St Mark’s
Episcopal Church
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Annual Report for 2009

January 24, 2010
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Agenda

Opening Prayer

Rev. George Smith

Appointment of Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Dan Conaway is appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Rev. George Smith

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2009 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

Kris Baier and Fiona Miller

Rev. George Smith

Appointment of Youth Representative

Lydia Smith

David Funck,
Rev. George Smith

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

Sarah Adler, Adrian Buchanan, Phoebe Benich, David Funck, Javier Valdivia, Paula Zwiebel, Dick Anstee, Edith Jacobson

Kris Baier

Voting

Kris Baier

Election of Vestry Candidates:
Gerald Carey, Dianne Dinse, Nancy Gier, Danna Gross, Reeny Linstrom, Ben Maxson, Laurie Vanderlei

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates:
Bob Bernero, Dianne Hunter

Reports

Finance Committee Report

2009 Year End Budget Report
Restricted Funds Report
2010 Budget

Eric McAlpine

Senior Warden’s Report

David Funck

Rector’s Report

Rev. George Smith

Securing St. Mark's Future:

A recent history of St. Mark's – Kim Reed
Financial projections – Dick Anstee
Visioning and the need for a Capital Campaign - David Funck / Kris Baier

Questions and Answers
Rector’s Report at the St. Mark’s Annual Meeting, January 24, 2010

As we come together for our annual meeting, I believe that the recent earthquake in Haiti helps us to remember and claim our purpose as a community of faith. We are a place of prayer, thanksgiving, giving and witness to a God who calls us to serve the poor, work for justice and claim God’s love for every person. Shown on this past week’s morning news, a 69 year-old woman was pulled from a collapsed building in Port-Au-Prince. Eight days after the earthquake, this woman, dehydrated, bruised, and covered in dust and with a broken leg was carried out on a stretcher - not silent or crying but singing! Through her swollen and parched lips, was the sound of a beautiful voice praising God. As I watched, I knew that I was witnessing an amazing sign of hope and joy in a place of devastation, sorrow and chaos. This singing woman sang the truth about God – that in the midst of crisis and trouble, nothing can separate us from the love of God. This is the truth that is at the heart of St. Mark’s – its worship, prayers, outreach and welcome. In recent days, it is God’s love that has strengthened the connection between Haiti and St. Mark’s. As we give thanks for Mallory Holding’s return from Haiti, we stand ready to support her and her continuing work on behalf of her students, friends and colleagues in Haiti and at the Episcopal Seminary in Port-Au-Prince.

Through all that happens at St. Mark’s, whether responding to the crisis in Haiti, bringing flowers to someone recovering from surgery, holding vestry meetings, welcoming newcomers or selling pumpkins for PADS, I am grateful for our now year-old vision that articulates who we are and where we are going. Being rooted in baptism, growing in faith and branching out into the world is not just a statement developed by a committee and put on a shelf. It reflects the vitality, growth and aspirations of our church, has guided during our visioning process this past fall and will continue to guide us for the coming years. Looking back over the past year, there are clear signs of our vision in all that we have done. Throughout the year, we have been rooted in baptism, baptizing babies, renewing our baptismal vows and claiming Christ’s love in a time of great uncertainty and economic hardship here and throughout our nation. We have offered prayer, connections and hope for those who have lost jobs and all who are struggling financially. In a time of uncertainty, we have been a refuge of welcome to many guests and newcomers. Sunday attendance has increased as our worship provides people of all ages with both meaning and a strong sense of community.

Highlights from the past year include the 100th parish anniversary and the St. Markscopy festve gala that brought the parish together for an evening of dancing and fun and fundraising that exceeded our goal. Many thanks go to co-chairs Danna Gross and Elizabeth Lanzillo and everyone who helped organize and support the event. In September, the parking lots were repaved, thanks to the leadership of Buildings and Grounds chair Perry Knutson and the on-going generosity of the Lewis Trust which paid for this project. Perry, Michael Benich and Dick Mylander have given their time and talents to many projects that have kept the building in excellent condition. In October, with dozens of volunteers, we unloaded and sold over $15,000 in pumpkins to benefit both PADS and the Native American growers in New Mexico. For the third year in a row, thanks goes to Joe Campagna and Phil Adler for leading this outreach effort and for their undiminished enthusiasm for pumpkins. In its fourth year, our relationship with San Marcos in Southeast Mexico continues to flourish as we develop plans for a fifth annual trip in June, 2010. Fundraising efforts such as the cake auction and Cinco de Mayo dinner continue to receive strong support from the parish.

St. Mark’s is truly blessed with an abundance of capable and dedicated volunteers and staff who support all aspects of our vision. Dale Byrnes, our office manager, works behind the scenes with great skill and efficiency, printing bulletins, paying bills, answering calls and attending to countless other requests and details. She is invaluable to our daily operations. Working with Dale, office volunteers provide a warm welcome, perform many essential jobs and extend the hours so that our office is open Monday through Friday. As our treasurer team, Dick Anstee and Bill Novak keep St. Mark’s finances running like a Swiss watch. We are extremely fortunate for their generous giving of their time, skills, dedication and diligence.
Marsha Webster guides our children’s formation and music programs with great care and creativity. Attention to detail is apparent in everything she does, from writing prompt thank you notes, to support for teachers, to creating this year’s Advent Devotional booklet. Thanks to Marsha’s leadership, our treble, chorister and cherub choirs are growing and have become vital to our worship. With over 22 years at St. Mark’s, Charles Snider continues his record of excellence as organist and director of our adult choir. He has worked over the past year to bring new expressions of music to worship, and he is continuing to recruit both youth and adult instrumentalists who wish to offer their talents in worship and praise to God. Miguel Briones has transitioned to a combination of part-time custodian and full-time seminary student at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC). As his seminary training prepares him for ordination to the priesthood in 2011, St. Mark’s continues to benefit from his hard work and care for our church buildings. Norma Cid is invaluable as supervisor of our nursery and in offering care for our very youngest members. I want to thank Walter Dunnett and Robin Currie for their many contributions to worship and formation at St. Mark’s. Walter’s encyclopedic knowledge of Scripture is a gift to us in his sermons and various adult forums. After retiring as senior pastor at Grace Lutheran, Robin has assisted with our Children’s Worship and preached and officiated at our worship services.

During 2009, we bid farewell to Katie Wright, Jimmy, Luke and Rachel as they accepted a call to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Elyria, Ohio. I am grateful for Katie’s many lasting contributions to our children’s, youth and women’s ministries. Katie launched a very successful MOMS group this past year which continues to provide valuable connections and support to women of our parish. We also said goodbye to Jim Hamilton, our seminarian intern, who was ordained to the priesthood and now serves as rector at a parish near Detroit. In September, we welcomed Elizabeth Molitors as Associate Rector and celebrated her ordination to the priesthood in December. In addition to pastoral, preaching and worship duties, Elizabeth is providing important leadership to our junior and senior high youth groups. Involvement and attendance has increased for both groups this fall. She is also working on a variety of other projects involving communications, worship and faith formation.

I wish to offer my thanks and gratitude to those members of the vestry who are finishing their terms. Paula Zwiebel has guided our worship commission and faithfully led our usher ministry. Javier Valdivia has given us the gift of his design and artistic skills with banners, brochures and improvements to the web site. The new logo for our capital campaign – “St. Mark’s – the second 100 years” was created by Javier. Adrian Buchanan has strengthened our pastoral care ministry as we make more visits to the sick and homebound, deliver meals, poinsettias, Valentines cards and flowers to our parishioners. Sarah Adler has helped create an effective and responsive newcomer ministry team that oversees ambassadors, greeters, brunches, and gift bags. I want to give special recognition to our wardens, Kris Baier and David Funck. They are an amazing team and have helped guide and support me during a crucial time in St. Mark’s history. I have received countless blessings from their time, insights, humor and friendship. As David concludes his term as warden, Kris will become senior warden and Fiona Miller will take on the role of junior warden. Thank you David, and welcome Fiona!

My work as rector would not be possible without the support and love of my family. I am grateful to Cecilia, Lydia, Frances and Geo for going on this journey with me and for their understanding, especially when sleeping in on Sundays isn’t an option and when many meetings, pastoral visits, services and working on sermons mean time away from them.

I am confident that the year ahead will continue to be guided by our strong vision, as we raise funds to pay down our mortgage, launch a St. Mark’s preschool, offer a year-long introduction to the Bible, expand our outreach and global partnerships and continue to welcome newcomers to the good news of God in Christ.

The Rev. George D. Smith

January 2009
Vestry and Diocesan Delegate Nominees

We are pleased to announce the list of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee for the 2010 election to St. Mark’s Vestry. Because several vestry members have moved away in 2009, we have a total of seven openings instead of the usual four. The by-laws of St. Mark’s stipulate that, in addition to candidates presented by the Nominating Committee, additional nominations can be made by the parish at large. Any nominations from the parish needed to be submitted in writing to the Rector, signed by at least 20 parishioners, at least 15 days prior to our Annual Parish Meeting on January 24, 2010.

For Senior 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 three grandsons have 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 Daughters 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 and Elizabeth. I am honored to be given the chance to be your Senior Warden and will do my best to help take St. Mark’s in the direction that I believe God is leading us.

For Junior Warden

Fiona Miller

I am a relative late-comer to the Episcopal Church: Growing up in England, I was a member of the Methodist church, and I joined the Episcopal Church soon after moving to the United States a little more than twenty years ago. I have been a member of St. Mark's since moving from the New York area 10 years ago with my husband, Richard, and daughters, Kristin and Gemma. We were welcomed into our new church family, and my church life became an important part of the transition to the Midwest. Some of the people who have become my closest friends were found in our pews, for which I am truly grateful.

