St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Annual Report for 2013

Gesso, Egg Tempera, Clay Bole, Gold Leaf on Wood Panel
This original icon of St. Mark was commissioned by the Wes Hookham Memorial Fund.
The icon is new to the church, entering our collection in the fall of 2013.

January 26, 2014
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Agenda

Opening Prayer

Appointment of Clerk of the Annual Meeting
Karen Doran is appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting
Please see the last pages of this handout for the minutes of last year's meeting

Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden
Eric McAlpine and Edna Heatherington

Appointment of Youth Representative
Caroline Arlasky and Arturo Rubio

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members, Youth Representative
 Sr. Warden, and Convention & Alternate Delegates
Steve Webster, Nancy Gier, Dianne Dinse, Scott Taback, Theo Grant-Funck,
Paula Zwiebel, Horacio Chavez, Virginia Vagt

Voting
Election of Vestry Candidates:
Verónica Blanco, Carolyn Faivre, Mauro Hernandez, Amy Joyce, Kathy Kelly,
Hunter Walor, Edna Heatherington

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates:
Don Sutherland

Reports
Finance Committee Report
2013 Year End Budget Report
2014 Budget

Senior Warden’s Report

Rector’s Report

Questions and Answers
Rector’s Report for the St. Mark’s Annual Meeting
January 26, 2014

Los Angeles, California is home to an offbeat restaurant called the A-Frame. It is owned and managed by a South Korean immigrant named Roy Choi. Choi is well-known in culinary circles as one of the entrepreneurs behind the food truck movement. He is passionate about food and creating an experience that delights his customers. I don’t know Choi’s religious leanings, but how he conceptualizes and runs the A-Frame is a lesson in the Gospel of Jesus. The A in A-Frame stands for aloha which in the Hawaiian language means peace, mercy as well as hello. The A also symbolizes the architecture of the building, a converted I-HOP. The seating is communal, so strangers sit together. Just as important as the food is the welcome the A-Frame offers its guests. To quote Choi, “As soon as anyone opens that door, no matter where you're from, I want you to feel like we've been waiting for you." That’s it: “we’ve been waiting for you.” Imagine yourself walking into this restaurant and being greeted so sincerely, so completely that there is no question that you know that you are appreciated and welcome. With this, the A-Frame captures the essence and totality of God’s love. It is what everyone needs and is looking for yet often finds lacking. The A-Frame sets a high bar not only for restaurants but for what I think every church should be, St. Mark’s included. This should be our goal as a church: whenever anyone walks in any of our eight doors, no matter where they are from, what they look like, who they are, that person will feel like we’ve been waiting for them. This isn’t just a trendy, flash-in-the-pan idea. It is our baptismal covenant that we seek and serve Christ in all persons. It is also in the St. Mark’s vision statement that says, “We are rooted in baptism.” How do we reach this goal? I don’t think it is a matter of just deciding to be nice or taking some kind of sensitivity training workshop offered by many companies. We can reach this goal by gathering in worship week after week, praying, reading Scripture, learning, listening, speaking and serving others locally and beyond our immediate surroundings. In doing all of this, we will continue to reveal more and more into the likeness of God within us. When we see each other and think, “I’ve been waiting for you” we are getting closer to the kingdom of heaven preached by Jesus. Although a goal for St. Mark’s, the real goal isn’t about St. Mark’s but about equipping each of us to take this way of life with us into the world.

This January marks ten years since St. Mark’s split in half over the direction of the national Episcopal Church. In the Diocese of Chicago, St. Mark’s was the parish that suffered the biggest loss of membership and faced the greatest challenge to its survival. Shortly after the 2004 annual meeting, when it became clear that there was no mandate for St. Mark’s to remove itself from the Episcopal fold, the rector announced his resignation and immediate departure. Immediately, Sunday attendance plummeted, contributions dropped and key leaders walked out, leaving long-time friendships damaged beyond repair. Many who had given their vote and promise to pay for a large building project (what is now Mahon Hall) tore up their commitment cards. The hurt was deep and profound. If someone had a crystal ball and looked out ten years into the future, I'm not sure they would have believed that in 2014 there would be a balanced budget, a complete rebound in Sunday attendance, a St. Mark’s Preschool, a Parents Day Out program with nearly 100 children, a 1 p.m. service in Spanish and only $850k remaining on the building loan. Whether anyone would have believed it or not, that is what has happened. The issue at stake in 2004 was the meaning of Gospel itself, the good news of God in Christ for all people. Since those trying times, St. Mark’s has kept centered and focused on the Gospel and the welcome that says, “We’ve been waiting for you” regardless of who the “you” may be. I don’t think there will ever be a time when we can or should move from this core stance. To do so would be to abandon Christ. In Christ, the people of St. Mark’s have worked extraordinarily hard and faithfully, taken risks, and given selflessly of their time, talents and money. During the past year, we have seen this faith and commitment continue to thrive and grow. Highlights of the past year include:

In June and July, St. Mark’s hosted “Icons in Transformation” featuring the work of Russian-born abstract expressionist Ludmila Pawlowska. The 150-piece exhibit included over a dozen traditional icons painted in the workshop of the Vassilevsky Monastery in Suzdal, Russia. The art was displayed in the narthex, nave, hallway and Mahon Hall. It took an army of amazing volunteers to plan, promote, staff, unload, set-up, take down and clean up. Thousands of people from around the Chicago area viewed the exhibit, including those who worshipped on Sundays. Funds collected from a modest entrance fee went to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. A portion of the sales...
of the art pieces went to cover our expenses. In the end, we broke even. The exhibit opened up St. Mark’s to a wider audience than we’ve ever had, giving people a new sense of what a church can host and bring to the community. We’ve also inspired other churches to host art exhibits and promote art in their congregations. A new St. Mark’s Arts Committee has formed that has already curated exhibits of art from St. Mark’s own collection, prints by artist Tina Leto’s, and a set of wreaths during Advent. Beth Treleven’s dedication and talent graced all of our communications, banners, signs and print materials. She put countless hours into making the exhibit a stunning and beautiful success. The Lanzillo family hosted the artist and her husband at their home for two weeks. Peter and Virginia Vagt, Cecilia Smith, Michael Benich, Dellana Mote, Julian Mendoza and many others, gave hours of time to this project that had many unexpected twists and turns, as any project of this magnitude does. Lastly, I am grateful for the lasting legacy of the exhibit that remains with St. Mark’s in perpetuity. Gerald and Tanya Carey purchased “Door to Paradise” in memory of Tanya’s sister, Nadia Lesinsky Goodman. Jenny Schwerdtfeger donated “Your Face I am Seeking” in memory of her parents, Dru and Phil Carter, which currently hangs above the altar. A five year old boy recently told me on his first Sunday at St. Mark’s – “I see Jesus, and the tree!”

The outreach work at St. Mark’s expanded in remarkable ways in 2013. Lindsay Mullaney organized a group of eight who traveled to Martin, Kentucky in July as part of the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) to repair and winterize two homes. This is the first time that St. Mark’s participated in ASP. Under the enthusiastic leadership of David Dornblaser, our PADS ministry expanded from five Sundays a year to once a month, year-round. The annual Pumpkin Patch for PADS, which has brightened our corner of Glen Ellyn every year since 2007, netted $5,400 for DuPage PADS. Our relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante, Mexico continued to deepen as a group of 14 youth and adults made an annual visit in June, the 8th such trip since 2006. Proceeds from today’s cake auction will go toward this year’s trip in June. Behind this continuity is a remarkable person – Kim Reed, who has maintained enthusiasm, commitment and most of all, a sense of love for this work of relationship that has blossomed over the years.

We all know that the church is not a building, but is the people who gather and form a community. But the building is an important part of our identity and provides a beautiful and sacred space for us to gather and serve the community. Cheryl Olsen has given her so much of herself to improving the appearance and condition of our physical plant. What you can see is of course the beautiful summer plantings, the garden in front of the office, and the healthy trees and bushes that add shade and definition to our property. Behind the scenes are the boiler, heating and air conditioning systems and alarm and electrical boxes and switches that have been maintained and kept in good working order. Cheryl has also helped to form a bigger buildings and grounds team that won’t overwhelm any one person and make it more fun to be part of this hands-on type of work. In 2013, we were able to repave the lower parking lot and resurface the upper lot. Dave Rossi led this project, and we had the funds to pay for it thanks to the generosity of the Lewis Trust, which was established by the Lewis family to help St. Mark’s pay for large capital projects such as this. Ginnie Judd led a project to make St. Mark’s more energy-efficient. We received several grants for new lighting and insulation. Our energy costs will be lower as we help the environment by reducing our carbon footprint. Dick Mylander and Michael Benich respond to all manner of requests for help, from fixing a leaky toilet to hanging banners in Mahon Hall.

St. Mark’s experienced a smooth transition in youth ministry leadership from Elizabeth Molitors to Kim Reed. Kim has increased the connections between youth whose families attend the 1 p.m. Sunday service and those who attend the morning services. The “bridge” Sunday gatherings are always well attended, as over 20 youth meet for games, music and pizza in the library. Kim has sent youth representatives from St. Mark’s to Diocesan Happening (high school age) and New Beginning (middle school age) retreats. Last week’s “Night at the Cathedral” high school retreat at St. James Commons was the first of its kind in the Diocese and a model for other church youth groups to follow. Kim also oversees our 7/8th confirmation program, OneChurch connection with youth programs, and the semi-monthly high school and middle school mid-week gatherings.

Jill Bednas is the engine behind our Sunday School and other programming for children at St. Mark’s. The challenge of recruiting teachers and volunteers is immense in an age of less-frequent Sunday church attendance.
has managed to coordinate an army of volunteers for each classroom, from nursery through fifth grade. If you’ve had your child participate in Vacation Bible School, Drama Camp, Sunday School, JAM, the nursery or the annual Christmas Pageant, you can be sure that Jill was involved in making it a quality and safe experience.

The center of our life as a Christian community is Sunday worship. Here we see the fruits of much hard work. The adult choir has grown in numbers over the past year, while more parishioners participate in playing instruments, singing solos and offering their musical gifts. Charles Snider and Marsha Webster have provided the leadership that has made this happen. The momentum continues with plans now underway for completing the Walker pipe organ in time for its 25th anniversary celebration in the spring of 2016. With over 10% funding for this $118,000 project already in hand, we hope to enter into a contract with Walker soon. The 1 p.m. service in Spanish continues to attract newcomers every Sunday. Now entering its third year, the Misa en Espanol is a trailblazing experiment in the Diocese of Chicago and the National Church. We are demonstrating a new model of cooperation, integration and welcome that has been either untried or poorly attempted in other locations. I am pleased that this year’s vestry will include two people who attend the 1 p.m. service – Veronica Blanco and Mauro Hernandez. St. Mark’s is blessed with the leadership and skills that Victor Conrado brings to his ministry with us. We have also received gifts of ministry from Miguel Briones, who now serves as deacon at the 1 p.m. service.

Almost all churches are facing financial challenges. At St. Mark’s, we have worked hard to be good stewards of our resources, controlling our expenses and inspiring generosity among our members and friends. At its January meeting, the vestry approved a balanced budget for 2014. A sign of health for us is a growing number of pledging households year after year. For 2014, we have received pledges from 261 households, totaling $593,000. Over the next month or so, we hope that amount will reach $610,000. I think some people are uneasy about the concept of pledging. It sounds like either too much of a commitment or a dangerous binding obligation. In fact, a pledge is simply an estimate of a given household’s financial support to the church. Although a simple concept, it is a vital show of support for what is happening at St. Mark’s. A pledge of a few dollars a week is as important as thousands of dollars. St. Mark’s absolutely depends on pledges of all sizes. We do not have a large endowment or a few large pledges which carry the budget. The more we can do this year to involve every household in financially supporting St. Mark’s, the healthier our finances will become. Behind the good financial news are people like Steve Webster who has provided strong leadership on the finance committee. Dick Anstee and Bill Novak share the work of the treasurer’s office, giving hours of their time to ensure payroll is processed, bills are paid and contributions are properly recorded. They are assisted by a group of tellers who count the Sunday collection and other volunteers such as David McCarraher who oversees the memorial funds.

