as the youth representative to the vestry for 2009.

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Gretchen Kenower

I have been a member of St. Mark's since 2000. I have served as chalice bearer, lay reader, teller on Monday mornings, on stewardship committee, part of chapel intercessors, and on newcomers and pastoral care committees. On a diocesan level, I have served two terms as diocesan Daughters of the King president, eight years on Episcopal Church Women Board, delegate and alternate to Diocesan Convention, and delegate to national Daughters of the King triennials.

I am a cradle Episcopalian, a Cursillista, and have been a member of Daughters of the King for 35 years. In other parishes, I've taught Sunday school, sung in choirs, edited newsletters, been bazaar co-chair. I am single, the mother of three grown sons, and grandmother to six. I have owned my own business since 1987, a custom workroom for the interior design trade. I also have a degree in journalism and have done newsletters, some advertising, and edited technical monthlies and a book.

My hope for St. Mark's is that we can continue to grow spiritually as individuals and as a parish, to be a place of healing for ourselves and the community, and to love one another and serve God in our parish, our community, and our diocese.
As a member of St. Marks for nearly 45 years, I have been blessed to share all of my treasured celebrations (from baptism, to confirmation, to marriage, to my child’s baptism) in this lovely and welcoming church. I have also been blessed to share my pew with four generations of a loving family and friends old and new. Because St. Marks is home to me, I am both honored and delighted to be nominated to represent our parish community as a Diocesan Delegate.

I am a retired lawyer, and along with my husband Mark Oates, enjoy raising our three daughters: Miranda (10), Alexandra (8), and Cara (4). I am a proud Board Member of our ever-expanding Parents’ Day Out program, and I participate in our Missions and Outreach (UTO Coordinator) and (exploratory) Preschool Committees. I also enjoy active participation in our Vacation Bible School and multi-generational programs for women in our parish. I am happy to offer my service as a Diocesan Delegate.
Report from the Senior Warden

It would be an understatement to say that the days leading up to the Annual Meeting can be hectic for the staff, clergy, and lay leadership of a church. Amidst all the business and busy-ness, what shines forth is that God has blessed St. Mark’s with many strengths that equip us for the years ahead.

We have a strong identity. A striking and satisfying outcome of the vision project was how much consensus immediately surfaced whenever participants discussed what is important to them about St. Mark’s. This was true of Vestry members, Vision Team members, and parishioners in our town meetings, and it affirmed that we know who we are. This clear sense of identity provides a critical departure point for focusing our goals and activities in the years ahead, as well as a solid cornerstone for building relationships with visitors, the community, and with our mission partners.

We have parishioners--both long-time and new--who show amazing commitment to our church. Probably no job other than that of warden affords the perspective to see exactly how many volunteer hours and talents are required to run our church and all its ministries, complementing the contributions of our dedicated staff. I am grateful to each of these people—both those whose work is visible to all and those who have toiled quietly in the background, enabling the continuation and expansion of ministries described within this Annual Report. Further, the outpouring of additional support for our recent giving campaign, after it initially appeared that we might fall significantly short of our goal, provided affirmation and continued assurance that we can withstand bumps in the road. To have an overall increase in budgeted pledges for 2009, at a time when most charitable organizations are experiencing a decline in giving, confirms this strong commitment. And the proportion of support coming from new families underscores our potential for continued vitality.

We have solid leadership. I am extremely confident in our new Senior Warden’s abilities, and we have a strong, healthy Vestry with diverse new talent coming on board. Importantly, we have an extraordinary leader in George Smith. He balances many crucial talents that are not commonly found—and especially rare to find all in the same person! He holds on to the big picture and still attends to the details in his quest for our excellence. He can focus intense energy on a goal while still exuding a light-hearted sense of playfulness that lifts others up. He is rigorously analytical yet he is always compassionate. We can be extremely grateful that God called George to minister to us and with us.

We do face challenges. Our Vision, I hope, will spur us to explore new ways of doing things that will require us to take risks and experiment, in order to live more fully into our identity. Tapping into potential new leadership within the parish will help further this. I can attest to the rewards of taking on a leadership role at St. Mark. Leadership can be a growth experience, provide a deeper connection to the parish and its people, and it is gratifying to contribute to this place that we all care about. I urge each of you to consider a role when the time is right for you—and to know that you will be appreciated and supported in this endeavor. I know I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve as warden.

Given the considerable financial obligations we have, a crucial and ongoing challenge will be for all of us to master the balance of being clear-eyed, mindful and purposeful with regard to our debt, our budget deficit and other pressing needs, but increasing our faith so as never to let anxiety about it divert us from our purpose as people of God. There is abundant evidence that He holds us in the palm of His hand. May God continue to bless St. Mark’s, its ministries, and its people.

Elizabeth Lanzillo
### ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

#### OPERATING BUDGETS

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<th>2008 ACTUAL</th>
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## ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### OPERATING BUDGETS

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| **Total Income**               | $599,750    | $618,285    | $624,500    |
| **Net total**                  | $(106,161)  | $(92,871)   | $(100,076)  |

### Capital Sources

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Memorial Fund Cash Balance 12/31/08: $6,282.21

Lewis Trust Fund* ($22,382.00) was used for the roof replacement on the Church Office.
**Developing a Vision for St. Mark's**

The Vision Work Group was formed in June and met regularly throughout the rest of the year to articulate a vision to guide our parish over the next 5 years, based on input from parishioners gathered at three town meetings. Our efforts built on initial vision work by the Vestry in February and were geared toward presenting a final vision document and supporting materials at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry and ministry leaders will use the vision in their planning for the ongoing ministries of St Mark's.