Since coming to St. Mark's, I have served on a number of ministries including a term on the vestry during a turbulent period in our recent history. For the past 7 or so years I have served on the Mission and Outreach Commission, and as a Chalice Bearer and Sub Deacon. I was manager for Lions 'n' Lambs gift shop for the last
two years of its operation; I have worked with some of the women’s ministries and have helped in the planning of the several of the Women's Retreats. I have had an active role in some of the fund raising activities for our Mexico mission trips; serve as “Shepherd" to our Acolytes; am a Daughter of the King and a recent member of the choir.

Under George's leadership with the ongoing support of Walter, and more recently Elizabeth, and the staff and volunteers, St. Mark's is seeing remarkable growth and a renewed excitement and involvement of its parishioners. I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve as your Junior Warden and look forward to working with everyone to further the work of St. Mark's in the local, national, and global communities, as well as tackling the challenges that lie ahead.

For Vestry

Gerald Carey

I am retired from Western Illinois University where I taught for thirty-three years. I was primarily Professor of Music in Flute and flutist of the Camerata Woodwind Quintet. During my tenure I also taught music history, music appreciation, chamber music, and conducted the University Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. Also during that time I served as principal flute of the Quad City Symphony for twenty-nine years. As a still active and Lifetime member of the National Flute Association, I have served as President, Convention Program Chair for the New Orleans Convention, Member and Chair of the Board, General Competitions Coordinator, Exhibits Coordinator, and Program Book Editor. I was given the NFA Distinguished Service Award at the 2008 Convention—the fifth such award in the thirty-six years of the NFA. I am also a Lifetime member of the Chicago Flute Club, and have been a Board Member and Editor of the CFC newsletter, Pipeline.

My wonderful wife Tanya and I celebrated our Fiftieth Anniversary in 2009. We have two daughters, two sons-in-law, and four extraordinary grandchildren. They all live in southern California. I grew up a Missouri Synod Lutheran and Tanya a Methodist. When we were courting we were both confirmed in St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Rochester, NY. Through the years our faith in God and the Episcopal Church has continually deepened. We moved to Glen Ellyn about nine years ago and searched for a church home. About three years ago we attended St. Mark’s and met George Smith. We are blessed to have found the home we had been seeking. I am honored to have been asked to be a candidate for the Vestry. I believe wholeheartedly in St. Mark’s direction and vision, and I pledge to use the knowledge and skills I have learned in my years of academic service, and guarantee my best efforts for St. Mark’s.

Dianne Dinse

Hi, I'm Dianne Dinse and I think I would fulfill the role of "older" parishioner on the vestry. That is probably true in more than one way. I have been a member of St. Mark’s for 50 years! It’s hard to imagine. . . . Many of you were undoubtedly not even born! In all that time there have been many rectors and many vestries. I have been through: the bazaars, rummage sales, ECW, women's guilds, and many wonderful and effective ministries . . . in their time! But times change, and the reason I feel privileged to be asked to run for vestry at this time is the positive,
enthusiastic, effective and generally uplifting church that is St. Mark's now. I attribute these values mainly to Fr. George's arrival. To quote my son, Eric, who served as a member of George's search committee, "My best contribution to St Mark's in my lifetime was to participate in the calling of Fr. George to St. Mark's." Of course, I heartily agree with my son and that is why I would feel honored to work for George's ministry at St. Mark's as a vestry member.

**Danna Gross**

I consider it an honor to be asked to serve on the vestry. My family began attending four years ago. We all immediately felt at home here. I was raised in the Lutheran Church and my husband, Ken Gross, was raised a Roman Catholic. Last April I was reconfirmed and Ken was received in the Episcopal Church. Ken and I have three children, Caitlin (18), Connor (12), and Delaney (8). We have been living in Glen Ellyn since 2004.

Throughout the years I have served in Children’s Worship and worked on the St. Nicholas Luncheon. My children are active in the many youth programs that St. Mark's offers. Delaney is a Sunday School regular and a member of Choristers. Connor is an acolyte, a member of the treble choir and a regular at Basement Boys and other seasonal activities. As a 7th grader, Connor has recently started on his path towards confirmation.

During the fall of 2009, I served on the St. Mark's Centennial Gala committee. Currently, I am a member of the Parish Life and Newcomers ministries. I am also in my second year as a diocesan convention delegate. St. Mark's has provided our family with wonderful opportunities for spiritual and personal growth. I am excited about the opportunity to give back to this vibrant community.

**Nancy Gier**

Richard and I have been members of St. Mark's since 1990, the year we settled here in Illinois. I'm originally from Chicago, but I had left this area for about 13 years. Our two sons, Witt and Darian, served as acolytes and were confirmed here at St. Mark's. I find the Episcopal Church, and St. Mark's in particular, inviting and inclusive, something which is very important to me. In recent years, I have become more involved in parish life. I have served on a discernment committee, and presently I am part of missions and outreach, and I help out with communications. I see so many people at St. Mark's living their faith and what Christ has taught us, and I love being a part of that. I think that time will show us that, as a parish, we've entered a renewal and growth period. The physical church is also part of what attracted me to St. Mark's. I love the church's Gothic architecture and the traditional beauty of the sanctuary, especially the stained glass windows.
Reeny Linstrom

From the first moment we walked in the doors over ten years ago, my family felt instantly welcomed and at home at St. Mark’s. I am the wife of Jeff Linstrom and the mother of three, Sean (17), Patrick (15) and Cali (13). Jeff has been very involved at St. Mark’s serving as H.S. Sunday school teacher, both Junior and Senior Warden, co-chair of the PBS2 Campaign and is currently a Men’s Group regular.

I have taught Sunday school for four years and am currently coordinating the PADS Lunches program at St. Mark's. Over the years, I have volunteered in small ways to support the church. Whether it is teaching yoga on the women’s retreat, shopping with my family for our Cathedral Shelter basket or chaperoning a St. Mark’s Laser Tag youth outing, I have always served our parish community with a happy heart. This winter will mark the third year I will be offering a free gentle yoga class to St. Mark’s parishioners. Outside of church, I teach yoga at The Yoga Place and Prairie Yoga and view Yoga as a personal ministry to promote good health, healing, peace and wholeness among all people.

Raised Catholic, I am blessed to be a member of the Episcopal church where I have met so many wonderful people, asked many questions, learned so much, and deepened my faith over the last decade. I am excited to serve as Missions and Outreach Liaison for the Vestry and humbly offer my best to the Parish.

Ben Maxson

Ben Maxson is an Account Executive for Critical Care Systems, a Medco Corporation. He covers the Chicago and Detroit Medical Communities. He is a former High School Teacher, and sales trainer for Proctor and Gamble's pharmaceutical division and V.P. of Sales for Ivonyx Inc. He received his B.S. Degree in Communication and M.A. in Education from Loma Linda University, California, and pursued a Business Degree at Harvard, Boston and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has been active in fund raising for the American Cancer Society and various Hospitals and Medical Centers around the Country. He is a member of the Ernest Hemmingway Foundation and gives tours at the Hemingway Birthplace several times a month, sparking interest in "American Literature” and encouraging people of all ages to read, and develop their writing skills. Ben is an avid golfer, loves to fish, and follows the Chicago Cubs and Detroit Tigers. This year he earned the prestigious "Presidents Club" award, reserved for the top 5% of Companies Sales Executives. He is married to Pamela, and has three (3) step-daughters, Christy, Brittney and Alise.

Laurie Vanderlei

I am honored to be a member of St. Mark’s, whose members put such great emphasis on community outreach and developing relationships. These are just a few of the tenets which strengthen my personal spiritual goals, and I look forward to contributing toward the Church’s vision.

Born and raised in the Roman Catholic Church, I found the Episcopal Church to be a better fit for me about 20 years ago. Prior to finding a home at St. Mark's in 2006, my family and I were active members of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Bloomingdale. While at Incarnation I was active as a lay reader, parish host, Sunday
school teacher, holiday event coordinator, and on-site calligrapher, among other varied tasks. Along with my husband, Russ, and our children Ben (17) and Olivia (13), we have truly found a home among friends at St. Mark’s. We all enjoy working with the PADS program and the People’s Resource Center activities, and I plan to expand my comfort zone to include other adventures (like knitting a prayer shawl, which is WAY out of my comfort zone!)

Although I have a degree in Wildlife Biology, I have nonetheless been employed by American Airlines for nearly 32 years, and currently hold the position of Manager, Flight Administration. My job has afforded us a great opportunity to do a lot of traveling, and we take advantage of this privilege when time and resources permit. My after work activities change as my children do, and in addition to coordinating various school activities, I have also been a Girl Scout Leader, a cheerleading coach Mom, and now serve on the West Chicago Wildcat Lacrosse board as website coordinator. I am a self-proclaimed creativity addict and indulge my calling whenever I’m inspired – scrapbooking, photography, sewing, crafts, jewelry.

I remain anxious to learn from Fr. George and the rest of the vestry members as I strive to make a positive difference as a member of our vestry.

**Youth Representative to the Vestry**

**Lydia Smith**

Having been an Episcopalian all my life, I have attended many Episcopal churches beginning with St. Christopher's in Oak Park, where I was baptized in 1993. Since then I have attended Christ Church in Winnetka, Holy Family in Park Forest, and the seminary community at Seabury Western. I have attended St. Mark’s for almost four years and was confirmed here in 2007. At St. Mark’s I have become a reader, an acolyte, and participate in the Senior High Youth Group. I also am involved with the Mexico Mission Trip and have gone to Nigromante twice. At Glenbard West, where I am currently a junior, I run Cross Country and Track. I write for the school newspaper and am a member of Model UN and Key Club. I am honored to have been chosen as the youth representative for the vestry and look forward to improving the youth community at St. Mark’s.