During weekdays, the front office at St. Mark’s is a buzz of activity. Behind the well-oiled machine of office operations is Dellana Mote, who produces bulletins, prints and assembles the PostMark, answers the phone, responds to e-mails, orders supplies and completes a hundred other miscellaneous tasks promptly and accurately. This past year, Ginnie Judd has also helped with bulletins, database entry and follow-ups, parking requests and space usage contracts among other support projects. Although there is never enough time to get all the work done, it gets done. That is how Dellana and Ginnie work.

Not infrequently, someone will ask about the number of clergy listed on the back of the Sunday bulletin. How do we have so many clergy? The answer is simple: “We’ve been waiting for you!” When asked, Robin, Walter, Catharine and Miguel have been willing to share their gifts of ministry at St. Mark’s in a variety of ways, from preaching and teaching to counseling, curriculum planning, Preschool chapel and newsletter editing. They are a tremendous blessing to all of us.

Parish life is a broad and essential category of ministry at St. Mark’s which includes coffee hours, the annual parish picnic, the annual meeting and kick-off Sunday in September. Kathy Kelly, who is joining the vestry, has provided fresh energy and enthusiasm. Her smile and positive attitude have been a tremendous gift. Kim Toliver has been the point-person for the Sunday coffee hour ministry. Because coffee hour involves so many families, there are
always questions, schedule swaps and even a few complaints. But the work is worth it because coffee hour is an important time for meeting, greeting and building the community of friends and relationships at St. Mark’s.

As a new slate of vestry members is approved today, it is important that we recognize and thank those who are finishing their vestry service. Nancy Gier has brought her experience as a journalist to our parish communications, including press releases, articles and giving campaign. Scott Taback brought the PumpkinFest to life, bringing music, games, food and many friends to St. Mark’s. Dianne Dinse has been involved in and helped oversee the many facets of our pastoral care ministry, including flower delivery, communion to the home-bound and Stephen Ministry. Steve Webster, as mentioned above, has brought his business acumen to our finance committee. Paula Zwiebel has served as junior and senior warden, providing me with invaluable counsel and support at our monthly meetings and whenever needed.

A new category of membership is Rookie of the Year. This year’s award goes to David Dornblaser, who in less than one year, has jumped into St. Mark’s with both feet, lending help wherever needed, and in particular, with a heart for service, has more than doubled our involvement in PADS. When David first walked in the door at St. Mark’s, he asked me if St. Mark’s was a church that would welcome his help with outreach. All I could think is, “We’ve been waiting for you!”

My report would not be complete without providing some information about my upcoming sabbatical. I will be taking a three month sabbatical from late spring through summer. I don’t have the exact dates, but they are likely to be May 15 through August 15. Many churches offer the rector or pastor a time of sabbatical after a certain number of years of employment as a time for rest, education and spiritual refreshment. I am grateful for this opportunity, and although my plans are still in formation, I hope to travel with my family, perhaps to England and/or to the western states of Wyoming and Montana. I am also looking into a language immersion experience in Mexico. The essential meaning of sabbatical is sabbath – a time of rest, which is as basic to our faith as it is to the creation story, the seventh day. I am committed to keeping rest as the primary theme of the three months.

Lastly, I offer my profound thanks to my family, my wife, Cecilia, and our three children, Lydia, Frances and Geo, who support my ministry in countless ways, are quick to forgive, slow to point out my faults, and help me to be a better priest, father, husband and child of God every day.

Faithfully submitted,

George+
Vestry and Diocesan Delegate Nominees

We are pleased to announce the list of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee for the 2014 election to St. Mark's Vestry. We have a total of six openings.

Senior Warden
Eric McAlpine

Junior Warden
Edna Heatherington

Vestry
Verónica Blanco, Carolyn Faivre, Mauro Hernandez, Amy Joyce, Kathy Kelly, Hunter Walor

Youth Representatives
Caroline Arlasky, Arturo Rubio

Candidates for Diocesan Delegate
Don Sutherland

For Senior Warden:

Eric McAlpine
Our family (including my wife, Caroline, and our children - Will, Anna and Katie) have been attending St. Mark's since 2007. I previously served as a member of the vestry, as well as on the finance committee and on St. Mark's visioning committee, and Caroline is active with the women's ministries. We are also active with the children's activities at Lincoln Elementary and the community. I am a senior counsel at Groupon, leading its global intellectual property practices. We have found St. Mark's and the Episcopal church to be a great community for raising our family. I am honored to be nominated to be Senior Warden, and hope to serve as the congregation continues to grow, and to continue our traditions of worship, education and service to the parish and the wider community.

For Junior Warden:

Edna Heatherington
One reason I'm an Episcopalian is that we participate in church - lay members and children are not an audience but part of everything that creates a congregation and a worldwide church. I sing and I say my part, and in my different congregations during my adult life I've accepted responsibilities. In a small church in Gallup, a very small town on the western border of New Mexico in the late 1960s, I took part in altar duties even though my skills with linens and brass are mediocre. I caused a sensation when I requested and got permission to take on the tasks of lay reader: reading the Old Testament and Epistle lessons and leading prayers. (Lay readers had customarily been men. Same with acolytes.)

In Albuquerque, in a congregation that was larger and connected to campus ministry at the University of New Mexico, I continued to be a reader of lessons. My children were both acolytes, and my daughter taught Sunday school when she was in high school herself. I obtained my Master of Architecture degree during my years there, and began working full time in architectural offices, and I informally consulted with our rector when the
congregation added a passive solar wall and revised the sanctuary with movable seating and a movable chancel so that the entire interior could be changed with the liturgical seasons. I also participated in two college-semester evening classes led by the rector in Old Testament and New Testament. In this congregation I lived through a change of priests with some of the disastrous complications that sometimes disrupt a congregation. (The congregation continues.)

In 1989 I moved to Baltimore and joined a congregation that I soon learned was listed in the city's GayPaper as friendly. I had joined more on the basis of the quality of the preaching and the music, as well as my personal experience of the sort of welcome I'd come to expect of an Episcopal church. It was also obviously a congregation that included both whites and African-Americans, a significant matter in Baltimore. During those years (1989-2008) I was invited to join the diocesan Commission on Ministry, on which I served for 6 years.

This congregation had been led by one rector since 1969, and his retirement after more than 25 years was followed by an interim of about two years, during which we all spent many hours in meetings both general and specialized, and gained an intimate knowledge of what it takes to be responsible for the true life of a parish. We called a woman priest who was ready to return to the United States from a tenure leading a church in South Africa. Under her leadership, among other things, we engaged in a financial analysis, hired a church-specialist architect and developed a master plan, and carried out a major step of adding an elevator with the associated remodel of parts of our buildings.

During my years at this church, from where I moved to Glen Ellyn and St Mark's, I served as a chalicist, wrote newsletter articles, and undertook the program of Listening Hearts discernment. In Baltimore, I was also able to study Judaism, both in an introductory course under the auspices of the local Board of Rabbis, and with individual teachers and lecturers. I participated in a wonderful organization called the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies, which has recently added a Muslim scholar to its leadership. In my professional life, I participated in the leadership of professional organizations, which resemble churches in requiring practical management by volunteer members dedicated to the high aspirations of the professional mission.

I welcome the opportunity to offer to serve St Mark's as a warden. I believe I understand the demands of the position and see my way to taking them on. I anticipate this work deepening my personal relationships as well as my understanding of our parish, and I hope to be of good use.

For Vestry:

Verónica Blanco
I am originally from Guatemala City, Guatemala. I am a person dedicated to my three children and my home. My children are the most important to me, they are the engine of my life, the reason that I get up, and the reason why I try to be better every day. I am a person who likes to have real friends; I am honest, respectful, and hardworking. I graduated in 2003 from Glenbard East High School and started school at College of DuPage and work in the banking industry. I have been attending St. Mark’s since 2011, and I look forward to serving on the vestry.

Carolyn Faivre
I've lived in the Glen Ellyn/Wheaton area for 30 years and came to St. Mark’s at the beginning of Advent in 2010. There were three things that initially drew me to St. Mark’s - Wednesday noon Eucharist, the beauty of St. Mark’s architecture, and the fact the church was a five block walk from the home where we had recently moved. I joined St. Mark’s because of the incredible people who make up this congregation, the focus on liturgy and social concerns and so many forms of community outreach.
I am a psychotherapist with a private practice in Whole Person Counseling, with a master’s degree in clinical psychology and doctorate in energy medicine with focuses in psychology and theology. I was ordained in The International Science Of Mind Church for Spiritual Healing in 2002, while teaching at Holos University Graduate Seminary. My private practice in Whole Person Counseling is focused on supporting others, body, mind, emotion, spirit and soul. I am humbled to be asked to be part of the vestry. I can only hope to return as much as St. Mark’s has given to me.

My husband, Gary Kreutz and I have been married for eight years and currently live in Wheaton. Gary is an executive recruiter. In our blended family, we have eight children and five grandchildren.

Mauro Hernandez
My family and I just moved to the United States almost two years ago, after living in different places of Mexico all our lives and since then we have attended St. Mark’s. My family is comprised by my wife Alejandra, my son Mauro (9) and my daughter Paola (6). I am an Engineer currently working for an Electronic firm in Woodridge, IL. At St. Mark’s we have found not only spiritual peace, but also a family thousand of miles away from home. Since the first day we have felt supported by the community and we know that we can count on them. We would like to give back a little of all what we have received from St Mark’s and its people and let everybody know that can count on us. I am privileged for the invitation to become a member of the Vestry. I will do my best to serve and be helpful.

Amy Joyce
I was born in Lincoln, NE and confirmed in the Methodist church. After graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1993, I moved to St. Louis to begin my career in Marketing Research, then subsequently lived in Atlanta, GA and Boston, MA to work for Coca-Cola and Bayer HealthCare, respectively. I am currently a National Account Manager for Pfizer, Inc. managing the Walgreens account.

After relocating to the Chicago area in 2010, I married Thomas and we purchased a home in Bartlett. After visiting several churches, St. Mark’s felt very welcoming to us. The worship music, in particular, lives in a very special place in my heart. My musical background includes serving as a Church musician in Atlanta for Peachtree Road United Methodist and The Cathedral of St. Phillip as well as Trinity Church in the city of Boston. In addition, I was also a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus for nearly 10 years. I find music to be a special part of the worship experience at St. Mark’s, and I am proud to be a member of the Adult Choir. What a special group and fantastic fellowship!

In addition to my career and interest in music, I am very busy with triplet sons (currently 15 months old) and I am very fortunate to have a wonderful husband to help care for our triple blessings! My husband Thomas and I live in Bartlett with our three sons: Aiden, Connor, and Joseph (all 15 months old) and dog, Stella.

I would be honored to serve as a member of the Church Vestry committee, if elected. Thank you for your consideration!

Kathy Kelly
My husband, Dan, and I have lived in Glen Ellyn for 15 years. We have three children – Jenna, Ben, and Julia. Our family has been attending St. Mark’s for just over 2½ years.

My involvement in Parish Life consists of serving as a coffee hour minister, helping with the annual St. Nicholas luncheon along with enjoying a few of the women’s ministry outings.

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Vestry at St. Mark’s. I hope the Vestry can benefit from my current Parish Life involvement.
Hunter Walor
My wife, Julie and I have been married 24 years and have lived in Glen Ellyn for the last 22 years. We have 3 children, 2 boys in college and our daughter is a sophomore at Glenbard West High School. I was born and raised in the Methodist faith and my wife and I became members of St Mark's in 1997. We are very fortunate that we found St Mark's, the Episcopal Church and the Glen Ellyn community where we are raising our children.

I graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Actuarial Science (Math/Finance). My career has primarily been based in the Chicagoland area for the last few decades working for various telecommunication and data networking companies like IBM, HP and other high tech startup companies where I held various sales and executive management positions.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve on the Vestry at St Mark’s and welcome the ability to learn and grow with the church.