The Vision Work Group  
Sarah Adler  
Bruce Benson  
Joyce Fletcher  
Jeff Hill  
Elizabeth Lanzillo  
Eric McAlpine  
George Smith  
Elizabeth Lanzillo

**2009 Giving Campaign**

As of January 20 we have received commitments totaling $461,978 towards our goal of $489,500 for the 2009 Budget. We have 164 total pledging families, including 22 new pledges. We greatly appreciate all the parishioners that support St. Mark's. The economic situation has made this year's Giving Campaign particularly challenging. After two rounds of letters and one round of phone calls, we were still significantly short of our goals. A follow-up letter from our Rector and Wardens and subsequent phone calls asking for an additional commitment has so far yielded roughly $38,500, so that we are now $27,522 shy of our goal for 2009. Even though it has been a struggle to reach our goals for this year, the number of pledges has increased. Compared to this point last year, we have increased from 151 pledgers to 164 and our new pledges have increased from 16 to 22.

Many thanks to Father George and our Wardens, Elizabeth and David, for their support and energy throughout the Giving Campaign. Also, a special thank you to Dale Byrnes and all the office volunteers for their efforts in supporting the needs of our committee.

Beth & Ted Figler and Cindy & Paul Flynn

**Report on Education at St. Mark’s**

In terms of education, St. Mark’s is thriving! Thanks to so many participants—program coordinators, teachers, worship leaders, storytellers, visiting speakers—both children and adults are growing spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. For adults, there are three tracks (including one that simply encourages fellowship in the Lehman Parlor). From the earliest years on up, there are classes that nurture children’s faith and teach the Gospel. Then we have special groups, such as Blythe for middle school girls and Basement Boys, for fifth, sixth, and seventh grade boys. We now even have a “Triple Header” which connects choir practice, a time for homework, and either then Blythe or Basement Boys. And, recently, we have begun a social group for young adults. With so much on offer, there is something for everyone.
Children and Youth Formation

Nursery
Our nursery is staffed each Sunday by Norma Cid and parish volunteers. Care is provided during the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services and the 9:15 Education Hour for children ages 6 months through 3 years.

Lamb’s Chapel
Lamb’s Chapel is available for children ages 3-4 during the 10:30 service. Led by rotating pairs of volunteer teachers, children participate in a Bible story lesson, related songs and activities, and guided play. Children may stay in Lamb’s Chapel through the service, or be picked up by a parent to join in the Eucharist in the Sanctuary. This worship experience serves as an appropriate transition from the Nursery to Children’s Worship, Sunday School, and participation in worship in the Sanctuary. Lamb’s Chapel leaders for this year are: Kristen Novak, Janice Campagna, Caroline and Eric McAlpine, and Penny and Scott Taback.

Children’s Worship
During the 10:30 service, children from age 4 through 1st grade may take part in Children’s Worship. We utilize Young Children and Worship and Following Jesus, both by Sonja Stewart. Stories from the Old and New Testaments, in the context of the Church year, are told using handcrafted figures and structures. Most of the woodworking for this exceptional program is the gift of Michael Benich. Children have an opportunity to sing, pray, draw, listen, and respond to God’s Word in a worshipful setting. Trained parish volunteers, known as Storytellers and Greeters, guide them. Children are brought to the sanctuary to join their families for the Eucharist. They receive a copy of a hand drawn bookmark to illustrate and reinforce the week’s lesson.
Those serving as Storytellers are: Brett Baker, Joyce Fletcher, David Funck, Laura McGovern and Cheryl Olsen.
Greeters are: Rebecca Boskovic, Doug Page, Laurie Baker, Deirdre Churchill, Nikki and Pat Fry, Danna Gross, Lisa and Stephen Baker.

Sunday School
Our Sunday School program year began September 9th. We are in our third year of utilizing the “All Things New” curriculum for grades K-6th. Second grade contains special instruction on the Eucharist and the preschool class is using “Hands On” Bible materials. “Sing-Out” has been changed from a monthly time to be a gathering from 9:15 – 9:30 a.m. to sing together, with the children then going to their Sunday School classes. It continues to be led by Trey & Adrian Buchanan. Our wonderful teachers for the first part of this year have been: Preschool - Jimmy Wright and Amy & Scott Rooke, Kinder/1st - Jen Chavez and Jen Grant, 2nd - Michele Gorman and Kathleen Leid, 3rd-Melody Mordini and Cheryl Olsen, 4th - Leo Lanzillo and Leslie Arlasky, 5th - Amy Shilling and Greg Schreck, 6th – Susan Mariottini and Heidi Bridenstine, 7th & 8th - Paul Flynn, Kim Reed, and Tracey Kreiling, High School - Jim Hamilton and Kendall Vail.

Vacation Bible School
Our “God’s Big Backyard” week was a huge success. It was held the week of August 4th-8th from 9:30am to noon. Over 45 children participated, with close to 30 adult and teen helpers making it all possible. Registrations were handled by Michele Gorman.

Advent/Christmas
On December 7th, the St. Nicholas Parish Lunch & Gift Collection provided both fellowship and an opportunity to share with others in our local community. Over one hundred parishioners enjoyed a lunch provided in Mahon Hall, and donations of checks and gifts were made to People’s Resource Center’s “Share the Spirit” program. Danna Gross coordinated the event, with assistance from many others. David Fletcher made possible the special appearance by “St. Nicholas.”

January 2009
Page 18
Other highlights of the past month include: Advent wreath making November 23rd after the 10:30 service (grateful thanks to Reeny Linstrom for providing materials), and one evening of Advent Bedtime Stories (in the church library on Wednesday, December 3), with warm drinks & snacks. The pageant this year was an Epiphany Pageant held on January 11th. Virginia Vagt wrote the Star Light! Script. Children and youth provided the narrators and cast, Marsha Webster directed the singing and Tricia Benich directed the instrumentalists.

**Youth Activities**

**Basement Boys**
Basement Boys joined the Blythe Girls on Wednesday night. The 5th-7th grade boys had fun playing dodge ball, Bible study and prayer. This group is lead by Jared Friebel, Matt Gillespie, and Matt Hug.