**Diocesan Convention Delegates**

**Bob Bernero**

I have been a member of St. Mark's for approximately 17 years. During the last several years I have become more active as my desire to contribute and support has grown because of what our church has become. I am St. Mark's representative to the Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry and volunteer at the site on a regular basis. I am a member of the Missions and Outreach Committee. I also serve as an usher along with my mate, Bonnie. Together we help out with a variety of ongoing ministries and programs occasionally and enjoy the social functions. We have gained much experiencing God within our many friends here.
I received a bachelor’s degree in math from Northern Illinois University. After college, I was drafted (lucky me, the last draft) and served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division. I have been retired for seven years from the State of Illinois, Department of Employment Security where I worked as a systems analyst. I now work part-time as a licensed massage therapist. I have worked in a variety of settings and currently work at a clinic in Bloomingdale and treat private clients. I am very grateful to do work that is both enjoyable and extremely gratifying through helping others.

I feel blessed to be part of a loving community in St. Mark's where clearly I see the Spirit of God working to do great things. It would be a privilege to serve as a convention delegate.

Dianne Hunter

A cradle Episcopalian, Dianne Hunter joined St. Mark’s with her husband Stephen Curtis and sons John and Nelson roughly seven years ago. Through the years, the family has been involved in many St. Mark’s activities with that involvement usually being contingent upon what they can manage with both parents working outside the home. John was confirmed through St. Mark’s in 2008 and Nelson is preparing for confirmation now.

Presently Dianne champions the St. Mark’s Book Group, is a lay reader and has recently begun serving as a chalice bearer. She is grateful for the ongoing and amazing gifts of faith and support she experiences with members of St. Mark’s congregation. She has served on the board of the Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center and done volunteer work for Cathedral Shelter. She and Stephen are supporters of St. Gregory’s. The Curtis-Hunter family is mindful of the reach of faith across the globe. Stephen grew up as a “military brat” and sons John and Nelson hail, respectively, from Central and South America. Because of Stephen and Nelson’s love of soccer, even the family’s sports purview embraces many lands. The Episcopal Church in the diocese of Upper South Carolina, the diocese where Stephen and Dianne originally met, has been active in mission work to Haiti since Dianne was a child (a long time ago). The earthquake of January 12, 2010 feels unspeakably horrific to Stephen and Dianne, and they look to the Episcopal Church to take bold and decisive actions both in terms of aid and the rebuilding of lives and hope in that land.

The Curtis-Hunter household is also drawn to the conditions and contradictions of the inner city of Chicago. At the time of this writing, Dianne works for an inner city hospital-health system that is located in the Lawndale community, not far from the Episcopal school for boys, St. Gregory’s and Cathedral Shelter – both Episcopal charities. Given that Dianne is always on call for work, the entire family is frequently touched by the cases that present at the hospital’s Level I trauma center that are of interest to the media. These cases are not about good news, even though there is good news. They are mostly characterized by violence, tragedy and sorrow. [ASIDE: Happily though, Dianne recently hosted national NBC news journalists who will soon air a segment on the joy of new life and human kindness that can also be found in this urban hospital.]

As a candidate or alternate for Diocesan Convention, Dianne has a sense of commitment to humanity without borders. She also has a deep love for the Episcopal Church, a love rooted in her family or origin by her mother and brother, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Paul, in Detroit, Michigan. She would feel deeply committed to representing the people of St. Mark’s.
Report from the Senior Warden

It is hard to deny that 2009 was a great year for St. Mark’s. Reading through the ministry reports in these pages reveals St. Mark’s to be a vibrant, energetic and committed faith community. Some highlights from the year:

- We celebrated our 100th anniversary as a parish in style, enjoyed a fabulous party (thank you Danna Gross, Elizabeth Lanzillo and team for all you did to make St. Mark’sopoly a triumph), and blew the doors off our fundraising goal for the event.
- The Rev. Katie Wright stepped up to lead a parish of her own, and the sadness we felt at her farewell was tempered by what a great opportunity this was for her.
- Elizabeth Molitores joined us, was ordained, and hit the ground running with great joy and enthusiasm as our new associate rector.
- Our Visioning II process added the next level of specificity to our mission, “Rooted in baptism. Growing in faith. Branching out into the world.” The process revealed that we are a passionate community with many terrific ideas for the future of the parish.
- At the Pumpkin Patch we came together and bent our backs, got dirty, provided great photo opportunities for area families who sat their kids on the biggest pumpkins, and raised thousands of dollars for homeless people in our area.
- Despite a tough economy, our giving campaign is showing strong success, with 28 new pledge units, underscoring the growth of the parish.

Despite this positive momentum, St. Mark’s continues to face significant challenges. We struggle under the excessive building debt our community was left with when, several years ago, the parish was split apart by conflict in the national church. The approximately $190,000 per year we spend to service this debt prevents us from adequately staffing the burgeoning needs of a growing and active church. This puts significant strain on George, Dale and the rest of the staff. Our vestry, wardens and clergy have taken the decision to meet this challenge head on, embarking on a Capital Campaign to take advantage of generous matching funds offered by the Diocese of Chicago. This will all be carefully laid out and explained in our Annual Parish meeting on January 24. If you missed this meeting, I encourage you to approach me or any of the church leadership for more information.

Another challenge we face is more subtle, but perhaps just as significant, and that is the challenge of navigating our own growth. Experts in church growth state that the phase that St. Mark’s is current moving through, as our average Sunday attendance moves from the high 100’s into the 250 range, can be the most challenging growth phase for faith communities. The organizational structures in place for a smaller church strain as numbers grow, adding stress to clergy and lay leadership. Parish members can feel discomfort with all the new faces, a flurry of new programs, or simply with the inability to find a parking spot. Newer members can have trouble finding a place in an established and close-knit community. It can be difficult to move from a community where everyone knows everybody else, to one where people who might not know each other personally are united by a common faith and purpose.

But what does this mean for us? First of all, let us be clear that this is a great problem to have, particularly in a time when church attendance in the U.S. is falling across the board. I believe it is also a problem we are called to have. We as Episcopalians have good news to share - the good news of the gospel. Spreading the good news is something Jesus tasks us with as Christians. If we believe that the love of Jesus is good news and that St. Mark’s is a good community for us to share in His love, why wouldn’t we offer this goodness with open hands to any around us? All are welcome to “the great conversation” here at St. Mark’s; all are warmly invited, and encouraged, to worship, grow and serve with us.
How can we as parishioners navigate the challenges of our growing community? Here are some ideas:

- Introduce yourself. We naturally gravitate to our friends at coffee hour, but this tendency can be a barrier to newer members of the community. Every conversation with someone you don’t know well builds community. And, who knows? You might end up chatting with someone who becomes a dear friend.
- Get involved. There is no better way to build relationships and feel a part of things than to work side by side. As an example, I did not know Kris Baier at all before she became Junior Warden, but in the year we have worked together I have grown to know her as a dear friend.
- Support your clergy, staff and lay leadership in any way you can. They are all working hard for our faith community.

I am confident that the St. Mark’s community will rise to these challenges under the strong and capable leadership of Father George. We are immeasurably blessed to have George as our rector. His abiding faith, competence and hard work are a rare combination. Kris Baier will be a great senior warden; her wit, intelligence, wisdom and good sense make her a leader we will all want to follow. The fantastic list of vestry candidates and the strong Capital Campaign leadership team make for a promising 2010 for St. Mark’s.

I am deeply honored and grateful to have had the opportunity to serve St. Mark’s as Senior Warden. I pray that God will continue to bless, challenge and enable St. Mark’s in coming years.

David Funck
## ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### OPERATING BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCOUNTS</th>
<th>2009 BUDGET</th>
<th>2009 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2010 BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledge Payments</td>
<td>$470,500</td>
<td>$469,743</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Plate</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
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<td>Gifts to Mission &amp; Outreach</td>
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<td>$ -</td>
<td>$2,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Raising Events</td>
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<td>Misc. Offerings</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Pledge</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<td>$ -</td>
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<td>Prior Year Pledge Payments</td>
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<td><strong>Total Contributions</strong></td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Usage Fee Income</td>
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<td>Pre-school Income</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$178,701</td>
<td>$176,322</td>
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<td>Payroll Tax</td>
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<td>Pension</td>
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<td>$ -</td>
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<td>Woman to Woman</td>
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<td>Misc. Our Church</td>
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<td><strong>Total Parish Life</strong></td>
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<td>$12,960</td>
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<td>ACCOUNTS</td>
<td>2009 BUDGET</td>
<td>2009 ACTUAL</td>
<td>2010 BUDGET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Music</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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<td>$3,902</td>
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<td>$3,902</td>
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<td><strong>Administration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Administration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings and Grounds</strong></td>
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<td>Repairs and Maintenance</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<td>Security Monitor</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Fire and Liability Insurance</td>
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<td>Rental Expenses</td>
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<td>Outside Cleaning Service</td>
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<td>Mtge Interest Expense</td>
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<td>$126,539</td>
<td>$106,000</td>
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<td>Mtge Amortization</td>
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<td>$51,218</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Buildings and Grounds</strong></td>
<td>$287,250</td>
<td>$277,822</td>
<td>$257,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our Children</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry Program</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$1,302</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Education Program</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$3,527</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-school Expenses</td>
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<td>$1,387</td>
<td>$28,580</td>
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<td>PDO Expenses</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$49,082</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Our Children</strong></td>
<td>$53,000</td>
<td>$55,298</td>
<td>$81,580</td>
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</table>
## ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### OPERATING BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCOUNTS</th>
<th>2009 BUDGET</th>
<th>2009 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2010 BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission and Outreach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary Funds</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
<td>$1,516</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;O Committee directed-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$2,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diocesan Support</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$34,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nets For Life</td>
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<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Mission and Outreach</strong></td>
<td>$34,600</td>
<td>$36,690</td>
<td>$37,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rectory</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rectory Mortgage Interest</td>
<td>$7,047</td>
<td>$4,905</td>
<td>$4,750</td>
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<td>Rectory Mortgage Amortization</td>
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<td>$5,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities Rectory</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$959</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rectory Maintenance</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$4,516</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Rectory</strong></td>
<td>$15,547</td>
<td>$16,022</td>
<td>$15,050</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$724,576</td>
<td>$724,378</td>
<td>$770,882</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$624,500</td>
<td>$655,252</td>
<td>$697,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net total</strong></td>
<td>$(100,076)</td>
<td>$(69,126)</td>
<td>$(73,602)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Capital Sources