Youth Representatives to the Vestry:

Caroline Arlasky
My name is Caroline Arlasky, and I am a junior at Glenbard South High School where I run track and field and cross country. I have been attending St. Mark’s ever since I was born, and I have volunteered for VBS and have been a reader for at least two or three years now.

Arturo Rubio
My name is Arturo Rubio. I go to West Aurora High School. I am 16, and I was a Diocesan Youth Rep at the last convention. I am going to be helping staff the Diocesan "New Beginnings" coming up January 24-26.

Diocesan Convention Delegate:

Don Sutherland
I have been a member of St. Mark’s for nearly 40 years. Marie, Janet, Mark, and I moved to Glen Ellyn in 1974 when my job transferred me to Chicago; on arrival in Glen Ellyn, St. Marks became our church home. During my years at St. Mark’s I have served on the vestry; the Mission and Outreach Commission; the finance committee; chair - 1996 to 1998; also been active at PADS, CROP Walk, and Holy Family School. I have represented St. Mark’s on the Cathedral Shelter Board, the Diocesan Budget Committee, the St. Gregory School Board, and am currently a member of Bishop's Associates. St. Mark’s has been the center of our family's community life; I believe St Marks is guided by the Christian principle of being a community that provides hope to those in the Glen Ellyn area seeking assistance. If elected, I would be pleased to represent St. Mark’s as a delegate at the Diocesan convention and would do the utmost to serve to the best of my ability.
Senior Warden’s Report

The past two years have passed quickly, as they always seem to do. When I reflect on the time I have served as a warden, so much has happened. St. Mark’s is such a vibrant, active parish, and it takes many people with diverse talents to make it so. Our mission statement, “Rooted in Baptism. Growing in Faith. Branching out into the World” has guided our parish.

This year had several special and noteworthy events. Among them was, Kim Reed stepping in as Interim Youth Coordinator as Elizabeth Molitors was called to serve as rector at a church in Gurnee. Kim has done a fabulous job with the 6th through 12th graders.

This year St. Mark’s had two mission trips for youth. It was the 8th trip to our sister parish in Nigromonte, Mexico and the first time for the Appalachia Service Project. Please see how wonderful these trips were in the respective reports.

We marked the second anniversary of the Spanish language service in December. The number of people attending has continued to grow and the level of involvement and leadership is taking root. The continued integration of our multicultural congregation is happening thanks to the support and encouragement of George, Victor, Robin, Walter, and Miguel.

The Icons in Transformation art exhibit was a major undertaking this summer and was hugely successful. Swedish artist Ludmila Pavlowska’s art was displayed in the narthex, chapel, sanctuary, and Mahon hall. There were evening lectures, including one given by Bishop Jeffrey Lee, a meet-the-artist reception, and a closing Taizé service. Many people were involved in this event; they served as docents, helped set up and take down the art, advertised the event, photographed, helped move furniture, and much more. I volunteered as a docent and loved looking at the art and watching people’s reactions to the various pieces.

St. Mark’s financial health is published in an “at a glance” format weekly in the bulletin, and monthly in the PostMark. Our talented and gifted treasurers and finance committee members continue to work at decreasing our debt and make wise use of the generosity of those who give monetarily to St. Mark’s. It is a challenge to meet the financial obligations and continue to support the high quality programs offered. We will again (very happily) have a balanced budget for 2014.

My time serving on this vestry has been enhanced by the engaging, warm, and extremely talented clergy. Their diverse back grounds, life experiences, and personalities are what keep St. Mark’s inviting and appealing. Our vestry members bring much talent and devoted service to the various responsibilities. I was honored to be in this position. It has been a pleasure working with all.

Next year will present more challenges, more opportunities to serve God and His people. I am confident Senior Warden Eric McAlpine and Junior Warden Edna Heatherington will continue the good work of St. Mark’s with God’s help, a conscientious vestry, and dynamic clergy.

God bless St. Mark’s.

Paula Zwiebel
### Proposed 2014 OPERATING BUDGET

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<th>Revenues</th>
<th>2013 BUDGET</th>
<th>2013 ACTUAL</th>
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<td>Fund Raising Events</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>$ 7,404</td>
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<td>Gifts to Outreach</td>
<td>$ 7,500</td>
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<td>Prior Year Pledges</td>
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<td>$ 5,000</td>
<td>$ 7,671</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$ 5,100</td>
<td>$ 7,216</td>
<td>$ 14,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Lang Service</td>
<td>$ 65,000</td>
<td>$ 63,335</td>
<td>$ 35,000</td>
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<td>St. Mark's total revenue</td>
<td><strong>$ 752,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 705,444</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 745,200</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mark's Pre-school</td>
<td>$ 55,000</td>
<td>$ 62,207</td>
<td>$ 76,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDO Cost Reimbursement</td>
<td>$ 65,000</td>
<td>$ 71,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td><strong>$ 872,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 839,001</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 888,200</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Payroll (incl Benefits)</td>
<td>$ 221,202</td>
<td>$ 150,400</td>
<td>$ 229,754</td>
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<td>Other Expenses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$ 17,600</td>
<td>$ 21,301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
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<td>Staff</td>
<td>$ 66,140</td>
<td>$ 64,280</td>
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<td>Program</td>
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<td>Staff</td>
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<td>Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Children</td>
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<td>Staff</td>
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<td>$ 42,659</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$ 4,800</td>
<td>$ 4,623</td>
<td>$ 6,500</td>
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<td>M&amp;O</td>
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<td>$ 59,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rectory Expenses</td>
<td>$ 19,150</td>
<td>$ 16,717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Language Service</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$ 56,711</td>
<td>$ 66,388</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>$ 12,182</td>
<td>$ 12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mark's total expenses</td>
<td><strong>$ 752,592</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 716,902</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 744,942</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Marks Pre-School</td>
<td>$ 55,000</td>
<td>$ 64,729</td>
<td>$ 76,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDO Expenditures</td>
<td>$ 65,000</td>
<td>$ 70,746</td>
<td>$ 67,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td><strong>$ 872,592</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 852,377</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 887,942</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

St. Mark's Net Total: $ 8 $ (11,458) $ 258

**Note:** included in the revenue are transfers noted below:
- Transfer from Campbell: $ - $ - $ -
- Transfer from M&O Reserve: $ 3,500 $ - $ 3,500
- Transfer from B&G temp restricted: $ - $ - $ -
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Balance Sheet Analysis, December 2013

| Accounts |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  | Current Balance (Last Year) | Current Balance (This Year) |
| **Operating Assets** |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents |
| 1101.00 - Checking Community Bank | $23,541.74 | $41,517.50 |
| 1103.00 - Capital Campaign - Community Ba | $34,913.33 | $0.00 |
| 1103.30 - Campbell Fund - Community Bank | $0.00 | $38,866.34 |
| 1106.00 - DK Checking | $2,274.54 | $3,838.00 |
| 1107.00 - PDC Checking | $7,342.62 | $8,073.25 |
| 1109.00 - St. Mark's Preschool checking | $21,173.27 | $27,751.66 |
| 1110.10 - Memorial MMKT-Community Bank | $7,810.91 | $7,078.49 |
| 1115.00 - Rector's Discretionary Community | $8,218.09 | $6,701.75 |
| 1117.00 - Molitors Discretionary Account | $1,486.82 | $0.00 |
| 1118.00 - Conrado Discretionary Fund | $1,319.15 | $571.54 |
| 1119.00 - F/IA for Immigrant Solidarity DuPage | $0.00 | $1,097.04 |
| 1125.00 - Restricted Funds CD | $44,019.85 | $44,019.85 |
| 1135.00 - M & O Reserve Fund CD | $35,198.94 | $35,198.94 |
| 1150.10 - Thanksgiving Chkg-Community Ba | $2,807.92 | $1,827.26 |
| **Total Cash and Cash Equivalents** | **$100,109.18** | **$216,641.62** |
| Investments |
| 1201.00 - Diocesan Foundation | $10,369.97 | $11,521.26 |
| 1209.00 - Wayne Hummer-Operating | $410.34 | $2,008.84 |
| 1211.00 - Wayne Hummer Lillian Campbell T | $31,566.98 | $0.00 |
| 1215.00 - Wayne Hummer - Lewis | $218,108.02 | $228,694.94 |
| **Total Investments** | **$260,455.31** | **$242,226.04** |
| **Total Operating Assets** | **$460,564.49** | **$458,766.66** |
| Non-operating Assets |
| **Total Non-operating Assets** | **$7,439,039.51** | **$7,437,900.00** |
| Property and Equipment |
| 1701.00 - Church Buildings | $6,098,900.00 | $6,098,900.00 |
| 1705.00 - Furniture and Fixtures | $703,000.00 | $703,000.00 |
| 1710.00 - Computer Equipment | $1,139.51 | $0.00 |
| 1715.00 - Stained Glass | $163,000.00 | $163,000.00 |
| 1720.00 - Rectory | $473,000.00 | $473,000.00 |
| **Total Property and Equipment** | **$7,439,039.51** | **$7,437,900.00** |
| **Total Assets** | **$7,889,604.00** | **$7,896,666.66** |
| Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds |
| Current Liabilities |
| 2140.00 - Rental transmittal | $0.00 | $100,000.00 |
| 2150.00 - Wedding Transmittal | $700.00 | $3,150.00 |
| 2151.00 - Funeral Transmittal | $0.00 | $1,025.58 |
| 2160.00 - F/IA for Immigrant Solidarity DuPage | $0.00 | $1,097.04 |
| 2162.00 - Organ Completion Fund | $0.00 | $15,000.00 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | **$700.00** | **$20,372.62** |
| Long Term Liabilities |
| 2172.00 - Bulding Mortgage Payable | $910,987.19 | $836,074.54 |
| 2173.00 - Debt Reduction loan - Diocese of C | $693,201.92 | $685,856.00 |
| 2701.00 - Rectory Mortgage Payable | $119,078.47 | $115,065.31 |
| **Total Long Term Liabilities** | **$1,623,337.58** | **$1,536,995.86** |
| **Total Liabilities** | **$1,624,037.58** | **$1,557,368.47** |
| Fund Balance |
| 3100.00 - General Fund Balance | $1,493,846.79 | $1,567,839.86 |
| 3200.00 - Investment in Property & Equipmen | $4,384,014.98 | $4,384,014.98 |
| Excess Cash Received | ($4,387.66) | ($13,374.63) |
| **Total Fund Balance and Excess Cash Received** | **$6,873,474.11** | **$5,938,480.21** |
| Restricted Funds |
| Total Temporarily Restricted | $173,994.29 | $172,123.04 |
| **Total Restricted Funds** | **$218,108.02** | **$228,694.94** |
| **Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds** | **$7,889,604.00** | **$7,896,666.66** |
2014 Giving Campaign

We volunteered to serve on the Giving Campaign this year and it’s been a great experience!

Before we started out we knew that this year, just as in previous years, for St. Mark’s to be a thriving congregation and serve many, regular contributions are needed from all of us.

Before we started out we also knew that the Wardens and Vestry need to hear from all of us, in the form of pledges, so they can make a responsible budget that will support the ministries and congregational life of St. Mark’s.

What we didn’t know before we started out, is that when you ask people why St. Mark’s matters to them, what it feels like to be a part of this church, what a moving experience it will be to hear from them!

As a team the first thing we did was get together and ask each other those questions. Here are some of our answers:

On Sunday when I meet someone new, in the Narthex or Mahon Hall, as we’re chatting I’m also thinking to myself, ‘Gosh, they’re really going to like this place!’

I guess I feel proud to be part of St. Mark’s. Proud to be a part of what we seem to be sharing here, with each other, with so many new people, with people in the community, people in the whole diocese. I’m proud that everyone’s welcome at our church and that everyone is welcome to take communion. I’m glad to be part of a church like this.

Each year when I look back at all that’s happened at St. Mark’s I never would have expected all the great things that happened during the last year, to have happened. So who knows what ministries and friendships will take shape here in 2014. How many more of us will help at PADS, will go to Nigromante? Faith and hope in God aren’t explainable, but they make a difference, they make me want to serve more. In all of these we get to share in God’s work in our world.