**UNICEF Party**
The Middle school students again hosted a Halloween themed party on the Sunday before Halloween. Participants from around the area were encouraged to Trick or Treat for UNICEF then bring there boxes to St. Mark’s and enjoy a friendly party.

**Mission Week:** The 5th-8th grade youth joined with youth from First Congregational and Faith Lutheran for a week of outreach into the community and fundraising. 9:30am-12:30pm the week of July 7-11, 2008.

A calendar of monthly additional events for Middle and High School students was put in place in the fall.

the Rev. Catherine Wright

**Adult Forum 2008-2009**

One of the great blessings we enjoy at St. Mark’s is a rich diversity of parishioners who are also scholars, artists, and Bible teachers in their own vocations. They continue to be happily willing to share their insights across a wide variety of expertise. In addition we can call on our rector and his staff, - Katie, Walter, Jim and Miguel who have been more than supportive in many ways. We also call upon local scholars in the community and diocese.

We offered parishioners a choice of two “tracks.”

Our themes for Fall 2008, track one, was “Issues That Divide Christians” We examined evolution, immigration, the Presidential election, the Palestinian/Israeli conflict and medical ethics concerning beginning and end of life issues. In Advent we reflected on the role of angels in Scripture and our own lives. This Spring, (Jan. to May) our theme is “Art and Soul.”

Track two which concerns itself with Bible study themes and topics, discussed St. Paul and Women, the book of Job, Bible origins, and began a video/discussion series, “Your Bible” led by Jim Hamilton which is continuing into January of 2009. Adult Forum also enjoys the fellowship of the “coffee hours” (really twenty minutes) where coffee and snacks are faithfully laid out before class by Julie Carson.
The commission continues the challenge of encouraging parishioners to visit and attend the Adult Forum. We send weekly notices through the church’s website, in the bulletin and in every issue of PostMark. Schedules are also put up on the church’s notice boards. Parishioners who attend adult forum are enthusiastic and frequently express appreciation for the topics and speakers and are themselves encouraging friends in the congregation to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Grant
Chair
Adult Education Commission

Blythe

Blythe, the fellowship group for middle school girls, continues to meet every other Wednesday night in Lehman Parlor, September through May. Meetings are one and a half hours long in which the girls will have some fun activity to do which is followed by Bible study. This year we are continuing our journey through the Gospel of Luke. The fun activity is often a craft but we’ve also tried yoga with Reeny Linstrom, had a movie night (Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat) and worked on some self reflection projects. In the past year we’ve had 3 guest crafter/artists, Jennifer Dorn, Joan Eorgoff and Cecilia Smith. I am very appreciative of the time and talents of parishioners who wish to spend an evening with the girls. Twice a year, Christmas and Valentine’s Day, the girls make cards to be delivered to St. Mark’s parishioners who are shut-ins. I am also thankful for Miguel’s goodwill toward the group as clean-up after crafts is a continual challenge.

Tricia Benich

Evensong

The monthly Evensong and Community Meal continues to be a prayerful and familial celebration. In addition to James Hamilton, there have been several guest Officiants: Father George, Mother Katie, Father Bradley Pace of Trinity Wheaton, and Elizabeth Hamilton have all led services. Deepest thanks to those who continue to prepare fabulous meals. After the introspective silence of the evening service, a warm and inviting family meal is a place to chat, relax, and enjoy each other’s company. As James is moving on, the service will need new leadership. To that end, parishioners are beginning to take the reins to Officiate. Hopefully this service of reflection will continue for years to come.

Young Adult Group

The brand new Young Adult Group is still trying to find its identity. Though, with three very successful events already enjoyed, the group is well on their way. Led by Elizabeth Hamilton with Carrie and Jeff Davidson the group is trying to gather together parishioners in their 20s and 30s through sharing common interests and to do service work. Early adulthood is usually a time of great change and churches have a difficult time creating programs that can speak to those shifting needs. The Young Adult group hopes to forge close bonds that will build the kind of support network needed to navigate early career, marriage, young families and more.

Jim Hamilton
Music

Children’s Choirs

We have two active choirs for children:

Cherubs – preschool age children who meet for 15 – 20 minutes on Sunday mornings to learn music and basic rhythm patterns. We currently have 6 -8 children who participate in the Cherub Choir on a weekly basis. They sang in church in November and December.

Choristers – children in kindergarten through third grade who meet on Wednesday afternoons for 45 minutes. There are 13 children participating in this choir. They have sung once a month since October. They also took a field trip to the ESSE Senior Adult Day Center at Faith Lutheran Church to sing for the clients there. Attendance on Wednesdays and Sundays has been close to perfect!

In addition to these 2 choirs, I spend approximately 15 – 20 minutes each week with the Thursday morning Parents’ Day Out children. In addition to singing, the PDO children enjoy using our Melody Bells. We presented a brief Christmas program for their parents in mid-December. It was a great success! I have invited the PDO children to sing on Sundays with the Cherub Choir, but none have done so as of yet.

All of our choir children were encouraged to participate in the Epiphany pageant. Goals for the remainder of 2009 include recruitment of additional singers, possibly another outreach field trip and monthly singing in worship. We will break for the summer in mid-May.

Marsha Webster

Treble and Adult Choirs

The Treble singers had to miss the annual festival held in February at our cathedral in Chicago due to schedule conflicts around that date. Clearly the quality of this year’s gathering was diminished.

As we moved through Lent and Easter approached I began to feel more fully recovered from my hospital stay during the previous December. The services of Holy Week, as they culminated in the Easter acclamation, proved to be both humbling and inspiring.

Our monthly services of Evensong continued through the summer, and plans were formulated for an expanded program for younger singers beginning in the fall. Luckily for us, a search outside the parish for a director was not necessary, since our own Marsha Webster agreed to take on this challenge. As the fall began she assumed the position of Music Associate for Children’s Choirs and took on the leadership for the Cherub Choir (ages 3 to 5) and the Choristers (Kindergarten through third grade). I continue to work with the Treble Choir (fourth grade through twelfth).