- Campbell Fund | $100,076 | $47,140 | $74,602 |
- Other sources | $21,986 |

### NOTES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR END BAL</th>
<th>BAL 1/1/2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line of Credit</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>$2,306,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectory Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>$137,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell Fund</td>
<td>$214,445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

## Balance Sheet

**December 2009**

### Accounts

#### Assets

**Operating Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1101.00 - Checking Community Bank</td>
<td>$13,516.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1103.00 - Capital Campaign - Community Bank</td>
<td>$45,830.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1106.00 - DK Checking</td>
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<tr>
<td>1107.00 - PDO-Checking</td>
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<td>1110.10 - Memorial MMKT-Community Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>1115.00 - Rector's Discretionary Community</td>
<td>$11,341.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>1117.00 - Molitors Discretionary Account</td>
<td>$288.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>1125.00 - Restricted Funds CD</td>
<td>$57,294.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1120.00 - M &amp; O Reserve Fund CD</td>
<td>$34,132.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1150.10 - Thanksgiving Chkg-Community Bank</td>
<td>$6,366.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</strong></td>
<td><strong>$191,212.37</strong></td>
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**Investments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1201.00 - Diocesan Foundation</td>
<td>$9,009.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1209.00 - Wayne Hummer-Operating</td>
<td>$5,742.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1211.00 - Wayne Hummer Lillian Campbell Trust</td>
<td>$214,445.93</td>
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<tr>
<td>1215.00 - Wayne Hummer - Lewis</td>
<td>$183,192.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Investments</strong></td>
<td><strong>$411,479.31</strong></td>
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</table>

**Total Operating Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$602,691.58</strong></td>
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</table>

**Non-operating Assets**

**Property and Equipment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1701.00 - Church Buildings</td>
<td>$4,536,250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1705.00 - Furniture and Fixtures</td>
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<td>1710.00 - Computer Equipment</td>
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<td>1720.00 - Rectory</td>
<td>$306,755.91</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,258,670.56</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Total Non-operating Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$5,258,670.56</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$5,861,362.24</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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#### Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2110.04 - Due to Other Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>2110.06 - Due to Epis Church Foundation</td>
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<td>2140.00 - Rental Transmittal</td>
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<td>2141.20 - Rectory Security Deosit</td>
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<tr>
<td>2150.00 - Wedding Transmittal</td>
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<tr>
<td>2151.00 - Funeral Transmittal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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**Long Term Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2172.00 - Building Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>$2,306,914.32</td>
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<td>2701.00 - Rectory Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>$137,686.77</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Long Term Liabilities</strong></td>
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**Total Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$2,476,512.98</strong></td>
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**Fund Balance**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3100.00 - General Fund Balance</td>
<td>$288,986.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>3200.00 - Investment in Property &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>Excess Cash Received</td>
<td>$(21,985.73)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received</strong></td>
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**Restricted Funds**

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<td>Total Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>Total Permanently Restricted</td>
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<td><strong>Total Restricted Funds</strong></td>
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**Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$5,861,362.24</strong></td>
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## ST MARK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### 2009 Summary of Restricted Accounts

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<tr>
<th>MEMORIAL FUNDS</th>
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<th>1-Jan-09</th>
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<th>ADJUSTMENT</th>
<th>31-Dec-09</th>
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<td>John Hess Memorial</td>
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**Memorial Fund Cash Balance 12/31/09**

$6,288.58
Visioning / Capital Campaign

One of the most significant parish activities of 2009 was a visioning process to help us chart a course for St’ Mark’s second 100 years. The visioning process confirmed that St. Mark’s is a vibrant, growing parish, rooted in baptism, living our faith through our core values of worship, education and service. So many dreams for the future were revealed.

- For the parish, you envisioned a robust music program with expanded choirs and more variety of worship services. You envisioned more programs for children and young adults.

- For the community, you envisioned involvement in the arts, expanded services to provide food and shelter to the homeless. You envisioned a pre-school based at St. Mark’s that serves children in our local area.

- For the world, you envisioned expanding our relationship with San Marcos in Mexico, you envisioned forming new ties with global partners who labor for Christ in the poorest and most neglected cities and neighborhoods on earth.

In order to make our visioning a reality, we have chosen to begin a capital campaign. Is the funding available? Yes, but it is being held hostage to servicing our debt. We need to cast off our debt and liberate the funding needed to begin our second hundred years as the vibrant parish that you envisioned. Because of the building program of 2004, St. Mark’s is blessed with a welcoming parish hall and a safe and secure place for many wonderful events. But it has also left us with a debt of $2.4 million. Servicing this debt, including payments of principal and interest, drains $195,000 each year from the operating budget. In 2009, the Diocese of Chicago indicated their support of St. Mark’s growing programs by granting us dollar-for-dollar matching funds for any money we raise to retire our debt, up to $600,000. We remember that our Lord says that his yoke is easy, and with his guidance we can rise to the challenge of paying down our debt and re-directing these funds. For every $1,000 of debt that we repay, we lower our debt service by nearly $80. During 2010, our goal is to raise the $600,000 that would enable us to receive the matching total of $600,000 from the Diocese.

Scott Shorney and Joe Campagna, Visioning II Co-Chairs
Jim Treleaven, Visioning II Communication Chair
Nancy Gier, Capital Campaign Communication Committee Member

2010 Giving Campaign

The ministries and activities of St. Mark’s are funded primarily by the regular contributions of our members, and each fall we hold a giving campaign to solicit pledges for the coming year. These pledges are important, as they allow the Wardens and Vestry a clear view of the resources available in planning our budget.

As of January 11, we have received commitments totaling $467,007 towards our goal of $502,400 for the 2010 budget. We have 173 total pledging families compared to our goal of 180. We greatly appreciate all the parishioners who support St. Mark's. While we are short of our goal, we have exceeded last year’s commitments without having to go back to the parish and ask members for supplemental monies, as we did last year. We are especially excited that we have received 28 new pledges this year even as the unsettled economy is still having an effect. This year, 57 past pledging members increased their pledge, but 35 members decreased their pledges.
Compared to the giving campaigns of the past few years, we tried a few additional ideas that we believe helped us increase pledging. We kicked off the campaign by delivering bread to 40 members and featured the sixth-grade class’s icon in our first mailing and in the nave. We also used thermometers in the Sunday bulletins and the narthex to update the parish on the status of the campaign and to remind everyone that it is time to pledge. As in past years, we phoned about 100 members who had not yet pledged to ask them to consider giving.

Over the past three years, pledging as of January has grown from 151 pledging members two years ago to 164 last year and 173 this year. The number of new pledges has grown from 16 two years ago to 22 last year and 28 this year.

Many thanks to Father George for his support and energy throughout the Giving Campaign and to the members of St. Mark’s who helped us kick off the campaign by delivering bread. 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, Cindy & Paul Flynn, Gretchen Kenower, and Chuck Tupta
Joe Campagna, Vestry Liaison

**Children and Youth Formation**

**Basement Boys**
Basement Boys provides an opportunity for fellowship for boys in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The boys get together twice a month during the school year, meeting from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The evenings are structured to include some activity (e.g., playing Wii, tag, scavenger hunt), a snack, and then a time of bible study and reflection. The group is led by Trey Buchanan, Matt Gillespie, and Leo Lanzillo. The group is very excited to include any newcomers, and welcomes the boys to invite friends from outside St. Mark’s. If you are an adult who is interested in participating in the leadership of this group, please contact Trey, Matt, Leo, or Rev. Elizabeth Molitors.

**Blythe**
The tradition of Blythe continues (thanks to the years of Tricia Benich’s development and devotion to the group) on Wednesday evenings. The group meets two or three times a month in Lehman Parlor and averages about twelve to fifteen girls for the hour and a half meeting.

This year the girls’ service projects included organizing a door-to-door donation drive for PADS; working the St Mark’s Pumpkin Patch; and writing Christmas Cards to St Mark’s parishioners, which were delivered with poinsettias. Their Bible series this year focused on Women in the Bible, including Ruth, Mary, and others to come. Other Blythe evenings included skits, activities, and discussions about self-beauty, confidence, New Year’s resolutions, and developing their faith during their junior high school years. The Blythe girls look forward to continuing their fellowship in 2010 – the girls will have an evening out at Bells and Whistles, yoga, and other fun activities. We invite any junior high girls to join us in 2010.

Thank you to Lesley Arlasky and Marylu Olsen for all their help so far this year and to all the parents supporting Blythe.

Meghan Ayers
Youth Formation

The core of St. Mark’s youth formation is Sunday mornings. From 9:15-10:15 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 and participate in one of the Sunday morning Eucharist services.

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; serving as ushers, readers and acolytes; helping at the UNICEF Halloween party; preparing and serving dinner after the monthly Evensong service; playing laser tag; attending the Christmas Progressive dinner. The adult leaders of the 7/8th grade youth on Sunday morning are Kim Reed and Paul Flynn. We ask and invite parents of youth and others in the church to serve as leaders for the other activities throughout the year.