Hearing what it feels like for us to be part of St. Mark’s made us want to include everyone in this conversation.

So we did. We picked out some good pictures that show us all together and sent them out to you in postcard form. We asked: How does St. Mark’s make you feel? And why do you feel that way? And we asked all of you, and all of us, to reflect on that and pray about our giving for 2014.

Pledges have come in a record number (255 compared to 240 a year ago by this date) and pledges have also arrived in a record amount ($590,000 compared to $560,000 by this date a year ago).

Here are some of the ways people described how they feel about St. Mark’s:

I feel welcome here. I feel included. I feel people are glad I’m here.

Because I come to church at St. Mark’s even though I don’t buy into everything, I’ve noticed I feel better about my life. It’s as though I have a new purpose, not every day, but lots of days. It feels better.

My children love it here. They asked me to come. I did and now I love being here too. I love the church services and the windows. Everyone here is so nice to me! All of it gives me hope for my life.

Many said how grateful they are for our leadership - for George and Victor - and how having such a warm and excellent staff matters to them.

Many said they love how people at St. Mark’s don’t seem afraid to be real, and want to have fun together at things like the picnic, cake auction, retreats, Coffee Hour, Pumpkin Fest, receptions, showers, dinners, and getting together.

Many described the exciting and warm reality of being part of a growing multi-cultural congregation, where we get to know each other and understand each other not because we speak each other’s first language perfectly, but because we want to know each other.
Thank you, everyone, for your participation in the 2014 Giving Campaign. If you haven’t been able to return your pledge card yet, there’s still time and our goal is in sight!

Your 2014 Giving Campaign Team,

Javier Valdivia, Patty Weaver, Nancy Gier, Ted Figler, Andrew Dorn, Scott Taback, and Peter Vagt

And special thanks from us to George Smith, Victor Conrado, and Dellana Mote for all their help, to Virginia Vagt for her help, and to Michael Boskovic for the great printing.

Report on the Latino/Hispanic Experience at St. Mark’s

In the Gospel according to John 1:29-42, there is a simple conversation that takes place in this gospel reading that is at the same time critical to the health of the whole church and very rare. It's short, it's sweet, and at first glance, it doesn't look to be that hard. Here it is, just near the end of the reading, as two of John's disciples ask Jesus where he is abiding and, in response, Jesus says three simple words: "Come and see." This invitation, since then, has unleashed a realm of events, invitations and many conversations in our communities of faith and families, conversations to which we have been invited to actively participate.

In looking at the past year in our parish community, I can say that we have had many of these invitations that led to a variety of conversations. I reflect, in this report, upon some of these invitations and conversations using the three moments that define the Evangelization/Proclamation of the Word in a missionary context. These three moments are: NOTICE – SHARE – INVITE.

Notice. Where did we see/feel the presence of God in the world and our lives?
God’s presence was seen/felt during this year in the invitation to move away from our comfort zones and come together as a bilingual parish community. We are now into our third year of active presence as Latinos/Hispanics here in St. Mark’s and we have been very intentional in helping people notice that we are NOT two separate congregations. We are ONE parish family that happens to worship and organize its life in two languages so that we can reach out further and further into our community. Many more Latino/Hispanic newcomers have joined this journey because they noticed and because they heard. During this past year we can say that life has been given abundantly to many in many different ways.

It has not been an easy task because we want to still see and feel God’s presence in what we consider similar to us in our traditions, customs and religiosity. We have seen that something new has been born here at St. Mark’s and it has been noticed in our Diocese of Chicago.

Share. Where and how do we share what we have noticed?
It has been a transformational year for the 1pm parishioners. We have shared the experience of being a bilingual/bicultural parish within our own parish as well as within the deanery and the diocese. We have shared this experience using social media as well as printed materials.

This is where we share in our Parish Community:
1. Parish Events: Women’s Retreat, Mexico Mission Trip, Art Exhibition, Parish Picnic, BBQ with the Rector, Pumpkin Fest.
2. Worship: Easter Vigil, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 8pm Christmas Eve and 10 am Christmas Day services.
3. Programs: Wednesday Bible Study, Children and Youth Programs.
4. Volunteer Opportunities: PADS, Church clean-up day, Pumpkin Patch and sales.

There were other events that helped us reassure and share our culture and traditions as Latino/Hispanic such as Rosca de Reyes, Posadas, Our Lady of Guadalupe. We had four baptisms, one wedding, and six quinceaneras celebrated during the year. We had a total of 32 children who celebrated their first communion and 35 who were confirmed. These events share that we are a bicultural and bilingual parish ready and able to welcome everyone. In sharing who we are at St. Mark’s, we have been invited to be generous with our TIME, TALENTS and TREASURE. We continue learning that we are as Episcopalians and the commitment to increase in our pledging...
amount and numbers. Last year we had 51 pledging units for a total of $21,000 pledged but we received $10,000. We were given a challenge of a matching grant of $4,000 and we raised $3,000. Thanks to the talents of many volunteers who donated their time and energy we managed to raise $4,000 and our generous donor increased his/her donation to $5,000.

We are happy to announce that this year with the help of Jill Bednas and Kim Reed, we have added to St. Mark’s Sunday School six more teachers. This is helping us offer better Christian formation to our children and youth. We are represented on the St. Mark’s Vestry by Veronica Blanco and Mauro Hernandez as well as our youth representative Arturo Rubio.

**Invite.** We want people to invite people to understand and live this experience at St. Mark’s. We are NOT two different congregations because we are ONE parish family. This is why we want to continue actively inviting people personally to come and see what the Lord is doing through many people here at St. Mark’s. At the same time we want to strengthen those who are already living this experience. Our focus of formation for this year will be **IDENTITY.** To do this we want to implement the following program:

5. **Adult Formation:**
   At the moment we have adult formation every Sunday from 11:45am to 12:30pm. This is open for everyone but especially we invite parents of children who are in catechesis or in preparation to receive a sacrament. In addition to this class we are going to open an Inquirers Class. We want to invite these candidates to formally be received in the Episcopal Church in the month of October.

6. **Bridge Group:**
   We want to invite other St. Mark’s parishioners to attend our bi-monthly Bridge Group Meeting. This is still a great space for both Anglo and Latino/Hispanic to understand and learn more about each other.

7. **Children and Youth Formation:**
   We have a total of 24 children for Communion Celebration this year and 5 for confirmation. Their formation will be centered in the Baptismal Covenant.

8. **Stewardship:**
   We will continue our invitation, formation and motivation for members of the 1pm Service to pledge.

9. **Diocesan Involvement:**
   We want to have a Learning Opportunity here at St. Mark’s where we share our experience of being a bicultural and bilingual parish with other parishes in the Diocese, with parishes that are interested in opening their doors to our Latino/Hispanic sisters and brothers.

This work has been made possible because of the people who have invested their time and talents and have sacrificed family and work to be present. Some of them are: **George Smith, Robin Currie, Miguel Briones, Marsha Webster, Kim Reed, Jill Bednas, Juanita and Abraham Jimenez, Verónica Blanco, Mauro and Alejandra Montes- Hernandez, Felipe and Laura Lopez, Linda Gallegos, Alejandra Rubio, Julio Reyes and Angeles Perdomo, Francisco and Belen Barrera, Michelle and Rafael Garcia, Daughters of the King, Beremundo Damian, Edna Heatherington and our youth leaders Omar Lopez, Arturo Rubio, Abraham Jimenez Jr., and Karen Jimenez.** We are blessed to have them in our parish.

I thank God for the life and ministry of my wife Lucia and my sons David and Daniel. They have been of great support and have helped me be present in the community when I have been needed. They have helped me live and understand what it means to love someone.

As we continue to realize and be aware more and more of our “Come and See” and to go out of our comfort zone and feel vulnerable, let us walk together with our arms open to welcome everyone who comes through our doors. With God’s help, we can do it.

Yours in Christ,
Victor Conrado+
Reporte del Ministerio Hispano de la Parroquia de San Marcos.

En el Evangelio según San Juan 1: 29-42 encontramos una conversación muy simple que es al mismo tiempo crítica para la salud de toda la iglesia y muy rara. Es corta, es dulce, y a primera vista, no parece ser tan difícil. Aquí está, justo cerca del final de la lectura, ya que dos de los discípulos de Juan le preguntan a Jesús que donde él vive y, en respuesta, Jesús dice tres palabras, "Ven y ve". Esta invitación, desde entonces, ha desatado una serie de eventos, invitaciones y muchas conversaciones en nuestras comunidades de fe y en nuestras familias; conversaciones a la que hemos sido invitados a participar activamente.

Al analizar el año pasado en nuestra comunidad parroquial, puedo decir que hemos tenido muchas de estas invitaciones que han dado lugar a una amplia variedad de conversaciones. Quiero reflexionar, en este informe, sobre algunas de estas invitaciones y conversaciones con los tres momentos que definen la Evangelización / Proclamación del Evangelio en un contexto misionero. Estos tres momentos son: NOTAR - COMPARTIR - INVITAR.

NOTAR: ¿Dónde hemos visto/sentido la presencia de Dios en el mundo y en nuestras vidas?
La presencia de Dios fue vista / sentida durante este año en la invitación a alejarse de nuestras zonas de comodidad y a unirnos como una comunidad parroquial bilingüe y pluricultural. Ahora estamos en nuestro tercer año de la presencia activa de los latinos / hispanos aquí en San Marcos y hemos querido ayudar a todos/as a notar que no somos dos congregaciones separadas. Somos una familia parroquial que ora y se organiza en dos idiomas para que podamos llegar a más y más personas. Muchos se han unido a este viaje por lo que han observado y porque han oído. Durante este año, podemos decir que hemos dado vida en abundancia para muchos/as en muchas maneras diferentes.
No ha sido una tarea fácil por que para muchos/as es mas fácil permanecer aislados en nuestra lengua y cultura que de dar el paso para aprender y vivir de una forma diferente.

COMPARTIR: ¿Dónde y cómo podemos compartir lo que hemos dado cuenta?
Ha sido un año de transformación para los feligreses de la 1:00PM. Hemos compartido la experiencia de ser una parroquia bilingüe / bicultural dentro de nuestra propia parroquia, así como al nivel del decanato y la diócesis. Hemos compartido también esta experiencia usando los medios sociales, así como materiales impreso. Esta es la forma en que compartimos en nuestra comunidad parroquial:
- Eventos Parroquiales: Retiro de Mujeres, Viaje de Misión a México, Exposición de Arte, Picnic Parroquial, barbacoa con el Rector, Festival de las calabazas.
- Celebraciones Litúrgicas: Vigilia Pascual, fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Misa de Nochebuena y Misa del día de Navidad.
- Programas: Miércoles Estudio de la Biblia, programas para niños/niñas y jóvenes.
- Voluntarios: PADS, bajar las calabazas y sus ventas.
Hubo otros eventos que nos ayudaron a afirmar y compartir nuestra cultura y tradiciones como latinos / hispanos. Podemos nombrar algunos de ellos: Rosca de Reyes, Posadas, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Tuvimos cuatro bautismo, una boda y seis quinceañeras se celebran durante el año. Tuvimos un total de 32 niños/as que celebraron su primera comunión y 35 que fueron confirmados. La importancia de estos acontecimientos era que estaban organizados de una manera que se puedan comunicar que somos una parroquia bicultural y bilingüe listos y capaces de dar la bienvenida a todos.
Compartiendo lo que somos en San Marcos se nos ha invitado a ser generosos con nuestro TIEMPO, TALENTO y TESORO. Seguimos aprendiendo lo que somos como episcopales y reconocemos la invitación de aumentar en nuestro numero de promesas y la cantidad monetaria en ellas. El año pasado tuvimos 51 promesas que hicieron un total de 21.000 dólares, pero sólo recibimos $ 10.000.
Nos dieron un reto de una donación de contrapartida de $ 4.000 donde íbamos a recaudar $ 3.000. Gracias a los talentos de muchos/as voluntarios/as que donaron su tiempo y energía logramos recaudar $ 4.000 y nuestro generoso donante aumento su donación a $ 5.000. Estamos felices de anunciar que este año hemos añadido con la ayuda de Jill Bednas y Kim Reed 6 profesores más para la escuela dominical de San Marcos. Esto nos ayuda a ofrecer mejor formación cristiana a nuestros niños/as y jóvenes.
También queremos compartir con ustedes que este año vamos a tener nuestros primeros miembros para la junta parroquial. Ellos son Verónica Blanco y Mauro Hernández, así como nuestro representante juvenil Arturo Rubio.