The Adults enjoyed yet another relaxing retreat hosted by Ginnie, Gerrit, Quincy, Bob and June, in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Naps, eating, and conversation were blended with much rehearsal for the upcoming season.

This year’s Recital Series began with a return visit by organist, Robert Poovey of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Rochester, NY. He played a wonderful and impressive program in October which was enjoyed by over fifty appreciative listeners.
November began with a full choral Evensong for All Saints, and soon after that the cheesecakes were on sale again. Before we could recover from Thanksgiving the season of Advent was upon us. Lessons & Carols was observed with the Madrigal Singers from Glenbard East joining the Adult and Treble choirs for the celebration once again. Finally Christmas Eve arrived with all of its festivity and a fine brass ensemble. Having done the research, I find I enjoyed Christmas more from the organ bench than from a hospital bed. Many thanks to everyone for your support and prayers.

Charles Snider

**Usher Ministry**

As of this writing, there are about 25 people serving in this ministry. The earlier service has a small shortage while the 10:30 service seems to be adequately staffed. On average, the rotation has people serving about 3 times in a 3 month schedule. Service preferences are honored. Training Sunday was held the last Sunday in September, providing a refresher for those who are experienced and the opportunity to train any newcomers. If anyone is interested joining this ministry the contact person is Paula Zwiebel.

Paula Zwiebel

**Lay Readers**

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

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

Rinda Allison
Daughters of the King

St. Anne’s Chapter

You recognize us when we wear our distinctive silver cross; you most frequently see us when we prepare the altar for Eucharist, prepare food for funerals, and help countless brides during their weddings. 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. Most Daughters also give some tangible service to the parish: some in the visible activities described above, but many in quiet, hidden service, and all in prayer.

We are the members of St. Anne’s Chapter of the Daughters of the King which is an international order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate. We meet in the church library on the third Monday of every month except for July and December.

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. In 2008 we assisted in 4 weddings. Two weddings were for parishioners or former parishioners and two weddings were for couples from outside the parish.

Kris Baier
Lead Wedding Coordinator

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

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

Dianne Dinse
Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care committee has begun many new programs or expanded the scope of our projects this past year. We’ve begun a college outreach, sending PostMarks, coffee mugs, and treats to our parishioners in college. We’ve expanded our flower ministry, taking each week’s flowers to parishioners in need or in celebration. We’ve also partnered with Blythe to send Poinsettias and Easter Lilies to homebound parishioners. George has instituted a Pastoral Care email alert system, which makes our response to parish needs much smoother. We found that we had met most of our goals for the previous year and were ready to take on more challenges.

The Pastoral Care Committee has taken over the funding of St. Mark’s counseling outreach. Toward this end, we gathered information about the various agencies in the area and St. Mark’s historical relationship with them. We considered the scope of each agency and our parishioners’ involvement with them in our decision. We concluded that we would like to divide the current budget between Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Services and Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center.

The Committee expressed a desire to reach out and make the parish more aware of Pastoral Care and what it had to offer. We plan to get more informative articles in the PostMark, website, and bulletin. We are also exploring the possibility of sponsoring workshops in the coming year to help parishioners deal with issues such as marriage and family and long-term illness and caregiving.

The Prayer group has begun two new prayer ministries. The Prayer Shawl Ministry has united knitters to craft shawls for parishioners as a tangible symbol of the love and prayer wrapped around those in need or any kind of trouble. Also, ten families a week are being prayed for during the prayers of the people at the Wednesday Eucharist. Post cards are being mailed to the families to let them know they have been remembered in prayer. Over the course of a year, all families in the parish will have been held up in prayer.

Pastoral Care is also in search of new members. The Meals ministry is in need of help, as well as the committee’s communications and leadership initiatives, especially in the creation of an outreach network. The outreach network will be a sort of registry of helpers. We would like to have a list of people willing to help those in need in our parish. This help can be making meals, giving rides, mowing lawns, helping with housework or child care, or other types of assistance.

We are pleased with the progress we have made and are excited about expanding our ministry in the year ahead. We feel that God has charged us with the care of his people and we are committed to fulfilling this purpose.

Adrian Buchanan
**Meals Ministry**

During 2008 parishioners provided meals for families with new babies, those recovering from surgery or illness and moving to new homes. The meals ministry has 30 active volunteers. Thanks to all who have participated during the past year. Your help and home cooking were much appreciated. Please contact Liz Valdivia if you would like to be added to the meals ministry list or if you have suggestions for 2009.

Liz Valdivia

**Chapel Intercessors**

Chapel intercessors are available during the Eucharist at the second service on the first Sunday of the month. This dedicated group of people is present in the chapel to offer individual prayer for any concern, need, or thanksgiving.

This group includes May Anstee, Jim Hamilton, Katherine Lawrence, Barbara Newsom, Kim Reed, and occasionally, Catharine Phillips and Virginia Vagt.

We pray in a team of two, treating all requests with respect and confidentiality. If you are interested in this pastoral ministry, please contact me at 630-690-5362.

Gretchen Kenower

**Church Tellers**

I want to thank the Church Tellers who counted the weekly offerings every Monday during the past year. Community Bank which handles our checking accounts, remarked that our weekly deposits were always correct and they did not have a problem in balancing our account.

A special thank you, to Mae Anstee, Doug Armantrout, Bob Cardwell, Verlin Deutscher, Bob Judd, Gretchen Kenower, Bill Mark, and Dick Mylander, who were responsible for this weekly listing.