The Sunday morning program for the High School youth is called J2A (Journey to Adulthood), and focuses on an exploration of the “self” – who you are, how you are connected to others, what it means to be authentic, how individuals can connect to form community – and, ultimately, how that self can grow into being a healthy adult. As the program materials put it, “the focus is placed on the acquisition of skills and vocabulary which prepare and empower the young person to be able to someday fully participate in the adult community as a competent and faithful individual.” Besides their time together on Sunday mornings, the group comes together for different social and service activities, among them a car wash to raise money for PADS; volunteering at a PADS site; pizza and movie nights; the Progressive Christmas dinner; playing laser tag and paintball; preparing and serving dinner after the monthly Evensong service; serving as ushers, readers and acolytes. The adult leaders of the High School youth on Sunday morning are Rachel and Chad Alcorn, and Ronnie de Vries. As with the 7/8th grade youth, we ask and invite parents of youth and others in the church to serve as leaders for the other activities throughout the year.

If you are approached, please say ‘Yes.’ We need the help of everyone in the St. Mark’s community to help our youth grow into the vibrant, faithful and caring people that God made them to be.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Elizabeth Molitoris, Associate Rector
Children’s Ministry

Christian Education
Sunday School – We offer 6 different Sunday morning classes for children, ages 3 years old – sixth grade. Average attendance to date this year has been 59 per Sunday. Sunday School is staffed by 15 volunteers, who teach weekly.

Outreach
- The Children’s Ministry supports St. Mark’s M&O priority organizations.
- Food Pantry – VBS collection; weekly class collections during Sunday School
- St. Markopoly – Classes contributed to baskets for the silent auction.
- Trick or Treat for UNICEF – Collection boxes were distributed to the children on Sunday mornings, in anticipation of Halloween. They were asked to bring them back for the UNICEF Halloween Party shortly thereafter.
- Advent/Christmas – St. Nicholas Brunch, which supports the Peoples Resource Center’s “Share the Spirit” program. This year we had 43 adults and 48 children in attendance.
- United Thank Offering – collection boxes were distributed during Lent.

Worship
Two age appropriate worship experiences are offered for children weekly:

Children’s Worship – Ages 4 – 1st grade: Average attendance, 13 children
Lamb’s Chapel – Ages 2 – 3: Average attendance, 6 children

Both are staffed by teams of 2 from a pool of over 20 adult volunteers who have committed to teaching on a monthly basis. Children’s Worship follows the pattern of Godly Play, where the stories are told using wooden figures. Lamb’s Chapel uses the Movers and Shakers toddler curriculum, which includes music, felt storyboards and craft activities. Both of these worship offerings employ an order, which is modeled after the rituals used for the adults. Thanks to the Children’s Worship team for cleaning out and updating the Children’s Worship room in August. In addition, we appreciate the new tables and chairs provided by the Boskovic family.

Worship bags and handouts are provided to help children navigate the “adult” worship service. These are used weekly and we are currently looking for a volunteer to help keep them clean and refreshed with supplies.

Nursery
The nursery is open for infants and toddlers every Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – Noon. It is staffed by Norma Cid and rotating volunteers. We average 6 children in the nursery over the course of the morning each week. A Nursery Open House was hosted in December for parents of young children. The process of organizing the open house enabled us to make contact with all families of nursery age children. Unfortunately, no one attended.

Vacation Bible School
A week-long camp for children, scheduled for Aug. 2 – 6, 2010. VBS is not only faith formation for children, ages 3 – 5th grade, it is also a time for adults to make new friends. It is also a community outreach for St. Mark’s. During “Discovery Canyon” VBS in 2009, we had 52 children and 25 volunteers working together daily.
Other Educational Opportunities at St. Mark’s

- **Advent Wreath Making** – Offered on the first Sunday of Advent. This year’s workshop included drawing and ornament making, as well as wreath making. Approximately 20 wreaths were made.
- **Christmas Pageant** – Presented on December 20th. 50 children and youth took part in this year’s production, “His Name is Jesus,” which was directed by Virginia Vagt.
- **Advent Devotional Booklet** – This year a booklet was prepared for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Many parishioners participated by writing entries for each day.
- **Creativity Corner**, a fine arts class for 3 and 4 year old children that met weekly in September and October. Another session will be offered in April.
- **St. Mark’s Preschool** is still in the planning process, with plans for a talent night fund raiser on March 5th. All children, grades 4 and above, youth and adults are invited to share their talents in this fun event!
- **Jim Gill Outreach concert** for preschool children.
- **Parents Day Out**

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsha Webster, Director, Children’s Ministry

**Adult Forum 2009-2010**

One of the 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 or avocations. They continue to be happily willing to share their insights across a wide variety of expertise. In addition we call on our rector and the pastoral staff, to lead discussions of topics of interest to them. The pastoral staff has been more than supportive in many ways in addition to teaching. We also invite local scholars in the community and diocese to present topics of their expertise.

We offer parishioners a choice of two “tracks.” Track One explores contemporary or historical topics in a series format. In Fall of 2009, we began a consideration of Christian History Through the Ages, led by both our own parishioners, Dr. Sarah Borden and Dr. David Fletcher as well as guest speakers, Dr. George Kalantzis, Dr. Edith Blumhofer, Rev. Richard Dunn. Rev. George Smith and Rev. Elizabeth Molitors continued the Track One offering with a series if 4 weeks on the history of the Episcopal Church. For Advent we had an inspiring series on Handel’s Messiah led by Dr. Johan Buis. January through May introduces a series, Human Values in the 21st Century again led by parishioners and outside speakers and Dr. David Cook, Dr. Christina Bieber. Following Lent, our remaining weeks will consider the history and evaluation of the modern missionary movement, with focus on the ministries supported by our parish.

Track Two concerns itself with Bible study themes and topics. Fr. Dunnett led a Bible Study on the Books of Daniel and Revelation in the Fall. The Spring semester Bible/Theological series began with Drs. Walter and Dolores Dunnett speaking on the Role of Women in the Church, Rev. Elizabeth Molitors on Early Heresies in the Church, and David Fletcher on Liturgy And the Bible. Our Lenten 2010 series considers the topic of Repentance in A Relative World and discussions of the Seven Deadly Sins will be led by members of the Adult Education Commission. We will finish the Spring semester with Dr. Dolores Dunnett on the Real Eucharistic Presence, Mr. Don Sutherland on the Book of Job, and Drs. Dunnett on the Apocrypha.

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, a member of the Adult Forum Commission.
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. Twice a semester Fr. George speaks in adult forum as a means for the adult forum group and others in the congregation to interact informally with George.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Grant
Chair, Adult Education Commission
For Julie Carson, Sarah Borden, David Fletcher, Lynn Wollstadt

Music

Adult Choir, Special Services, and the Recital Series

The cold of January brought with it the continuation of our monthly, first-Sunday Evensongs as we eventually embraced the solemnity of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The Holy Week and Easter services proved to be especially inspiring, and once again the parish generously supported our brass quintet ensemble.

The second event of the 2008-2009 recital series was held in March with a duo recital given by organist, Bruce Barber of St. James’ Cathedral in Chicago, and University of Wisconsin violin professor, Bernard Zinck. This is the second time these artists have performed at St. Mark’s, and those who heard them indicated a strong desire to have them return again soon.

The final event of the recital series for that season was held in May, our second annual New Orleans Jazz Night with the Elmhurst College Jazz Ensemble. This awesome group of amazing college players once again lifted the roof off of Mahon Hall with their renditions of jazz classics. Over $3000 was raised and contributed to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.

The first-Sunday Evensongs were suspended over the summer and resumed in September. The Adult Choir’s annual retreat to Juddland in Wisconsin was sadly derailed and cancelled when their director developed a serious tooth abscess which necessitated a root canal. Nevertheless, the choirs approached the new season with greatly renewed energy and dedication.

The new season’s recital series offered its first event with an organ concert given by Brad Hughley, organist and choirmaster at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Brad played a wonderful program that was heard by about 30 people. If only we could persuade more people to attend these wonderful events and hear the great programs our artists present.

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, along with organist, Cathryn Wilkinson, and the Madrigal Singers from Glenbard East High School with their director, Brandon Catt. Attendance for this service was the best it’s ever been, and over $1000 was raised to contribute to Father Andrew White and his ministry in Baghdad.
Also, as Advent began, another modification in our children’s music program was made. In an effort to make rehearsals easier to schedule with families, the Treble Choir rehearsals were moved to Sunday mornings after the later service. In addition, Marsha Webster will take over the direction of this group, and I join the rehearsals when the service is over. This makes for a better and more logical continuation with all of the groups designed for our younger singers.

The number of services on Christmas Eve was expanded to three; the 4:00 p.m. with an emphasis on our children’s groups; 8:00 p.m. with soloists and brass; and 10:00 p.m. with soloists, choir, and brass. Again, I’m very grateful to the parish for their generous financial support for our guest musicians.

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. I’d especially like to thank my associate, Marsha Webster, who cheerfully and capably takes on more responsibilities in the program and in the parish. A nationwide search couldn’t possibly find a better person to work with, and I’m very grateful for her presence in this parish.

Charles Snider

Music for Children and Youth

Cherub Choir – Sunday morning music for preschoolers, held at the beginning of the Sunday School hour. The Cherubs focus on learning to use their voices, having fun and very simple music skills. They are not pushed to prepare anthems for worship, although they are welcome to participate in the annual Christmas pageant and Mother’s Day offerings. There are approximately 10 children participating in the Cherub Choir this year.