**INVITAR** Queremos invitar a todos/as a entender y vivir esta experiencia en San Marcos. No somos dos congregaciones diferentes, somos una sola familia parroquial. Es por eso que queremos seguir inviándolo activmente a todos/as personalmente para venir y ver lo que Dios está haciendo a través de muchas personas aquí en San Marcos. Al mismo tiempo queremos fortalecer aquellos que ya están viviendo esta experiencia. Nuestro enfoque será la formación para este año será IDENTIDAD. Para ello queremos implementar el siguiente programa:

- Formación de Adultos: En este momento tenemos una formación de adultos en todos los domingos de 11:45 AM a 12:30 PM. Esto está abierto para todos, pero sobre todo nos invitan a los padres de niños que están en la catequesis o en preparación para recibir un sacramento. Además de esta clase vamos a abrir una Clase de Adultos a ser recibidos en la Iglesia Episcopal. Queremos invitar a los candidatos/as a que formalmente sean recibidos/as en la Iglesia Episcopal en octubre de este año.

- Queremos invitar a los feligreses de San Marcos a asistir a nuestra reunión bimensual del Grupo Puente. Esto sigue siendo un gran espacio tanto para Anglo y Latino / Hispano para comprender y aprender más unos de otros. Los niños y la Formación de la Juventud: Contamos con un total de 24 niños para la celebración de la Comunión este año y 5 para su confirmación. Su formación se centrará en el Pacto Bautismal y continuamos unidos/as a los programas parroquiales.

- Generosidad: Vamos a continuar nuestra invitación, la formación y la motivación de todos/as a contribuir con su TIEMPO, TALENTO, TESORO.

- A nuestro nivel diocesano: Queremos tener una oportunidad de aprendizaje aquí en San Marcos, donde vamos a compartir nuestra experiencia de ser una parroquia bicultural y bilingüe con otras parroquias de la diócesis que están interesados en abrir sus puertas a nuestra hermanos/as Latinos/as/Hispanos/as.

Este trabajo ha sido posible gracias a las personas que han invertido su tiempo y talento y que han sacrificado familia y el trabajo para sacar adelante sus proyectos. Quiero mencionar a algunos/as de ellos/ellas aquí: **George Smith, Robin Currie, Miguel Briones, Marsha Webster, Kim Reed, Jill Bednas, Juanita y Abraham Jiménez, Verónica Blanco, Mauro y Alejandra Montes - Hernández, Felipe y Laura López, Linda Gallegos, Alejandra Rubio, Julio Reyes y Ángeles Perdomo, Francisco y Belén Barrera, Michelle y Rafael García, Hijas del Rey, Beremundo Damian, Edna Heatherington y nuestros líderes juveniles Omar López, Arturo Rubio, Abraham Jiménez Jr., y Karen Jiménez.** Somos muy afortunados de tenerlos en nuestra parroquia.

Doy gracias a Dios por la vida y el ministerio de mi esposa Lucia y mis hijos David y Daniel. Han sido de gran apoyo y me han ayudado a estar presente en la comunidad, cuando se me ha necesitado. Ellos me han ayudado a vivir y entender lo que es necesario para amar a alguien.

A medida que continuamos nos damos cuenta y somos conscientes cada vez más de nuestra necesidad de venir y ver y para salir de nuestra zona de confort y sentirse vulnerable, caminemos juntos con los brazos abiertos para recibir a todos/as los que entran a través de nuestras puertas. Con la ayuda de Dios, podemos hacerlo.

Suyo en Cristo,  Víctor Conrado +
Children and Youth Formation

Youth@StMarks (*note—much of this is on the St. Mark’s website*)

St. Mark’s youth are a vital part of our St. Mark’s community. They are active in worship, fellowship, education, and service. They are learning and modeling what it means to live out their faith.

**Rooted in Baptism**

Middle School marks the beginning of preparation for confirmation, a reaffirming of the Baptismal Covenant, those promises made for us at Baptism. The Baptismal Covenant is a question and answer version of the Apostle’s Creed, a statement of faith, and how we are called to live out that faith. Confirmation takes place at the end of 8th grade, when those youth who choose to be confirmed renew their baptismal vows during a service, which includes a laying on of hands by the Bishop.

High School is a time to learn how to take responsibility for those baptismal promises made at confirmation. These are important years when St. Mark’s hopes to engage, instruct, and involve high schoolers and provide the foundation necessary for the Christian life.

**Growing in Faith**

**Attending and Serving in Worship:**
We encourage our youth to go to church with their families. One of the most important messages we want to impart is that worship holds us together as a community in Christ. Attending worship is a commitment, one that we hope sticks.

In addition to attending services, we ask each incoming 6th grader to commit to a role in worship, serving as an usher, acolyte, reader, and/or instrumentalist. We hope that serving in these roles will help youth realize their importance as part of St. Mark’s.

**Sunday School:**
There are many educational opportunities for youth at St. Mark’s. Sunday School classes are offered at 10:15 a.m. and at noon (*Note—We doubled our offerings this year by adding Sunday School at noon. While the noon classes are mostly attended by youth from the 1pm service, both offerings are available to all St. Mark’s children and youth*):

- 6th Grade (10:15 a.m.) – teachers: Martha Pfefferman, Gil Long, Will Dunlop, Graham Smith, and Danna Gross
- 7th/8th Grade (10:15 a.m.) includes preparation for confirmation – teachers: Cindy Flynn, Dan Kelly, and Virginia Vagt
- 6th, 7th, 8th Grade (Noon) includes preparation for confirmation – teachers: Rosio Barrera, Miguel Briones, and Virginia Vagt
- High School Grades 9th to 12th (10:15 a.m. and Noon) – teachers: Wheaton College Intern Mitch Steed, Steve Webster, Seth Allison, Chad Alcorn, Michelle Roman

**Youth Bridge Group One Sunday a Month (usually the 3rd):**
A once a month learning/serving opportunity for all 6th through 12th graders (11:45 a.m.). With help from George Smith, Robin Currie, Marsha Webster, Bob Lundin, Mitch Steed, Miguel Briones, Rosio Barrera, and youth leaders who have organized games and activities.

**Confirmation/Mentor Relationship:**
7th and 8th Graders meet regularly with adult mentors, one on one, to discuss their faith and what it means to be confirmed.
Confirmation Lunches and Retreats:
These are opportunities for 7th and 8th graders to get additional preparation for confirmation. Parents and mentors are included in some of these events. With help from Cindy Flynn, Victor Conrado, Rosio Barrera, and Andrew Flynn.

Wednesday Night Youth Groups, Cookouts, and Fellowship (Note-- With thanks to the many parishioners who have helped with these events):
Fellowship provides time for middle schoolers and high schoolers to develop relationships with each other and connections to St. Mark’s and the broader church:
- The high school group, 1st&3rdWed@StMarks, meets twice a month and is led by Myles and Jess Van Camp.
- The middle school group, 2ndWed@StMarks, meets once a month and is led by Penny Taback and Martha Pfefferman.

Helping out with Parish Activities and Events:
These include service and fellowship opportunities such as: making PADS lunches (coordinated by Leslie Delany), serving at the St. Nicholas Brunch, working in the Pumpkin Patch, assisting in the Nursery, serving on vestry, participating on a diocesan level, attending convention, interning in the office, and helping with: art exhibits, Mexico Mission Trip and ASP Trip fundraisers, the Annual Meeting, the Parish Picnic, VBS, and more.

Branching Out into the World
We pray that what our youth learn in their homes and at St. Mark’s will strengthen them as they go out in their schools, their communities, and the world beyond and live out their Baptismal promises and demonstrate God’s grace.

St. Mark’s provides the following opportunities:
- Mexico Mission Trip (2013 coordinator: Kim Reed) – 2013 was the 8th year
- Appalachia Service Project Trip (2013 coordinator: Lindsay Mullaney) – First year
- Jr High Mission Camp with First Congregational of Glen Ellyn
- Offsite Retreats and Activities (with the Diocese of Chicago and OneChurch partners, Grace Lutheran and St. Luke)
- PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)
- PRC (People’s Resource Center)
- Feed My Starving Children; and more.

Comments: St. Mark’s is blessed with many engaging, intelligent, caring, and talented youth. We also have so many adults (volunteers, clergy, staff, and young adult volunteers) who are willing to help out when they can, proving “It Takes a Village” model of raising children. We continue to need parents and other adults to step forward and help with our youth programs. Youth are participating in the life of the church, serving in worship, serving our communities, participating in the government of the parish and diocese. They are an essential part of our Church life.

Sunday School, youth group, and event attendance varies greatly, Sunday to Sunday, Wednesday to Wednesday, event to event. Sometimes classes can be as low as 3 or 4 children and other times, it can be 15, 30, or more. I would attribute this less to curriculum material and leaders (because I think what we have is really, really good) and more to the increasing number of commitments our families have on Sunday mornings, especially from sports as well as the increased busyness of our children’s lives and family life in general. The church needs to look at this as we move forward and develop programming for children and youth. What do our families want and need? What do our youth want and need? And sometimes it might be just a group of three to five peers and a caring adult leader once in awhile.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Reed, Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator
Children’s Ministry

Responsibility: Nursery through 5th grade

Christian Education
St. Mark’s offers several faith formation opportunities for children, nursery age through elementary school. These are made possible because of the large number of volunteers who commit their time and talents to be with the children. Children’s programs include Sunday school, Children’s Worship, Nursery Care, Vacation Bible School and a mix of other family events. Highlights from each area are as follows:

Nursery
Our Nursery supervisor, Norma Cid, has been with us for 16 years. The remainder of the staff is a rotation of adult and teen volunteers who keep our nursery running smoothly during the 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am and 1:00 pm services. Norma and her daughter Jocelyn stay until 2:30 pm on Sunday afternoons to offer childcare during and after the 1:00 Spanish Language Service “SLS.” We average 8-9 children in the nursery each Sunday.

Sunday School
The Sunday school classes are offered for children age 3 through fifth grade. We are using year three of our online accessible curriculum called “Weaving God’s Promises” that was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. It can be tailored to each class based on age and covers topics on the Holy Scripture, the church and basic Christian principles. The fall program year kicked off on September 8 this year and will go through May 18. We continue to have new families join St. Mark’s and our attendance is increasing. We average 8-9 children per grade each Sunday. We added two more classes this year at 12:00. We now have one afternoon SLS Sunday School class for Kindergarten through second grade, and one for third through fifth grade. We will also start an additional First Communion class in the afternoon on January 26.