Dave McCarraher

**Parish Fundraising**

As part of our budgeted revenue to support operating expenses and debt service, parishioners raised over $7,000 throughout the year. Most of the income resulted from our "purple envelope" fundraising campaign begun during lent, and was based on the sale to other parishioners of hand-made or baked items, services, and donated goods such as event tickets or a sailboat ride. Additional funds were raised through the sale of stationary and from a multi-family "do it yourself" cooperative rummage sale in June. An ongoing fundraising team was initiated, with the purpose of planning fundraising strategy for the future.
Mission and Outreach

The M & O Committee was very busy this year; with a variety of events that encompassed every season:

Springtime
- Our first ever Jazz Concert proved very successful in raising funds for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Angela Adkins coordinated this effort which raised over $1,000 in donations.
- The Southeast Mexico trip was assisted by a series of events; including our Cake Auction, Mother’s Day Rose Sale, Spring Plant Sale, and Cinco De Mayo Dinner. These events raised over $9,000 towards the annual mission trip. Special thanks to Katie Wright, Bud Zwiebel, Julie Carson, Kim Reed, Andrew Dorn, and countless others.
- The GE Food Pantry Food Drive took place in April, run by Adrian Buchanan. Numerous bags of food were collected and donated through this effort.
- Elizabeth Lewis coordinated our annual United Thank Offering Blue Box offering; pulling in $700 in total donations.

Summer
- Three Sunday nights at the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn saw the PADS program staffed by St Mark’s parishioners. Dinners were prepared and served, lunches made, and breakfast cooked for over 50 residents each night.
- St Mark’s M & O donated $200 to the Burmese refugees temporarily housed at St Paul’s by the Lake in North Chicago.
- Joan Eorgoff and Frances Smith combined efforts for the St Mark’s Boot Sale and Lemonade Stand to benefit the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.

Autumn
- Our 2nd Annual Pumpkin Patch (co-chaired by Joe Campagna and Phil Adler) grossed over $17,000. PADS received approximately 25% of these donations with the balance benefiting the Native American farmers who provided this year’s bumper crop.
- St Gregory’s Episcopal School in Chicago’s North Lawndale community was assisted with $4,000 in school supplies, with this effort coordinated by Donald and Marie Sutherland.
- Leo Lanzillo organized the annual Sleep Out Saturday event with 14 parishioners braving chilly November temperatures to raise $235 for Bridge Communities.
- Our Trick or Treat for UNICEF program was spearheaded by Kim Reed; collecting $270 in donations.

Holiday Season/Winter
- The offering at our annual Lessons & Carols service benefitted Canon Andrew White and his ministry of reconciliation in Iraq and the Middle East, and was coordinated by Charles Snider.
- St. Mark’s parishioners provided presents/care packages for 69 families (208 people in total) with in-kind donations estimated at $10,000 for the annual Cathedral Shelter Christmas Basket Program, coordinated by Ginnie Judd.
- The annual Children’s Concert featuring Jim Gill brought a packed house and $750 for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Special thanks to Kristen Novak, Jill Bednas and Nikki Fry.
• The St Nicholas Parish Lunch & Gift Collection (Martha Sexauer and Danna Gross) pulled in $350 in toys and donations for the People’s Resource Center.

Our total parish effort related to these various Mission and Outreach activities raised over $45,000 in donations. Thanks to everyone mentioned above and to the countless volunteers and organizers that participated in these events during the past year!

Brian and Cindy Stepien

Mexico Mission Trip June 2008

After our group of ten, youths and adults, arrived in Nigromante for our third visit, we were told by Padre Isaias, "The first year you met us. The second year you got to know us. Now it is the third year; time to get to work." And the following days were busy as we, along with men from the church and el pueblo, scraped and painted the roof with a primer and second coat. Led by Mother Katie, and with the help of Mario, Mariela, and Padre Isaias, we offered three VBS classes attended by the children of San Marcos and those from the town – approximately forty in all. We hosted a spaghetti dinner for the third year in a row – held in the plaza where all were invited – and the bread we bought was from la panaderia of San Marcos, the one for which we funded the bread oven and that now helps support single mothers as well as La Iglesia de San Marcos. We worshiped with the parishioners, led by Padre Isaias, Father George, and Mother Katie. We mourned with this parish community as we processed with them to the cemetery to mark the forty days since the passing of a beloved parishioner. We visited with our host families and friends from San Marcos; we played with los ninos and enjoyed seeing them on the playset we had built last year (they are being good stewards of it!). We sold bread, toured the town and the area, and we came to appreciate even more the traditions and beauty of Nigromante and its surroundings, located on the western border of the state of Veracruz, adjacent to Oaxaca, in the foothills of the Sierra Madre. The parishioners of San Marcos appeared truly surprised and, I believe, thankful that we want to continue and grow this relationship with them. We remain humbled by how we are received and by the generosity and the graciousness of these people.

This past trip was made by the Rev. George Smith, the Rev. Katie Wright, Carolyn Carson, Andrew Dorn, Christina Dorn, Michael Lopesciolo, Kim Reed, Lane Reed, Alex Reed, and Elliott Reed and was possible because of the involvement and generous support of our parish and those of you who participated and supported the many fundraisers that were held: the Valentine’s Cake Auction, the Plant Sale, the Mother’s Day Roses Sale, and the Cinco de Mayo Dinner and Auction. We were thrilled to host Bishop Benito of the Diocese of Southeast Mexico twice this past year, in February and again in November, this time with his wife Anjelica, and during both visits, we offered dinners for those interested in knowing more about the Diocese of Southeast Mexico. Plans are currently underway for a June 2009 Mexico Trip. This mission trip is open to parishioners entering 9th grade and up. We look forward to your future involvement.

Communications Group

Communication at a thriving St. Mark’s is not possible without the committed efforts of the people listed here. Many thanks for their continued support of St. Mark’s mission. If you would like to become involved in the Communications group, please email Javier Valdivia at jvaldi01@comcast.net.

Also, thank you for all who take time on their own to place an ad, welcome a new parishioner, add to our bulletin boards, and engage people in St. Mark’s events, your efforts are also a part of the great conversation and help to make St. Mark’s a place where All are Welcome!
The PostMark
Susan Shorney edits the PostMark – St. Mark’s monthly newsletter. The PostMark includes a message from our rector, information about our liturgy and education programs as well as current information on St. Mark’s events. The PostMark is also available on St. Mark’s website. Contributions to the PostMark are due by the 15th of the month and can be emailed to: postmark@stmarksnglenellyn.org.