Chorister Choir – Mid-week music program for children in Kindergarten – 3rd grade. They sing once per month during the school year, and also travel to local senior citizen centers to share the music they have learned. There are 12 Choristers this year.

Treble Choir – The Treble Choir serves students, 4th grade through senior high. We currently have 6 students, mostly late elementary age, singing regularly in the Choir. In December we changed the rehearsal time to Sundays, 11:25 – 12:15 p.m. and I began assisting Charles with the choir. These changes were intended to provide a way for additional students to participate. Three new students joined the group for Christmas, and one of them is continuing on during the second semester. The Treble Choir sings once a month and will be participating in the Diocese’s TrebleFest in February. We will continue to work on ways to enhance participation and commitment to this program. As students grow up, the Church finds itself competing with a variety of social and recreational activities vying for their attention. Our goal is to promote the Choir as not only a singing opportunity, but also a faith formation tool, which it has always been. Sending this message to parents as well as the youth is critical to the success and growth of the Treble Choir program.

Marsha Webster
**Usher Ministry**

The ushers do the visually obvious tasks at the worship services, such as handing out bulletins and releasing the congregation for communion. They also offer assistance to anyone who might need it, directions or assistance with finding classrooms or bathrooms, or help with seating at heavily attended services. One important aspect of being an usher is greeting people as they enter church. For the newcomers, this is their first impression. We have had several people join the group this year. We are all happy to have their help and welcome anyone 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.

Current readers include Tony Adkins, Sandy and Rinda Allison, Lisa and Steve Baker, Scott Bednas, Phoebe Benich, Miguel Briones, Douglas Buchanan, Janice Campagna, Miko Carating, Bob Cardwell, Tanya Carey, Dan Conaway, Ronnie deVries, Eric Dinse, Joan Eorgoff, David and Joyce Fletcher, David Funck, Myrna Grant, Jeff and Sawyer Hill, Johann Hille, Dianne Hunter, Gretchen Kenower, Joseph Lanzillo, Zach Littlefield, Ben Maxson, Dave McCarraher, Fiona Miller, Nancy Schmitt, Karen Schreck, Bonnie Schwanz, Martha Sexauer, Cecilia, Frances, and Lydia Smith, Eleanor Smith, Don Sutherland, Kate Waidler, and Jane Zaccaria. Others will join the group in February.

Do let the readers know how much you appreciate their hard 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. 2009 was a light year for our ministry as we only had 2 weddings at St. Mark’s.

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 had a busy and productive year. We have continued to provide support to parishioners going through difficulties or transitions. The Flower Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Meals Ministry, College Outreach, Prayer Shawl Ministry and financial support to partner agencies (Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling and Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling) have continued this year. We have also recently heard a presentation from the Reverend Rita Kay Lochner of Grace and Peace Chaplaincy, a non-denominational ministry providing church services at local nursing homes. The committee is investigating ways we may support this vital ministry to an underserved population. The popular Poinsettia and Easter lily delivery to homebound parishioners continues; each flower accompanied by beautiful handmade cards from the Blythe girls. Our committee is blessed with energetic and committed volunteers, including Dianne Dinse, Gretchen Kenower, Jackie Tack, Jan Novak, Liz Valdivia, and Kathleen Leid, and we welcome any who would like to join us as we minister to the people of St. Mark’s and the surrounding community.

Adrian Buchanan

Meals Ministry

During 2009 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 2010.

Liz Valdivia

Chapel Intercessors

St Mark’s chapel intercessors are those who staff the chapel on the first Sunday of the month to offer individual prayer to any who wish prayers for themselves or others. Because of moves away from St. Mark’s, there are now only four who are part of this group: May Anstee, Barbara Newsom, Kim Reed, and myself. Jim Hamilton and Katherine Lawrence moved during the past year.

Because of a lack of interest, this group is suspended for the time being.

Gretchen Kenower
**Church Tellers**

Two scheduled Church Tellers spend two hours each Monday, counting Sunday Church Offerings, as well as any additional income that is received in the mail during the week. They prepare a summary sheet which has weekly pledge offerings received from Church Envelopes and other receipts received from checks and currency. The total contributions are then deposited.

Over this past year the Church members who have counted offerings each week are Sandy Allison, May Anstee, Doug Armantrout, Bob Cardwell, Bob Judd, Gretchen Kenower, and Bill Mark. I want to thank each one of them for their interest, promptness, and dependability each time they were scheduled.

Dave McCarraher

**Amazon.com Sales Commissions**

If you look on the St. Mark’s website, under “St. Mark’s A-Z” you’ll find a link to Amazon.com. Click on the link to support St. Mark’s ministries by doing your Amazon.com shopping (books, CDs, toys, etc.) through that link. Proceeds from commissions benefit the ministries of St. Mark’s.

The total commissions for 2009 were $645.49.

The Webmaster’s Observations:
1. Seems worthwhile to continue; the sales commissions earned are as good as a $12/week pledge.
2. Some more promotion might increase this substantially. The range of items sold through the website is huge and includes clothing, books, electronics, toys, gift certificates, cameras, ink, dog food, software... I suspect that many people do not know of the huge variety of things they could buy at Amazon.com.
3. There is no special registration or code to fill in; just begin your shopping trip at St. Mark’s website.

Bob Cardwell

**Centennial Celebration – St. Marksopoly**

Our Centennial Celebration and Fundraiser on October 17 exceeded expectations in every way. Over 160 parishioners attended our St. Marksopoly Gala. The event featured live music and dancing combined with raffles and auctions to help us meet our fundraising goals set in the annual budget. Donations and underwriting more than covered the costs of the event itself. The raffles, silent auctions, and live auction netted $16,089, thanks to donations from 65 businesses and 135 parishioners. Total proceeds of $19,480 have first been directed to the fundraising line item of our 2009 operating budget to bring us up to the target amount of $10,000 in annual fundraising revenue.

This leaves us with an additional $10,380 which will be contributed this year toward retiring our mortgage, and will be eligible for a matching grant from the Diocese of Chicago.

Danna Gross
Mission and Outreach 2009 Highlights

The M & O calendar was very full this past year, with a variety of events that encompassed every season:

Springtime
- Our annual Jazz Concert; now in its second year, proved very successful in raising funds for the Walk-In Ministry. Angela Adkins coordinated this effort which raised over $4,500, a significant jump from the previous year.
- The Southeast Mexico trip was supported by a series of annual events including our Cake Auction, Mother’s Day Rose Sale, Spring Plant Sale, and Cinco De Mayo Dinner. These events raised close to $8,000 towards the annual mission trip. Special thanks to Bud Zwiebel, Julie Carson, Kim Reed, Andrew Dorn, Trey Buchanan, and countless others.
- The St Mark’s school kids (with coordination provided by Barrie Mason) have been collecting canned goods for the GE Food Pantry Food throughout the year. Numerous bags of food were collected and delivered through this effort.
- Elizabeth Lewis coordinated our annual UTO Blue Box offering collecting just over $600 in total donations this year.

Summer
- We expanded our Sunday night PADS sponsorship at the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn this year to a full five Sundays. A small army of St Mark’s volunteers provided food for 3 meals for each session and many more served dinners, assembled lunches, and cooked breakfast for over 50 residents each night. Brian and Cindy Stepien coordinated the effort.
- St Mark’s M&O donated $4,000 to help Mallory Holding raise funds for a year-long mission to Haiti. She will be providing updates and learning opportunities for all parishioners during the course of the year.
- Paul Flynn led the St Mark’s Crop Walk effort this year, pulling in over $500 for Bridge Communities.

Autumn
- Our 2nd Annual Pumpkin Patch (Joe Campagna and Phil Adler) netted over $15,000. PADS received approximately 25% of these donations with the balance benefiting the Native American farmers who provide the pumpkins and gourds.
- St Greg’s School was assisted with $1,500 in school supplies and cash for the 2009-2010 school year 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 approximately $600 for Bridge Communities.
- Our UNICEF program was spearheaded by Laura McGovern, collecting $132 in donations.

Holiday Season/Winter
- Our Christmas Basket Program (Ginnie Judd) for Cathedral Shelter provided presents/care packages for about 70 families with donations estimated at close to $10,000.
- The annual Children’s Concert featuring Jim Gill brought a packed house and $750 for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Special thanks to Kristin Novak, Jill Bednas and Nikki Fry.
- The St Nick’s Brunch (Marsha Webster) pulled in four bins filled with toys and donations for the People’s Resource Center.

These events, coupled with additional support projects throughout the year provided over $80,000 in overall donations and assistance for our Mission and Outreach partners. 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 2009

“Saludos en el nombre de nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo, que su gracia y paz sean siempre con usted.”
(Bishop Benito of the Diocese of Southeast Mexico in a letter to Father George). Translated: “Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that his grace and peace may always be with you.”

Despite the language differences, it is our mutual affection, our faith, and now, our newly shared history that bind us to the parish of San Marcos in the Diocese of Southeast Mexico. This past June, Father George led thirteen others on a mission trip to Mexico: Mary Caroline Benich; Trey and Matthew Buchanan; Horacio Chavez; Mallory and Michael Holding; Lane, Kim, Alex, and Elliott Reed; Frances and Lydia Smith; and Anna Zaccaria.

This was our fourth visit to San Marcos in Nigromante. The first year, we were introduced to the parish and its community. The second year, we purchased and built a play set (still enjoyed today); the third year, along with community members, we scraped and repainted the church roof and worked with leaders of San Marcos to conduct VBS classes for the community children. This year, again with the help of the parish, we painted the inside of the church, installed fans, worked together to hold VBS classes, and helped cook and serve a breakfast intended for the children of Nigromante but that also fed some of the marginalized members in the community as well as passing Central American immigrants. During this year's VBS, the children, inspired by Bible stories, created pictures on fabric squares that were brought back to Glen Ellyn and then combined with the squares made by the children at St. Mark's VBS to make two beautiful quilts: one to stay here and one that was presented to San Marcos.