Sunday school classes and teachers are as follows:
- Preschool age 3: Heather Luttenton, Brooke Bass, Jodee & Ryan Dunham
- Kindergarten: Bryn Wulf, Merrilee Hall, Denise Joyce, Amanda Cyzen
- First grade: Patty Weaver, Scott Bednas, David Greengas, Sue Mylander
- Second grade: Kathleen Leid
- Third grade: Rich Janney, Betsy Miller, Joanie Somerville, Amy Kaminski
- Fourth grade: Rebecca Boskovic, Kristin Margaglione, Kristeen Peiffer, Beth & Todd Treleven, Karen Hill
- Fifth grade: George Churchill, Nancy Purcell
- PM Preschool – 2nd grade: Gloria Cielo, Alejandro Montes
- PM 3rd – 5th grade: Linda Gallegos, Karen Garcia

Jesus and Me (JAM) – Formerly Children’s Worship, this class offers the Godly Play approach on Sunday mornings during the 9:15 a.m. service for our youngest members, ages 4 years – First grade. The room and supplies got a refresh when the name changed. We also have four new volunteers. We average 5 children per Sunday during the school year (higher in the summer months). Many thanks to Melody Mordini who organizes and assembles the story baskets and figures each week.
- Storytellers: Sarah Adler, Laura McGovern, Jen Chavez, Kim Rothwell
- Greeters: Melody Mordini, Maureen Isphording, Becky Martin, Sawyer Hill

Vacation Bible School
“God’s Big Backyard” was the VBS theme this year. Caroline McAlpine kicked off early registration in early April with a decorating and craft party in Mahon Hall. We set up stations and got a jump on making all the props and decorations needed for VBS. The actual VBS morning camp was held July 22-26, and we were filled to capacity this year with 63 children age 4 through fifth grade. We offered a special session called “VBS Week PDO” for 2 & 3 year old siblings to offer more flexibility to parents with children of multiple ages. We had to relocate some of our stations to the basement area due to the art show being displayed in Mahon Hall. This seemed like a difficult
change at first but proved to be quite desirable in the end. We had an outstanding group of adult leaders: Caroline McAlpine, Sarah Adler, Rachel Alcorn, Patty Weaver, Jen Chavez, Kristeen Peiffer, Kristin Margaglione, Kelly Gross. Thank you to all the other 30+ volunteers who guided children and taught classes.

Other Educational Opportunities & Family Events at St. Mark’s

- **St. Mark’s Superstars Summer Drama Camp** – St. Mark’s hosted 20 children (third grade through eighth grade) to a week long morning camp held in Mahon Hall in early June. Local School District-41 Drama teacher Gina Corrado instructed the children in all areas of performance, including acting, singing, and movement. Our goal is to grow together as a faith community supporting each other as a team, and to build confidence and self-esteem in their abilities as performers by making the experience fun. The class shared a short performance on the last day. The Summer Drama camp was so popular the kids asked for it to return. We had trouble finding dates that worked for everyone and settled on Christmas Break. We held a one-day camp for 20 children for 4 hours on January 3.

- **Advent Wreath Making** – Offered on the first Sunday of Advent as a Sunday School class project and during both coffee hours in Mahon Hall. Families and individuals could make their own wreath out of the supplies we brought in such as pine roping, several dozen metal rings, candles, fish line, wire and ribbon. Each wreath was unique and special to its maker.

- **Christmas Pageant** – We had an exciting new script this year, written by parishioner Robert Lundin, with several new roles including a camel, a cow, a horse, a donkey, and two birds. Amber Lemar, a new parishioner, directed the pageant with Erin Delany, our student Director. “St. Mark’s Christmas Pageant 2014” was presented on December 22 during the 10:30 service. 58 children were cast in the production and performed for a full house. We had a wonderful core team of volunteers: Marsha Webster – Music; Kelly Gross – Wardrobe; Carney Noensie – Angel Mom; Kristin Margaglione – Stagehand; Kathy Kelly – Lamb Mom; Jane Zaccaria – Seamstress; Bruce Clements – Speaking Coach. Many others stepped in and out to help make the pageant a success.

Outreach

- **Glen Ellyn Food Pantry** - Children donate food (by Sunday school class) to the food pantry. We are doing this on a quarterly basis during the school year to keep it simple.

- **Trick or Treat for UNICEF** – An annual outreach activity, children and their families are encouraged to take home boxes and trick or treat for UNICEF who supplies food and medicine to children in need around the world. The Sunday School classes participated in our 3rd annual pumpkin decorating contest during both the 11:30am and 2:00pm coffee hour in October. In total we raised $200 for UNICEF.

- **St. Nicholas Luncheon** – This annual luncheon was held on December 8, and Mahon Hall was full again this year. Participants raised $600 in cash and toys for the Peoples Resource Center. Kathy Kelly and Jane Thomas arranged a lovely warm meal, while David Fletcher (our very own St. Nicholas) brought great stories and treats to the children. Nikki Cox made Hungarian goulash and over 60 St. Nicholas cookie cutouts as a special treat. Thank you to Carney Noensie and Eden Shadis-Greengas for managing the registration table. Thank you also to Marilyn Justice and Maggie Gross for entertaining the crowd by playing piano and offering live music to the luncheon. It’s a wonderful tradition.

- **St. Mark’s Preschool and Parents Day Out** – I serve on the board of both the St. Mark’s Preschool the PDO program and am in regular communications with both groups to keep synergy between the groups. A special thank you to the Parent’s Day Out (PDO) Program for funding replacement of the flooring and several windows in the bathroom and in Lehman parlor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Bednas, Director, Children’s Ministry
**Boy Scout Troop 44**

“There is no religious side to the [Scouting] movement; the whole of it is based on religion.”

This quote is attributable to Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting. The first responsibility mentioned in the Boy Scout Oath is a Duty to God. The twelfth and final tenant of the Boy Scout Law is “A Scout is Reverent.”

The Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”) partners with organizations (many of them religious) to offer the Scouting program.

The partnership between St. Mark’s and Troop 44 began in March 1919, and the troop will celebrate its 95th anniversary this March. Many of the oldest troops are found in Chicagoland since Chicago businessman, William D. Boyce, founded the BSA in 1910. Troop 44 is the oldest troop in Chanonee District, which serves Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Warrenville, West Chicago, and Winfield. There are only three other troops that are older than Troop 44 in Three Fires Council, which serves the counties of DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, and Kendall. Over the course of Troop 44’s history, more than 70 of its scouts attained the rank of Eagle Scout as troop membership waxed and waned.

In fact, Troop 44 was near collapse as recently as September 2012. The troop only had four youth members and a troop must have at least five scouts to continue with the BSA. Dedicated to continuing the tradition of Troop 44, the four devoted scouts recruited a fifth scout and the adult volunteers committed to the reorganization of Troop 44. The troop realized significant growth in 2013 and achieved the Silver level of Journey to Excellence, a BSA performance metric program. Currently, there are 14 scouts in the troop and at least six Cub Scouts will crossover to Boy Scouts and join Troop 44 in February. Of the 14 current scouts, five are St. Mark’s parishioners.

St. Mark’s offers a program for scouts (including Boy Scouts from any troop, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts) to earn the Religious Emblem of Faith. In 2013, 18 scouts earned or worked toward the Religious Emblem of Faith. Citizenship training and character development are two of the three purposes of the BSA. As such, Troop 44 provides service to St. Mark’s at events including: Spring & Fall Cleanup, Pumpkin Patch and Sleep Out Saturday. On February 2nd, Scout Sunday, the scouts of Troop 44 will serve as ushers and greeters at St. Mark’s.

Scott Bednas, Troop 44 Committee Chairman

**Adult Formation**

The Adult Forum meets most Sundays during the school year from 9:15 to 10:15 in Mahon Hall. The forum generally consists of lectures or presentations followed by questions and open discussion. There were presentations on a diversity of topics in 2013, including Buddhism, DuPage United, and the Incarnation. 20 or so members and friends generally participate in the Forum. Comments range from personal stories to theological abstractions. The conversations are stimulating and enjoyable. Our hope for 2014 includes an increase in participants and that the energy that characterizes the Forum will continue.

Brian Thompson

**Music**

As 2013 began, I was continuing a recovery period at Wynscape for a very severe problem that had developed with my left foot. Fortunately for me and for the parish, Marsha was able to step in and take my place during this long period, as she has before. In February, she and Kathy Christian played a joint recital prior to an Evensong, and I was able to return to my home early that same month. By early March I was able to return to church, and soon enough Holy Week was being observed, followed by a festive celebration for Easter. For summer and our featured icon exhibit, the men of the choir offered a sung service of Compline amid the beautiful works of art, and Marsha.
led a lovely and contemplative service featuring the music of Taizé. Regular Sunday services continued to feature a variety of parish musicians.

As the fall season began the Adult Choir, with a record roster of 25 members, enjoyed another wonderful retreat weekend at the Judds’ home in Green Lake, Wisconsin, while Eliza Lynn carried on the musical responsibilities of the Sunday morning worship. October’s Evensong included a pre-service concert in Mahon Hall by guest jazz ensemble, Rooms, and we closed out the month with a fabulous recital with a Halloween theme played by organist, Bruce Neswick, and attended by close to 150 people. November began with the All Saints Choral Evensong, and soon we were into the season of Advent. I was particularly pleased to find that my setting of “Adam Lay Ybounden” was finally released for distribution by GIA Publications in Chicago. This year’s service of Lessons and Carols included not only the Adult Choir and the Madrigal Singers of Glenbard East, but also included the choir of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church. The celebrations that were held for Christmas Eve were glorious and varied, with everything from brass ensemble to bilingual liturgies and a children’s pageant written by our own Bob Lundin.

During the last half of the year a significant amount of progress was made towards a goal which has been very important to me for quite some time: that of finishing the organ. Through the generosity, interest, and encouragement of Tanya and Gerald Carey, the money is now in hand to make a down payment on signing a contract for the project, and plans for a parish-wide campaign are in the works for the purpose of raising the funds needed for the organ’s completion, the purchase of a grand piano, and for the financing of a series of four concerts to be held in 2016 in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the organ’s installation. More information about this exciting opportunity will be forthcoming.

I am so very grateful to the many people who participate in our music program and make it so successful by contributing their time and talents. I am most especially grateful for Marsha Webster and her dedication, which is beyond question, to this program and all that we do. I am truly honored to have her as a colleague and a friend.

Charles Snider

Preschool Music – I continue to lead music during Sunday School for our two preschool classes. Each week we work on movement, how to sing and how to use music to learn about our faith in God. These children continue to bless me with their honesty, their insight, and their smiles.

Chorister Choir – In May we finished up another year of choir for our K – 3rd grade children. It was a record school year, in terms of enrollment, and we were able to sing at least one time each month. In September, we resumed rehearsals, gaining 4 new kindergarteners, but losing a few of our older children. This year’s group continues to sing monthly at 9:15 and even added a special anthem (The Friendly Beasts) to the Christmas Pageant. In November we also took a field trip to sing for the clients at The Esse Adult Day Care Center at Faith Lutheran Church. In rehearsals, we not only learn anthems, but we also talk about the liturgical seasons and colors, we pray, and we sing through music that is used in our regular worship services. As with the preschool group, I try to use the music as a means to helping the children develop their faith and understanding of God. We rehearse on Wednesdays, 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Treble Choir – In September we re-launched a choir program for the 4th – senior high age group. We have had as many as 10 youth coming to rehearsals, which are 11:15 – 11:45 on Sunday mornings. The Treble Choir sang in worship two times and also participated in the special anthem for the Christmas Pageant.

Instrumentalists and Vocalists – I maintain a list of youth and adults who sing or play orchestra or band instruments, and regularly invite those on the list to offer a solo or participate in an ensemble for worship. All are welcome to let me know if they have an interest in singing or playing a solo. We traditionally have a youth ensemble accompany the Christmas pageant and this year we also had musicians help lead the Taizé service at the close of the Icons in Transformation exhibit.
9:15 Choir – An energetic and loyal group of parishioners helps to lead music once a month for the 9:15 service. We are always looking to expand this group, especially with those for whom 9:15 is the preferred service choice. The style of music at 9:15 is evolving as we explore the use of new and different kinds of music, including Spanish, jazz, and piano-led hymns.

Spanish Service – I continue to assist Padre Victor with music for the 1:00 service. This year I was blessed to have Bob Lundin volunteer to assist with this service as a guitar player. The parishioners have embraced and welcomed Bob in this role, even though he is not a Spanish speaker! This year we purchased a good Latin tambourine and we continue to use the djembe drum and maracas in the service.

It is a blessing to work with the people at St. Mark’s. We have a wide variety of talents and interests and we are most grateful for the many ways this community comes together to love and serve God and one another.

Marsha Webster

Usher Ministry

Ushers provide a valuable contribution to the services every Sunday. Often the first person that a newcomer or parishioner meets and greets is an usher. Ushers assist with recording attendance, take the collection, bring the communion elements to the altar, and after the service take a few moments to make sure the pew area of the church is ready for the next service. Ushers also handle requests for directions and information. This is a key job that helps make the service go smoothly.