Service Programs/Bulletins
Ginnie Judd/Dale Byrnes produces St. Mark’s service program which now also includes bulletin information. Bulletin information is also distributed via email every week. Contributions to the bulletin or to get on the email distribution list please email: frontdesk@stmarksnglenellyn.org.

Bulletin Boards
Dale Byrnes and the office staff are responsible for maintaining St. Mark’s bulletin boards. Every Friday, staff will walk the halls and refresh bulletin board materials and take down old messages. Submissions can be dropped off at the office. Please specify which bulletin board you want the message displayed, end date for the message, if you would like your insert printed on colored paper, and contact information for the message. For any questions, please call the office at 630.858.1020 or email: frontdesk@stmarksnglenellyn.org.

Media Relations
Media relations encompasses the press-releases that are submitted on behalf of events here at St. Mark’s. Various people with the Communications group help to make sure information on St. Mark’s events gets distributed to our various media contacts. Many thanks to Nancy Gier, a recent addition to the Communications Group, for her expertise and diligence in updating our media contacts list. Thanks also to Jen Grant and Elizabeth Lanzillo for their efforts in creating an event kit that includes information on how to help publicize events here at St. Mark’s. This kit is almost final and will be made available as events are created and planned here at St. Mark’s.

Parish Emails
Parish communications are emailed via Constant Contact, a database tool that includes all of St. Mark’s email contacts on file. Ginnie Judd and Javier Valdivia handle producing these emails. Please allow 2-3 days for creation of these emails. For submissions or to be added to the distribution list, please email: frontdesk@stmarksnglenellyn.org.

Web
St. Mark’s website is a tremendously important component in a visitor’s initial experience and continuing connection with St. Mark’s. The website look has recently been updated and continues to be refreshed and improved. Bob Cardwell is St. Mark’s webmaster and is responsible for updating www.stmarksnglenellyn.org. Contributions, suggestions and images are happily accepted. Please allow at least 1 week for submitted content to be reviewed and updated to the site. Email website contributions to: webmaster@stmarksnglenellyn.org.

Creative Visuals
Creative visuals include posters, banners, and creative email communications. We use Sign by Tomorrow in Bloomingdale for outside print requests as well as other local vendors. Javier Valdivia can assist you in producing creative content for St. Mark’s events. Requests can be emailed to: jvaldi01@comcast.net.

Javier Valdivia
**Newcomers Commission**

All are welcome!

2008 has been the second year for St. Mark’s commission to welcome guests and newcomers.

St. Mark’s Ambassadors have reached-out to our guests by visiting their homes and delivering a baked-good and information about St. Mark’s. This lets guests know that we noticed and appreciated their visit, provides an opportunity for us to answer any questions they might have, and introduces them to a parishioner so that they know a person the next time they come to St. Mark’s.

St. Mark’s Greeters have been at the front door to greet you every Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service. And on the first Sunday of each month they have encouraged people to wear name tags. The Greeters are there to provide help, information, a friendly face and a goody-bag to guests and all of the same (except the goody bag) to all of St. Mark’s parishioners. Name Tag Sunday, on the first of each month, helps newcomers and guests to see who St. Mark’s parishioners are and allows current parishioners to learn the names of those they don’t know.

The Newcomers Commission continues to host events for our guests and new parishioners. We have found that the most popular of these is brunch after Sunday Services and geographically proximate to St. Mark’s.

Finally, we have continued to work on small but important other projects and programs including: a brochure of organizations and contacts, a map of the building, improved goody-bags and a program of greeting guests and each other at the end of each service.

Thank you to everyone at St. Mark’s who has formally participated in making the commission’s work happen and to everyone at St. Mark’s who has greeted a guest or introduced yourself to someone you didn’t already know, newcomer or not. We regularly hear great things from guests who find themselves enjoying the warmth that many of us feel here at St. Mark’s.

Sarah G. Adler

**Parish Life**

The Parish Life goal is to coordinate and implement regular and special fellowship events--both for the parish-wide community and more targeted ongoing fellowship ministries within the parish. Accomplishments for 2008 include coordinating the following events:

* January - Annual Meeting reception, children's lunch, activities, babysitting provided.

* March - Three potluck style Lenten Suppers, Wednesday evenings in Mahon Hall.

* June - Annual Church Picnic June 1st at Churchill Woods Park was well attended.

* October - Fall Pumpkin Patch Party, held in concert with the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser. Games, bouncy castle, grilled luncheon and potluck buffet.

* December - The Jim Gill family concert was held in Mahon Hall December 5th. It was well attended, raised over $750 for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and gathered several bags of groceries to donate as well.
**Weekly coffee hour coordination after the 10:30 Sunday service.**

**Provided food services for special Sunday receptions, confirmation, first communion, baptisms, visits by bishop.**

For 2009, will be reorganizing coffee hour into a scheduled volunteer program to share the task of coffee hour amongst the parishioners of St. Marks. We will be looking to expand the Parish Life committee. Please call Jill at 630-858-0012 for more information or if you are interested in getting involved.

Jill Bednas

**Men's Ministry**

2008 was a continuation of our Saturday Morning meetings and special events. We celebrated a number of “spiritual” get-togethers that included some lively discussions as well as some refreshments. We again helped with the Spring Cleanup Day and the Pumpkin Patch Party, and we had a successful golf outing. This fall, we began a bi-monthly video series titled “Living the Questions” which will continue through May. Kenny Wilson, who had re-energized the group in the last couple of years, moved to South Carolina, and we wish all the best to Phoebe, Kenny, Emily and Jack. We welcome men of any age to join us on the 2nd or 4th Saturdays, or contact us at mensgroup@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Leo Lanzillo

**Women to Women**

Women to Women (W2W) continues to provide opportunities for the women of St. Mark’s to strengthen our parish community. W2W sponsored salad suppers, book discussions, and the annual ornament exchange. About forty-five women, including several newer parish members, attended the exchange hosted by Elizabeth Lewis. W2W also provided welcome baskets to new babies born into our parish family and sent care packages to college students in our parish. The annual retreat for the program year will be held in March, and we will explore creativity and God’s gifts.