Every visit since we purchased a bread oven in 2006 for the parish’s micro-business bakery, we have helped bake bread, sell bread – and we have purchased bread for our annual spaghetti dinner served in the plaza facing the church. Each year, we stay in the homes of parishioners, and we are treated with overwhelming graciousness and hospitality. We are committed to each other; we share a history, and we are family in the Anglican community and, more broadly, in God’s kingdom.

Matthew Buchanan said it well, "I now know that we have a special place in the hearts of the people, just as they have a special place in mine. I definitely will want to go back the next year."

Plans are underway for a June 2010 trip.
Kim Reed

Communications Group

As St. Mark’s continues to grow and thrive, so do the communication needs for the parish. Many thanks for the time and energy of the people listed below and their continuing 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@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Service Programs/Bulletins
Ginnie Judd/Dale Byrnes produce 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@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Bulletin Boards
Dale Byrnes and the office staff are responsible for maintaining St. Mark’s bulletin boards. Every Friday, staff 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@stmarksglenellyn.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.

Parish Emails
Parish communications are emailed via Constant Contact, a database tool that includes all of St. Mark’s email contacts on file. We have introduced a new format “St. Mark’s Connect” with multiple event announcements in one email to reduce the number of emails you get each week from St. Mark’s. To have your event information included, please email your information by Tuesday night to parishwide-email@stmarksglenellyn.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 continues to be improved with input most recently from Charles Tupta and the work of our Webmaster, Bob Cardwell. Charles and Bob have worked to create new pages for St. Mark’s A-Z, Vestry, Staff, and other updated Content. Charles has worked diligently to organize the content and structure on St. Mark’s website and is currently reaching out to groups within St. Mark’s for continued development of their content. Charles’ expertise will help ensure that St. Mark’s website is a truly welcoming resource for our parish. 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@stmarksglenellyn.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!

2009 has been the third year for St. Mark’s Newcomers Commission to welcome guests and newcomers.

St. Mark’s Ambassadors, chaired by Joe Campagna, 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, chaired by Danna Gross, have been at the front door to greet you every Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service. 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. This year Rachel Alcorn became chair of this activity. 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 Committee provides an environment in which St. Markers live out our vision—welcoming all, embracing differences, fostering creativity, and nurturing the unique gifts of each person in our midst. We work to find opportunities to incorporate all into the life and fellowship of St. Mark’s.

During 2009, the Parish Life Committee, chaired by Jill Bednas and Danna Gross, coordinated coffee hours after each worship service, assisted with special receptions, and hosted special events. Highlights of the year include the following:

January
- Annual meeting reception, children’s lunch & activities, and babysitting

March
- Three Lenten suppers on Wednesday evenings in Mahon Hall
April
- Agape Feast held on Maundy Thursday prior to Maundy Thursday service
- Champagne reception following Easter Vigil

June
- Annual Church Picnic June 7 (scheduled at Herrick Lake, moved to Mahon Hall due to inclement weather)
- Parish Life committee organized and deep cleaned kitchen

August
- Sunday school kick-off Sunday featured the Glen Ellyn “hot dog man” and festivities in front of church

October
- Supper Bowl Shuffle kick-off
- Jim Gill family concert
- 100th Parish Anniversary gala (co-chaired by Danna Gross and Elizabeth Lanzillo)

December
- Champagne reception following Advent Lessons and Carols

Goals for 2010-2011 include involving every parishioner in hosting or assisting at one coffee hour. We also plan to hold a Kitchen Shower to help outfit our kitchen with serving pieces that will aid our preparations.

Parish Life would like to invite you to join our committee. If you have gifts in organization, baking, decorating, kitchen work, arranging and moving tables and chairs, brainstorming, floral arrangement, or coordinating, we have a place for you!!! Please contact Jill Bednas, Danna Gross, or Joyce Fletcher if you would like to join us!

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Fletcher
Vestry Liaison to Parish Life

**Men's Ministry**

The St. Mark’s Men’s Group once again hosted the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. We then followed up with a couple of fantastic barbecues, including a farewell barbecue for the Wrights – Jimmy helped bring vigor back to the Men’s group during his stay with us. Another Barbecue in July at the rector’s house – when Cecilia was away – though this year she may be on to us. Throughout the spring of 2009, we continued with the “Living the Questions” DVD series on Saturday mornings. This past fall, we began a new series, “First Light,” which is a 12-session DVD and web-based study of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God with two of the world’s leading Jesus scholars on location throughout the Galilee and Jerusalem. Attendance and participation has been growing steadily.

We welcome men of any age to join us on the 2nd or 4th Saturdays, or to contact us at mensgroup@stmarksglenellyn.org.
Leo Lanzillo
Women to Women

Women's Ministries at St. Mark's are loosely organized under the umbrella of Women to Women (W2W). In 2009 we completed the transition from once or twice a month daytime meetings with occasional evening events, to a broader program with a variety of topics and activities appealing to a wide range of ages and life stages.

- W2W is an intergenerational fellowship group for all the women of the parish. Activities are designed to include women of all ages;
- NOVA (Nurturing Our Very Active) meetings are aimed at those parenting young children;
- MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) is a structured, nine-week small group experience for mothers and
- After Hours for Moms activities and meetings offer an opportunity for moms to connect who are not able to attend the daytime meetings.

W2W activities for this program year included a first annual Women's Tea attended by 65 women, five salad suppers and a wonderful retreat in March at DeKoven. A record number of women attended the ever-popular annual Ornament Exchange in December. This year's Women's retreat, "HeartSpa: Caring for Yourself-Heart, Body, Mind and Soul" promises to be provide an amazing opportunity to further build our community and learn to nurture ourselves and our relationships.

W2W also sponsors the Prayer Shawl ministry. This past year many shawls have been given to those for whom we pray and those who are undergoing difficult circumstances. Kris Baier, Dianne Dinse, and Judy Jackson coordinate this ministry. Knitters meet once a week on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am. All are welcome.

All women of the parish are invited to attend the W2W activities. We are an evolving group; participation and input is always welcome.

NOVA
NOVA began the year continuing our every other week meeting, and continued with monthly outings during the summer months. This fall we increased to every week, alternating between a discussion for moms with childcare for the kids and a playgroup or outing for mom and kids together. We explored our identities as mothers, a topic that elicited much sharing and introspection. Any parents of young children are welcome to join us Thursday mornings at 9:30 am.

After Hours for Moms
2009 saw the first in a series of evening gatherings for moms with children of all ages, for a lively discussion on motherhood and identity with author Caryn Rivadeneira. We will continue to meet periodically in 2010; this group is intended as a supplement to the programs of Women to Women, for all women of the church, and to offer an opportunity to connect with other moms for women who can’t meet during the day and aren’t participating in a MOMS group.

Yoga With Reeny
Once again, we began our year with a weekly gentle yoga class, attracting participants of all ages and ability levels, led by Reeny Linstrom. Attendance was up this year. In 2010 Yoga meets January 13 to March 25 at 9:30-10:45 am in Mahon Hall.
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 nearly 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 has a committed following in our community. PDO continues to cover its operating cost and provide cash and service benefits to St. Mark’s.

In February 2009, a PDO parent donated graphic design services and worked with the PDO Board to develop a wonderful logo to represent our program. The logo has been used on our promotion and registration materials. We thank Cherri Morawski for this valuable and creative service.

We also thank Kathy O’Rourke and her staff, Cindy Glavin, Melody Mordini, Beth Figler, 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 2010-11 program will begin in April, with members of the parish receiving priority.

Elizabeth Lewis

St. Mark’s Preschool

St. Mark’s is planning to open its own preschool, St. Mark’s Preschool, in the Fall of 2010. We will begin with one class of 15 three and four year olds and hope to grow and add additional classes each year. We plan to have one three day a week morning class, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The anticipated cost is $21 per class. We are currently in the process of generating an interest list. To add your child’s name to the interest list, please contact St. Mark’s front office at 630-858-1020 or email frontdesk@stmarkslenellyn.org. A committee of parishioners, with assistance from some outside the parish, has been exploring and working on creating this preschool for the past two years. We will open with one scholarship student with the hope of increasing that number in future years.

St. Mark’s Preschool Vision Statement:
We are an Episcopal preschool welcoming and embracing children of all faiths and socio-economic backgrounds into a supportive community that integrates the arts, academics, health, and social and emotional learning where they can develop a love for learning and an appreciation for the world around them.

St. Mark’s Preschool Mission Statement:
Our mission is to provide a weekday preschool for children within the church and the community; to foster a nurturing atmosphere for the physical, cognitive, spiritual, and social development of the children; and to help parents toward a better understanding of their child’s development and behavior.
**Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education:**
The Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education is a child-directed curriculum model that is considered by educators around the world as one of early childhood education’s “best practices.” The Reggio approach believes that children learn through interaction with others, including parents, staff and peers in a friendly learning environment. The teacher’s role is as a facilitator, who is responsible for exposing the children to different experiences and then developing an emergent curriculum of rich learning opportunities evolving from the children’s interest. The Reggio Emilia approach was developed in Reggio, Italy after the Second World War. This war torn and poverty stricken town made pre-school education its priority and invested its only resources into its children and their education. Education professionals now travel from around the world to Reggio to learn about this thoughtful approach right from its source. A successful Reggio program requires very talented staff who work well together as they will be continuously responding and regrouping their instruction. Since this is a child-directed approach, the environment around the children is considered very important and is referred to as the “third teacher.” Aesthetic beauty of the classroom, accessibility to resources and a space easy on the eye helps the children engage in different learning experiences organized by the teachers.