During 2013 approximately 40 people who are on our usher roster worked to provide this valuable contribution to our Sunday services. This year many of our ushers were recruited from the confirmation class and several of them served with their parents. Periodically we get usher support from the Boy Scouts. The efforts of all those who serve as ushers are appreciated.

Bob Olsen

Lay Readers

Lay Readers (also called Lectors) read lessons and prayers at all regularly scheduled Sunday services and also at certain mid-week services like Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Readers are scheduled by a computer program that takes into account their service preferences and the worship activities of other of their family members.

Readers are committed to conveying to the congregation the wonderful words of Scripture and of the Book of Common Prayer as meaningfully as possible. As an aid to their efforts, they attend meetings with clergy and others to learn or improve reading technique and how to fit smoothly into the services they are a part of. There is always something new to learn, even for the most experienced readers.

Currently we are blessed with a large number of readers, but more are always welcome. Young people, older people and in-betweens are all invited to join our ranks. Contact a member of the clergy or Rinda Allison if you would like more information. And please let the readers know how much you appreciate their hard work.

Rinda Allison

January, 2014
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Daughters of the King

St. Anne’s Chapter

You recognize us when we wear our distinctive silver cross; you will see us when we prepare the altar for Eucharist, provide food and serve at funerals, and guide brides during their weddings. We decorate the church for Christmas, teach Sunday school, tend the building and grounds, visit the sick and shut-in, and pray for those parishioners who are struggling. This is our outward life of service. But despite all of this activity, Daughters of the King are called first, not to service, but to prayer and a spiritual life. We desire to align our lives more closely to God’s will, and to more effectively achieve this goal, we meet, pray, and study together as a group.

We are the members of St. Anne’s Chapter of the Daughters of the King which is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate. We are an order, not a committee or an organization. We are a group of women of faith who have made a commitment to live a life of prayer and service, and we come together as a community to help one another on this spiritual journey. We meet in the church library on the third Monday of every month except for July and December. All women of the parish are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. For more information contact Karen Evans, Chapter President or talk to any woman wearing the cross.

Karen Evans

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. 2013 was a very busy year for us. We had nine weddings celebrated at St. Mark’s.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please give me a call. I promise you a fun and rewarding experience.

Sarah Adler

Worship Commission Report

The purpose of the Worship Commission is to assist in reviewing, monitoring, and evaluating the various aspects of worship at St. Mark's in order to honor God, to promote spiritual and physical growth of the parish, and to meet the needs of the community. The management of the four-service Sunday schedule is ongoing, meeting challenges as they arise. Adjustments from the various areas (listed below) are constantly being made and, to the credit of all involved, are all running smoothly. Whatever the need, all involved have been willing to do whatever is necessary with enthusiasm.

The commission meets quarterly, usually prior to the next big liturgical season.

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

- Fiona Miller/Fiona White: Acolytes, Subdeacons, Chalice Bearers
Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Commission seeks to provide support to parishioners who would be comforted by caring church members reaching out to them. We bring altar flowers weekly to people who may be in need of "cheering up" or are celebrating an event in their lives. For those unable to attend church we offer in-home Eucharist. We provide rides to parishioners otherwise unable to attend our services. Our young people from middle school have made lovely cards that are sent along to shut-ins on appropriate holidays.

Our Prayer Ministry has ten active members who pray for those on our St. Mark's prayer list. These are people who may need comfort at difficult times in their lives. The prayer group meets monthly before the noon Eucharist to make sure the prayer list is updated and no one is overlooked.

The Food Ministry has provided meals throughout the year to meet the needs of those with new babies, those recovering from any illness or surgery, or those enduring a tragic loss or going through a move to a new home. There is always the need for more volunteer cooks. Please contact Julie Walor or Renee Hill if you would like to volunteer to make a meal or if in need of a meal.

An important part of Pastoral Care is our Stephen Ministry. We have five active Stephen Ministers now. They are paired with a parishioner who needs some help/support during a difficult time in their lives.

Father George Smith visits Beacon Hill retirement community once a month to provide Eucharist to Episcopalians or others. These people are very grateful to have an Episcopal clergy person presiding at a monthly Eucharist.

Pastoral Care gives financial support to local agencies such as Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service, Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

If any of these ministries appeal to you please contact Carolyn Faivre.

Church Tellers

Another year has passed, and I want to thank all of the men and women who counted Church Offerings each Monday last year. Accuracy in preparing the weekly spread sheets and the Summary sheet was appreciated not only by me, but Dick Anstee and Bill Novak as well.

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

Dave McCarraher
St. Mark’s Outreach Committee

Outreach at St. Mark’s continues to grow with the passion of our congregation, driving volunteerism and fundraising in support of a wide range of initiatives. And, as is generally the case at St. Mark’s, new parishioners provided additional sources of energy and enthusiasm for current and new initiatives.

There were some exciting changes in St. Mark’s participation in the PADS program over the last year. St. Mark’s has gone from being a summer only participant to participating in PADS every month. St. Mark’s partners with First Congregational Church to house and feed approximately 65 homeless guests one night a month. Every month St. Mark’s utilizes the First Congregational Church’s facilities including main hall, kitchen, showers, pads, blankets, pillows, sheets, etc. Starting at 6:00pm St. Mark’s volunteers arrive to set up the sleeping pads and organize the evening meal so that our guests can have a filling meal and a safe place to spend the night. Overnight St. Mark’s provides volunteers to monitor the sleeping guests. At 5:00am the breakfast crew arrives to cook and prepare a hearty breakfast. The guests are also given a bag lunch that the St. Mark’s youth have put together the day before.

It takes approximately 25 St. Marks volunteers every month to set-up the sleeping pads and prepare the meals. It takes approximately 18 - 20 others to prepare and donate food for the guests. PADS is a program that truly helps the homeless in our very own community. If you are interested in helping with this growing ministry, please contact David Dornblaser or Don Sutherland.

PADS is one of many important outreach initiatives that our congregation supports on an annual basis. The following summary of St. Mark’s outreach activity speaks to the breadth and depth of the congregation's commitment. I should also mention that I suspect that this list is not comprehensive…there are no doubt other efforts that I may not be aware of.

Thanks to all of you for your commitment to Outreach and for all you did in 2013…and for all you will do in the months and years ahead.

If anyone is looking for an opportunity to participate in an existing initiative, or to start one of your own…please contact the Outreach Committee (Tim Dorgan at tdorgan@gmail.com).

St. Mark’s Outreach 2013 Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Beneficiary</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Church World Service</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Beneficiary</th>
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<th>Amount Raised</th>
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<tr>
<td>PADS Shelter</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>David Dornblaser, Don Sutherland, Dan Kelly</td>
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<td>St. Marks commitment extended to year round</td>
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<td>$19,216 ($6497 to PADS) $17,000 ($5400 to PADS)</td>
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<td>Sleep Out Sat.</td>
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<td>Bridge Communities</td>
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<td>Tricia Benich Sherry Rossi</td>
<td>GE Food Pantry</td>
<td>Sunday School classes rotate weekly donations</td>
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<td>PADS Lunches</td>
<td>Oct-May</td>
<td>Leslie Delaney, Graham Smith, PADS – First Cong Site</td>
<td>Well supported with food, donations and volunteers</td>
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*Estimate

Thank you to St. Mark’s for all your support of our parish’s outreach efforts in 2013!
Submitted by Tim Dorgan, Outreach Vestry Liaison

St. Mark’s 2013 Mission Trip to Mexico: Branching out into the World

“Each one of the children had a special connection with me, and it was amazing to share my connection with them. Simply playing soccer with them and giving them piggyback rides each day made my day brighter. Each story I had heard before the trip made me excited, but nothing can compare to the actual experience. It was incredible being part of the group of people that traveled to Nigromante this year and I look forward to forming a stronger connection with each person in Nigromante in the years to come.” Geo Smith

“Siento mucho agradecimiento por mis compañeros y compañeras de misión porque una vez pude entender que necesito vaciarme para poder recibir. Le doy gracias a todos los hombres y mujeres de San Marcos, Nigromante por hacerme ver que si no me vacio para recibir, no puedo ser sincero en la bienvenida a la otra persona no importante lengua, raza o nación. Ahora seguimos con la misma misión de seguir construyendo puentes que nos unan y nos permitan experimentar que al final del día, todos tenemos las mismas luchas y los mismos sueños. Estos pueden ser realizables cuando nos vaciamos para compartirlos con los demás. Muchas gracias San Marcos Glen Ellyn por estar siempre dispuesto a vaciarte para recibir.” The Rev. Victor Conrado

“The hardest part of the trip for me was feeling like I hadn’t done enough to thank my host family and the congregation for the hospitality that they showed me. The family that hosted Frances and me sacrificed two beds and a room in their house so that we could sleep comfortably, even though we were two gringas they had never met. It seems impossible to show great enough appreciation for a sacrifice this big, and I struggled with that. I think that’s why our continued relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante is so important. If we continue to build our relationship with them, we can reciprocate the humbling acts of kindness they have so often shown to us, and continue the chain of gratitude, thanksgiving, and compassion that has now extended for eight years. I hope to return to Nigromante and watch this beautiful relationship bloom and grow.” Erin Delany

Where did we go: To our companion parish, San Marcos, in Nigromante, a rural community of approximately 5,000 people located in the state of Veracruz near the border of the state of Oaxaca
When did we go: June 2013 (our 8th visit)
Who Went: Fourteen Parishioners--George Smith, Victor Conrado, David Grant-Funck; Kim Reed; Samuel Castillo-Koch, Pedro Damian, Erin Delany, Ian Grant-Funck, Abraham Jimenez, Omar Jimenez, Francis Smith, Geo Smith, Molly Toliver, Olivia Vanderlei.
Background:

- St. Mark’s has sent a group to Nigromante every year since 2006.
- We visit the same community each year.
- The primary focus is on our Companion Parish Relationship.
- But we also provide important Monetary Support – We raise and send money annually, money that goes toward: Children and Youth Scholarships; Priest’s salaries; Computer lab; Projects in the church and community, including VBS, and the annual community dinner.

Some of the Expectations for those who went on the trip:
Paid approx. $500 per person; Attended planning meetings; Participated in the planning and preparation and worked at fundraising events (Cake Auction and Bake Sale at the Annual Meeting, Cinco de Mayo Dinner and Silent Auction, Mother’s Day Rose Sale); Donated at least one silent auction item or service for the Cinco de Mayo dinner; Remained open to and respectful of different culture, foods, and languages; and Showed respect and appreciation for the hospitality of others.

In 2013, St. Mark’s parishioners had opportunities to:
Attend and participate in our three fundraisers; Hear presentations about our visit at each of the services the Sunday following our trip and at the Taco Bar and Presentation in August; Visit with Bishop Benito and his son when they were at St. Mark’s for a dinner offered to those interested in SE Mexico and at the Spanish Language Service and convivio in November when they were here for the Chicago Diocese’s annual convention; and Read the reflections written by every participant and printed in the Postmark.

Additionally, St. Mark’s participated in regular meetings of the Global Ministry Commission Sub-Committee on the Diocese of Southeast Mexico.

Thank you to all who helped with the fundraisers, attended the events, donated food, goods, money, computers and supported this important ministry. Again, thank you to the Outreach Committee for their allocation of a portion of the Squire Fund to the Mexico Mission Trip.

Plans are currently underway for the 2014 trip, our ninth!

Respectfully submitted by Kim Reed

The Appalachia Service Project

Here’s how the Appalachia Service Project describes their mission trips on their website:
Appalachia Service Project (ASP) provides life-changing short-term Christian mission trip opportunities – bringing youth, adult, and college volunteers into rural Central Appalachia to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for families in need. So come on and join us! You’ll raise roofs. Fix floors. And build a whole new you!