Women to Women provided the seed money and recruited participants for a new Prayer Shawl ministry. Prayer Shawls will be given to those in our midst who are grieving, confined to home, experiencing long-term illness or have other special needs. The shawls give a tangible reminder of both God’s love and the support of the parish to each recipient.

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

Kathleen Leid
NOVA

NOVA, our group for parents of young children, met twice monthly on Wednesday mornings throughout the school year for discussion and fellowship. We also enjoyed several fun outings for moms and kids during the warm months and finished the year with a fun Christmas cookie decorating session. In 2009 we will explore alternative meeting times that can increase participation. All "Nurturers of the Very Active" (infant through preschool and beyond) are warmly invited to participate.

Elizabeth Lanzillo

Parents’ Day Out

Parents Day Out (“PDO”) is a ministry of St. Mark’s to provide once or twice-a-week day care for children of the community between the ages of 2 and 5. In September of 2008 the program expanded to five days a week in its current format. The program is operating at capacity with substitute lists. The program includes fine and large motor skill activities, arts and crafts, songs and stories, as well as lots of fun play time.

PDO boasts some interesting enrollment statistics. More than 70 families have children enrolled in PDO, which hosts 90 children each week. Many children enrolled this year attended PDO last year, although many changed the day of their attendance. Additionally, many “new” enrollees are actually members of returning families who had children in the program years ago, and now have infants old enough to attend. We are also blessed to host 45 new families this year. Therefore, PDO has a committed following in our community.

This year the PDO Board added several activities to accommodate the advanced age of our Thursday 4+ program. These activities included local field trips, regular music instruction provided by our own Marsha Webster, and more structured games and crafts.

PDO continues to cover its operating cost and provide cash and service benefits St. Mark’s. In addition to financial contributions, PDO coordinated and paid for facility upgrades at St. Mark’s, including significant upgrades to the electrical systems of the undercroft, as well as extensive cabinetry.

We thank Kathy O’Rourke and her staff, Cindy Glavin, Melody Mordini, Miguel Briones and Norma Cid, for their endless enthusiasm and dedication to these children. Current members of the PDO Board are: Kim Reed (Chair), Leslie Arlasky, Jill Bednas, Doris McCarraher, and Elizabeth Lewis (Secretary). Registration for the 2009-10 program will begin in April, with members of the parish receiving priority.

Elizabeth Lewis
Buildings and Grounds

While many repairs and improvements to our building were completed in 2008, a couple of major items stand out. We were finally able to undertake a repair of the flat roof over the library that has been leaking for several years. While this expense was not within our annual budget, it was an item that could not be put off any longer. John Baker served as our liaison with the contractor who performed the work. We were also thankful that PDO was able to fund a renovation to the undercroft to provide cabinets and storage for their toys and books, as well as improved lighting and brighter paint. Due to the dedicated hard work of Dick Mylander, numerous other smaller projects were completed including: new floor tiles on the narthex landing, repair of pew card holders and hymnal racks, securing the handrails to the choir loft, many ceiling tile replacements, drywall repairs, organization of storage rooms and a complete refinishing of the east exterior doors with stain and polyurethane. We finished the year with an inlay of cherry wood on the altar steps to improve safety and visibility.

Looking ahead in 2009, we will need to contract for the repair of exterior concrete steps and retaining walls, as well as the resurfacing of our aging upper parking lot. While these items will once again fall outside the normal budget line item for Buildings and Grounds, they are essential to maintain the integrity of our beloved church campus. We are always looking for new members for our committee. If you are interested in joining us, or just have a comment or concern, please feel free to contact me.

Michael Benich
Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Gardening Angels and the Building and Grounds Committee, along with the Boy Scout troop held a successful grounds clean up at the end of our Pumpkin Sale. The garden beds got a much needed pruning and clean up. We look forward to the first signs of Spring to schedule a Spring clean up and start our planting welcoming in the 2009 growing season.

Susann Rhoades
Parish Register 2008

Baptism

Daniela Elizabeth Currie
Gavin Lowell Dowding
Taylor Bea Dowding
Dominik Daniel Dworak
Amy Schauwecker Euske
Gretchen Charlotte Euske
Isabelle Rose Friebel
Nina Claire Iserloth
Samuel Errol Cato LaPalm
Joseph Pasquale Mercadante
Sean Patrick Rooney
Peter David Schilling
Roger Alfred Shorney
Alethia Marie Winley
Robert Alexander Winley

Transfers Out

Jeffery Scott Davin
Kate Lewis
Melanie Lewis
Tamera Lewis
Catherine Schafer
Benjamin Brewster Schmuck
Sally Jean Eser Stuart
Caroline Stuart
Emily Ann White
Jean Hunter Finch

Marriages

Caris Leigh Hubbard
    and Adam Noel Wood
Brigitte Dawn Foulk
    and Dana Holland
Shelby Lund Barnes
    and Eric Harper Iverson
Laura T. Riddle
    and Jordan Sartell
Jennifer Anne Cecilia Gawlik
    and Christopher Quaye William Landis
Kathryn Scott
    and Matthew A. Riccio

Confirmed

Victoria Maxine Webster
Mary Caroline Benich
John Hunter
Nicole Kapsalis
Patrick Linstrom
Weston Mariottini
Lauren Mordini
Rhianna Stepien
Molly Toliver
John Walor
Nicola Mary White
Joseph Lanzillo

Funerals

Anna Clair Woodiwiss
Kimberly Anne Buck
May Frances Lanell
John Clifford Kautenberger

Transfers In

Keith Brickey
Jean Ostrander
Louis Pointon
Beth Still
Douglas Still
Brooke Still
Brynn Still
Cheryl Olsen
Robert Olsen

Average Sunday Attendance: 225
Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church – Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137  
27 Jan 2008 – 11:45am-1:00pm

Presiding: Rev. George Smith, Rector  
Kim Reed, Senior Warden for 2007  
Elizabeth Schnell, Senior Warden-Designate for 2008  
Recording: Daniel Conaway

90 parishioners in attendance

1. Fr. George Smith called meeting to order, led opening prayer, and announced agenda.

2. Appointment of clerk: Daniel Conaway was appointed clerk for the meeting.

3. Review and Approval of minutes from last year’s meeting: Zach Littlefield moved for vote to accept the minutes from Jan2007 annual meeting; seconded and accepted unanimously by voice vote.