If questions, contact Kim Reed, kimreed@wowway.com, or Cindy Flynn notnowkato@gmail.com.

**Buildings and Grounds**

St. Mark’s is a beautiful church, and our Building and Grounds committee works hard to keep it maintained. The physical condition of a church provides an important first impression for newcomers.

To accomplish the many tasks required for maintaining the church, grounds, and rectory, the committee needs a solid volunteer work force. Currently, much of this workload at St. Mark’s is sustained by a small team of three or four men who complete most of the repairs around the church. Special thanks to Dick Mylander and Michael Benich for their work. More volunteers are needed to share the load! For example, at last fall’s clean-up event we had seven volunteers. Please watch the church bulletin and emails in the coming year for opportunities to help.

Building and Grounds process improvements include building a database of church vendors, and improved communications between vendors and church leaders. The team completed over 100 items/repairs around the church and the Rectory. Here is a list of major items completed:

- Both parking lots were repaired and paved.
- Cement work done around the outside of the church.
- Six new faucets, eliminating the problem sensor faucets.
- Replaced washer in rectory home.
- Mahon Hall - wood panels around complete room.
- Completed all paper work, inspection, for elevator.
- Completed four new parking areas with special needs signs.
- Replaced two garage doors in Rectory.
- Painting in lower level of hall and some classroom walls.
- Two new microphones for PA system.
- Repair chapel water leaks, with repair to drywall and repainting.

Respectfully submitted,
Perry Knutson
The Gardening Angels

The Garden Angels are looking for assistance with (6) SIX of our Untended Garden Beds for Spring 2010. We are thankful for the faithful angels who assisted with the Fall Clean Up. We found JOY in having our garden areas looking respectable if not LOVINGLY Lovely by the time our cooperative Pumpkin Patch was delivered.

Jane Thomas
Parish Register 2009

Baptism

Katherine Caroline Adler
Wesley Dean Baier
Samuel Robert Davia
Arielle Grace Friebel
Avery Jane Haney
Jillian Marie Hug
Aleksandra Davis Johnson
Cali Brynn Ludwig
Talan Ryan Ludwig
Devin Martin Ojeda
Olivia Eleanor Rausch
Owen Christopher Repetowski
Morgan Jane Ruskusky

Transfers Out

Barbara Braly
John Braly
Katherine Marie Lawrence
Sarah Jane Mistic
Beth Still
Brooke Still
Brynn Still
Douglas Still
Emily Wilson
Jack Wilson
Keith Wilson
Kenneth Wilson
Phoebe Wilson

Marriages

Hilary Ann Korbar
and Peter James Dorger
Renata Danielewicz
and Filip Gagovic
Susan Anne Bridenstine
and Jeffery Michael Gallegher
Cheryl Marie Scigousky
and Anthony Otero

Confessions

Robyn Magbanua Carating
Danna Lynn Gross
Brian William Hetzel
Matthew Allen McGovern
Cynthia Jade Mote
Frances Mary Smith
Anna Elizabeth Zaccaria

Transfers In

Barbara S. Colombo
Daniel Christian Ellison
Laura Ann Ellison
Leah Danielle Ellison
Riley Anne Ellison
Edna E. Heatherington

Funerals

Jerry Buck
Verlin Deutscher
Frederick Stafford Dinse
Culver Cleve Floyd
Susan Elizabeth Grant
Virginia K. Gulley
Ann Steiger Haberstroh
Wesley David Hookham
Ruth Irene Kautenberger
J. Fred Lundgren
John Schmuck
Jennifer Lee Thirsk
Richard Marion Zimmermann

Average Sunday Attendance: 241
Minutes of the Annual Meeting – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Glen Ellyn IL 60137
25 Jan 2009 – 12:10pm-1:40pm

Presiding: The Rev. George Smith, Rector
Recording: Daniel Conaway
Elizabeth Lanzillo, Senior Warden for 2008
David Funck, Senior Warden-Designate for 2009
140 parishioners in attendance

1. Opening: 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: Ann Cardwell moved for vote to accept the minutes from Jan2008 annual meeting; seconded and accepted unanimously by voice vote.

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

5. Appointment of Youth Representative: Phoebe Benich appointed Youth Representative to the Vestry.

6. Recognition: David Funck:
   - Outgoing Diocesan Convention delegates: Julie Carson and Jill Bednas;
   - outgoing Vestry: Andrew Flynn (youth representative), Scott Bednas (finance), Ann Cardwell (M&O), Martha Sexauer (Parish Life), and Elizabeth Lanzillo (outgoing Senior Warden) – my deepest thanks;
   - many people who developed and ran programs here to thank, and selecting a few to mention: Tricia Benich and the Blythe program; Matt Hug, Garrett Friebel, and Matt Gillespie with Basement Boys; Angela Adkins and her team for our first Jazz Night;
   - our whole parish, for embracing the Woodiwiss Family when they returned to St. Mark’s for Anna’s memorial service; and
   - so many others!
   - Other thoughts to share:
      - This is a welcoming community, who embraces everyone;
      - this is a spiritual community, where doubt is not to be feared;
      - this is a visible community, with a strong presence in this village and this diocese.
      - We have a strong relationship with our companion diocese in SE Mexico;
      - we have very strong programs with children and youth;
      - we are a growing parish: 161 pledging families, 22 new this year – a 13% increase!
      - This is our church and God’s Church; when we had “the troubles”, it truly became OUR CHURCH.

7. Recommended changes to bylaws: David Funck:
   - page 6 of the Annual Report lists the proposed changes to our Constitution and By-Laws;
   - many of these are language changes to modernize, make gender-neutral, and clarify rules;
   - John Braly, Ann Cardwell, Bob Lewis, and Rinda Allison met several times, recommended changes, presented to Vestry, and received approval from the Vestry to put those changes to vote today.

8. Voting: David Funck:
   - Five parishioners are on the ballot for the four open Vestry seats: Cindy Flynn, Perry Knutson, Eric McAlpine, Doug Page, and Kendall Vail;
   - Two parishioners are on the ballot for Diocesan Convention Delegate and Alternate: Gretchen Kenower and Elizabeth Lewis;
   - approval of the changes to Constitution and By-Laws is sought by yes/no vote;
   - Scott Bednas, Elizabeth Lanzillo, and Ann Cardwell are appointed Tellers for the voting;
   - David Funck read the rules for voting, per the Canons.

9. Administrative Reports:
9a: Restricted Funds: Dick Anstee
   - accounts are listed on page 16 of the Annual Report; thanks to Dave McCarraher for management.
9b: 2008 Year-end Budget: Dick Anstee
- please read pg14 of the Annual Report; thanks to all on the Finance Committee, especially John Schmuck, our Assistant Treasurer and Nancy Lee, our recorder;
- highlights: we took only $85K out of capital, rather than the $100K anticipated, due to additional gifts;
- open-plate collections were down – but only because many attendees are now pledgers;
- for the second year in a row: more than 99% of pledges (99.4% actual) were collected!
- payroll was held to within $1K of budget, and admin/office expenses within $30 of budget – well done!
- Buildings & Grounds had many unexpected expenses: the freezer, furnace, roof, snow removal; however, savings on utilities balanced a portion of these;
- SUMMARY: it was a good year – we were able to do everything we wanted to do!

9c: 2009 Budget: Dick Anstee
- 2009 fundraising well on the way: $489K goal, $470K in pledges now logged;
- we will merge several smaller fundraising events into a single “$10K goal” event in the fall;
- Montessori is assumed to be leaving mid-year, so we have only an $18K income entry there;
- 3% COLA increase is in the budget;
- PDO is at full capacity;
- one or two Parish Life items had their budgets reduced slightly;
- we will be able to increase our Diocesan pledge slightly;
- SUMMARY: we are anticipating a $100K deficit, and the vestry and staff are building a long-range plan in order to not draw that entire deficit from capital funds (Campbell Trust).

9d: Election Results:
- new Vestry members are Cindy Flynn, Perry Knutson, Eric McAlpine, and Kendall Vail;
- new Diocesan Convention Delegate is Elizabeth Lewis and Alternate is Gretchen Kenower;
- the proposal to “revise bylaws per recommendations” was approved.

9d: A Vision for St. Mark’s: Elizabeth Lanzillo
- brochure circulated here, produced by Javier Valdivia and compiled by the Vision Team (Sarah Adler, Bruce Benson, Joyce Fletcher, Eric McAlpine, Jeff Hill, George Smith, and Wilma Linde);
- team met, solicited comments, and organized several parish-wide discussions to produce a statement of “our identity, our foundation, and our intentions” as we continue to develop and grow.

9e: Senior Warden’s Report: Elizabeth Lanzillo
- will not reread – notes are on page 13 of the Annual Report;
- thanks to Dale, Ginnie, all the office volunteers, and the hospitality team for the Annual Report and preparations today;
- three things for which we can be grateful: a strong parish identity, which we are able to convey to visitors; a great group of committed parishioners; and the gifted, talented person who is our Rector!
- thanks also to Dick Anstee, who with his team has mastered the balancing-act of our finances.

10. Rector’s Report: Fr. George Smith:
- my report is on pg 4-5 of the Annual Report – please read yourselves;
- I need all of you to look at the people attending every week and say hello! – I can’t do it all!
- our future is invested in people knowing each other here, new and old – be welcoming!

11. Questions, comments, and announcements from the floor:
- Cecilia Smith: my message to you again this year: every day, George and I are grateful for this place, this parish, and all of you!
- David Funck: the Vestry will gather for a brief official meeting immediately after adjournment here.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.
Submitted:

<signed>

Daniel Conaway, Clerk