4. Appointment of new Wardens: David Funck was appointed Junior Warden and Elizabeth Schnell was appointed Senior Warden by Fr. George Smith.

5. Recognition: Elizabeth Schnell:
   - outgoing Vestry members: Jim Jenkins, Jack Toliver, David Fletcher, and Matt Gillespie were recognized and thanked personally by George;
   - outgoing Senior Warden Kim Reed personally thanked by Elizabeth and presented with a gift;
   - recognition of Bob Linde for his many years of service as treasurer, and reading of Vestry Resolution passed in his honor;
   - appointment of Andrew Flynn as our first Youth Vestry Representative, and reading of Vestry Resolution to approve the appointment.

6. Election of new Vestry members: Elizabeth Schnell:
   - brief reading of the rules for the election;
   - appointment of Tellers for the election: Fiona Miller, Jim Jenkins, Jack Toliver, Matt Gillespie;
   - reading of Vestry candidate names: Bruce Ellis Benson, Joe Campagna, Ted Figler, Joyce Fletcher, Gretchen Kenower, Martha Pfefferman;

7. Senior Warden’s Report: Kim Reed
   - thanks to Ginnie Judd for preparing the Annual Report package;
   - gave summary of her (printed) Senior Warden’s report.

8. Financial / Budget: Dick Anstee

Thanks to several people:
   - to Bob Linde: friend and mentor, who trained me well in the accounting system he set up here;
   - to the Finance committee, headed by Jack Toliver;
   - to Dave McCarracher and John Schmuck, our Tellers Committee heads.

For the first time in memory: 99% of pledges were fulfilled!
   - our total income exceeded budget by 7%; income augmented by several generous gifts;
   - open plate collections were $85K – budget was to expect only $40K;

Expenses were up, but were managed well otherwise:
   - significant portion was for maintenance on the rectory to prepare it for Katie;
   - utilities were under budget due to mild weather;
   - mortgage was reduced $47K, and total debt was reduced $152K;
   - $59K left in the building fund (plus other miscellaneous gifts) was moved into the operating budget;
   - we have $15K in cash in the checking account going into 2008;
   - we used only $20K of the $50K designated for 2007 from the Lillian Campbell Trust.
Year 2008 will be challenging, but exciting:
- budgeting 6.6% increase in pledges over 2007 giving;
- budgeting 4% staff budget increase and 11% staff expense increases;
- adding a new line-item to the budget: staff seminars;
- increases in budget for the (growing) activities of Parish Life and Newcomers committees.

Final thought: This is all very ambitious, but God has continued to provide!

9. Election results: Elizabeth Schnell
- new Vestry members are Bruce Ellis Benson, Joe Campagna, Joyce Fletcher, Martha Pfefferman;
- new Diocesan Convention Delegate is Danna Gross.

10. Giving: Jim Jenkins
- 152 pledges to date: $460,691 pledged;
- we have 17 new pledging families;
- our budget goal is $464,000 – so we are very close to meeting goal today;
- average pledge is up to $2768 from $2700;
- median pledge is up to $1800 from $1400;
- wish to give special attention and thanks to Ted and Beth Figler, and to Paul and Cindy Flynn, who were co-chairs of the campaign this year
- thanks also to Dale Byrnes and the office staff for all of their hard work on the campaign;
- thank-you to Dick Anstee and Dave McCarraher for the number-crunching; and
- final thanks to George, who worked with everybody to meet our goal.

11. Parish Life Report: Jill Bednas and Martha Sexauer
- Jill: please lend a hand to coffee-hour and volunteer to run one for one Sunday a year (OR ELSE I MAY HAVE TO CALL YOU)
- Martha: we are streamlining Parish Life away from being “the de-facto parish catering-service”, and will eventually separate Parish Life from fundraising activities;
- Parish Life will, however, sponsor Lent Event again this year!

12. NOVA Report: Penny Taback
- Nurturers Of the Very Active: fellowship for parents with young children;
- activities and programs every other week – notes in Annual Report.

13. Rector’s Report: Fr. George Smith
- the Rector’s Report is printed in the program, and will NOT be re-read here;
- George and Katie are back from the “Making Excellent Disciples” conference, refreshed;
- this is a GREAT church … so, in a couple of years, why not maybe host that conference HERE;
- “There is a lot of work to do here every day, and you (the parish) have done MUCH of it – so I didn’t have to WORRY about it being done!”
- we are so very pleased to have Katie here (and to occupy our rectory – another item solved!)
- we are thankful to our Vestry and particularly to Kim Reed, who has supported me and this parish tremendously.

14. Questions, comments, and announcements from the floor:
- Comment from Cecilia Smith: thanks to ALL of you – this job of George’s is a FAMILY job, and you have made us feel so very welcome, both in our new home here in Glen Ellyn and in this parish;
- Announcement from Kim Reed: dinner for Bishop Benito (Diocese of SE Mexico) here soon;
- Announcement from Elizabeth Schnell: the Vestry will gather for a brief official meeting immediately after adjournment here;
- Announcement from George: please continue to invite friends – we have newcomers every week!

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.
Submitted:

Daniel Conaway, Clerk