ASP believes that every individual is a child of God, "imbued with dignity and worth" and that safe, affordable, sanitary homes are a basic human right. With those guiding principles, youth and adults are sent to locations in Appalachia to help repair homes of those who cannot afford to do it themselves.

This was St. Mark’s first time going on an ASP Trip. Lindsay Mullaney, who has since moved to Raleigh, NC, headed the trip with the help of Hunter Walor and Renee Hughes. Youth who participated were Lauren Glavin, Maggie Hughes, Molly Hughes, Isabella Salafatinos, and Marin Walor. Cindy Glavin helped organize the trip and is the lead organizer for 2014. The main fundraiser for the event was "The House that Jack Built," which helped defray trip expenses.

The ASP trip is open to adults and youth who will be entering 9th grade in the fall. It is not necessary to be a member of St. Mark’s. Prior experience is not needed, just a willingness to work.
A description of the 2013 ASP Trip from leader Lindsay Mullaney:
July 13-20, 2013, 3 adults and 5 youth travelled to the very small town of Warfield, in Martin Co, KY. Over the course of the week, we had the opportunity to work on two separate houses to help fulfill the Appalachian Service Project’s mission of making homes safer, warmer, and drier. In the first home we laid subfloor and flooring, also readied some walls for painting. In the second home, we built walls, worked on house drainage, and installed subflooring. Beyond the work that was done, all the participants agree that the real joy of the trip was the relationships we developed— with each other and with the people of Warfield.

Excerpts from reflections written by two of the youth participants:
Yes I admit that at the beginning I wished that I was up in Notre Dame at a soccer camp, but that was for maybe 2 seconds. There is nothing in the world that I would have traded for this experience and nothing that could come in the way of me going again. And so I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart who helped contribute to make this trip possible, I guarantee that it is something I won’t soon forget. **Lauren Glavin**

I think it is safe to say that our trip to Kentucky strongly affected all of our lives. We all came together to work as a team, and in the process, we became a family and we created bonds that could not be created anywhere else. Whilst on my trip, I came to learn that I am so fortunate to be able to live in Glen Ellyn. However, I feel even more blessed to have been able to be accepted by St. Marks, allowed to have such an amazing experience with amazing people and help people less fortunate but not any less remarkable all the same. For this mission trip, I am truly and eternally grateful for the fond memories I have created. **Isabella Salafatinos**

Cindy Glavin

**Communications**

**Website**
St. Mark’s website has remained vibrant and robust throughout 2013, offering information on services and programs in English and in Spanish. Parishioner Deanna Ellison continues as the webmaster, a role she assumed in 2012, the first full year that it was powered through WordPress. WordPress is a flexible, user-friendly platform that allows multiple users to post news of events and meetings. PayPal was installed on the St. Mark’s website in 2013. PayPal allows parishioners to make a pledge online.

Photographer Peter Vagt has continued to capture scenes featuring children and adults that provide snapshots of parish life. His many photographs of events such as the annual pumpkin fest, the St. Nicholas luncheon, and the picnic give St. Mark’s a friendly and inviting face. Peter has also captured the beauty of the church building itself, creating a lovely backdrop for the website’s home page. Deanna updates the website monthly. Other updates are made directly by parishioners who chair events and committees.

**Media Relations**
Nancy Gier continues to maintain the list of media contacts. She sends out press releases on special services, concerts, and events, and pitches stories to local reporters. Press releases were sent to print, radio and TV media outlets during May and June to publicize the major art exhibit that St. Mark’s hosted during June and July. The exhibit featured the work of international artist Ludmila Pawlowska.

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

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

Javier Valdivia continues to contribute to visual arts with his exceptional skills in graphic design. He also helps with design and production of posters and banners that are displayed outside the church to inform the community of special services and special events.

Submitted by Nancy Gier

**Newcomers Committee**

The good news is that it was a banner year for the Newcomer Ministry. We hosted two potluck dinners, with great success, all of which is amazing given the national decline in church attendance. In the past year St. Mark’s, we are happy to report, saw an increase of approximately 150 new households.

The following are Gil Long’s comments on the first event, "Our Spring Newcomer’s Potluck Dinner was held on Friday, April 19th. Leo & Elizabeth Lanzillo were gracious enough to host this fun event at their beautiful home! It was a nice size group and a lovely time spent getting to know some of our new parishioners! Many thanks to the Lanzillos and all those who made this night possible for us to enjoy!"

The second potluck was held on September 27th at the home of Steve and Marsha Webster. They too, were gracious enough to open their lovely home to this event. We had a good turnout and everyone was able to enjoy the warm weather and sit outside on that glorious evening.

These events are fun and well attended. More are planned for 2014. We’ll keep everyone informed.

Another bit of good news is that both the Greeter and Ambassador Committees seem to have gotten off the ground and are thriving.

The Ambassador Program contacts newcomers and potential newcomers who are visited and given a “goody” bag, which includes a water bottle embossed with a St. Mark’s logo that contains the most recent copy of the PostMark and a St. Mark’s brochure listing all the various organizations available through St. Mark’s. Also included is a delicious baked item and, depending on the season, some fresh flowers.

Greeters welcome everyone who comes into the church, whether with a handshake or just a smile and a pleasant "good morning." They also direct visitors and answer any questions.

We are very much looking forward to a great 2014 and welcoming all new members into St. Mark’s.

Lea Forsman

**Parish Life**

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

Joanie Somerville chaired the Parish Life committee. In an effort to transition Joanie from committee chair, we split some of the responsibilities of organizing the four major all parish events.

Parish Annual Meeting: February 10th - organized by Joanie Somerville
Lenten Suppers: February 20, February 27, March 6, March 13 - organized by Joanie Somerville and Kathy Kelly
All-Parish Picnic: June 2 – organized by Joanie Somerville
Kick-Off Sunday – September 8 – organized by Joanie Somerville and Kathy Kelly
Coffee hour ministers Marilyn Justus, Kathy Kelly, Bob Olsen and Susan Shorney assisted members of the parish who provided food and greetings during the post-10:30 service coffee hour.

Kathy Kelly

**Men’s Ministries:**

Men’s Monthly Breakfast:
The men met at 6:30 a.m. at Glen Oak restaurant in Glen Ellyn, usually the first Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact Dick Anstee.

Bi-monthly meetings:
The St. Mark’s men met on the second and fourth Saturdays in the Parish Library. They had lively discussions around a number of videos and topics, including series led by Marcus Borg and Walter Bruggemann and other individual talks on spirituality in the modern world.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
We continued in the tradition of hosting the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, with the preparation, cooking and cleanup along with some other refreshments for the helpers.

Barbecue at the Rector’s house:
In August, the St. Mark’s men met at the home of George Smith for their annual barbecue.

Leo Lanzillo

**Women’s Ministries:**

2013 Women’s Ministries:

**Steering Committee:** The steering group met just once in 2013 to plan a calendar of events and identify people to serve as organizers. Several annual events evolve each year as new organizers take the helm. New activities often emerge based on the interests of one or a few individuals. If you have an idea for a women’s event or want to help in the planning, please contact Elizabeth Lanzillo or one of the 2013 organizers listed below.

**Ministry of Mothers Sharing-MOMS** is an 8-week small group spiritual development series exploring issues of life balance, relationships, parenting, and self-care for busy moms. Rachel Alcorn, Lisa Baker, and Elizabeth Lanzillo facilitated a group of 11 women, and 11 other women were each matched with a participant to serve as her mentor. The series ran from January through March and concluded with a celebration including mentors, participants and facilitators. Since the series concluded, the group has reunited for a party with spouses and a summer picnic with families.

**Annual Women’s Retreat** - Our first bi-lingual retreat! Thirty-eight retreaters (nine who primarily attend our 1:00 service and 29 who primarily attend our morning services) attended *Powerful Peace/Paz Poderosa*, at The Abbey resort & Spa in Fontana, WI. Parishioners and speakers, Lucia Conrado and Carolyn Faivre, shared their life stories describing times of challenge and the peace and strength they received, in the midst of challenge, to take new steps, receive solutions and new chapters in life. Five completely bi-lingual retreaters served creatively as translators for those of us who speak one language. Music and worship were lead in both English and español. As is always true on our retreats, a warm and comfortable atmosphere prevailed! Listening to each other, friendship building, fun, and meaningful worship even seemed to be enhanced by the dual language nature of our retreat.

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Movie Night - Following the Women's retreat, several participants organized a late spring Movie Night to view the Spanish-language film *Like Water for Chocolate*.

Spring Tea - The Women's Spring Tea featured a presentation on “The Blessings of Friendship.” Women enjoyed tea, delicacies, and lovely desserts. Led by Bryn Wulf, the tea committee determinedly carried on with the event just days after April's record-setting rain and flooding affected several of their homes.

Summer Salad Suppers - The St. Mark’s women stayed connected through the summer with salad suppers hosted in June by Elizabeth Lanzillo and in August by Leslie Delaney.

Weekly Friday Playtimes for Moms and Kids - In the fall, Anne Soto introduced a weekly Friday morning gathering of moms and young children in Mahon Hall.

Fall Salad Suppper - Our fall kick-off organized by Patty Weaver featured a potluck salad supper, ice breaker games to meet new people, and a presentation by Re-New, a local Christian ministry that trains and employs refugee women to design and sew handcrafted items. St Mark’s women purchased beautiful items from a Re-New representative and donated fabrics for Re-New’s projects.

Cooking Class at Marcel’s - Bryn Wulf arranged for a hands-on workshop in November with one of Marcel’s chefs. Fourteen participants prepared and dined on a special fall menu.

Annual Christmas Ornament Exchange - Marylu Olsen planned an annual favorite, the Ornament Exchange. After appetizers and desserts, and the official reading of rules, the “sharing” began.

Holiday Coffee for Parents –Patty Weaver hosted a drop-in coffee hour for parents during the Christmas pageant dress rehearsal, providing some down time and hospitality during the busy season.

Elizabeth Lanzillo

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. We no longer offer a “4+ only” day, and every day is open to all ages. The program is in session five days a week and is operating at capacity with 79 children from 64 families and substitute lists. PDO has a committed following in our community, with the majority of participating children and/or siblings returning to the program again this year. In keeping with our mission, we offer scholarships and flexibility to suit a variety of circumstances, and two children were able to enroll this year as a result of this scholarship opportunity.

Our program operates within the Glen Ellyn public school system calendar, as well as summer offerings. This year we expanded our month-long summer sessions to include the months of both June and July, and enjoyed full enrollment and community support. As with our regular program, our care included fine and large motor skill activities, arts and crafts, songs and stories, as well as lots of fun play time.

As an additional summer session, PDO again offered a week of child care in conjunction with Vacation Bible School for those siblings not yet old enough to participate in VBS and for young children of VBS volunteers. This session was run by some PDO staff and some teenage assistants, and was well received. The PDO VBS session earned $2,000, which is earmarked for playground improvements. PDO continues to work with the Preschool regarding replacement and upgrade plans for the playground equipment.

Due to enrollment in this beloved ministry, PDO continues to cover its operating cost and provide cash and service benefits to St. Mark’s Parish. In addition to the playground funds raised, PDO gave $3,000 to the Parish’s general operating fund. Additionally, PDO gave the parish $300 for basement cleaning.

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PDO provides participating families with information about programs of potential interest at St. Marks. As a result, PDO families again participated in St. Mark’s offerings, as well as supported our PADS Pumpkin Patch by purchasing pumpkins. Lesley Arlasky again provided lovely portraits of smiling children in the patch for their families.

PDO continues to explore continuing education for its staff, and joined with St. Mark’s Preschool to fund our membership in the National Association of Episcopal Schools to take advantage of its programs and literature.

We are blessed by the continued service of our dedicated staff Kathy O’Rourke (Director), Cindy Glavin, Melody Mordini, Beth Figler, Carrie Pihl, and Norma Cid. We truly thank them for their endless enthusiasm and dedication to these children. Also this year, our long time and devoted Treasurer Doris McCarraher transitioned off of the PDO Board, and we are grateful to Kelly Gross for agreeing to join our leadership in that role. Additional members of the PDO Board include: Kim Reed (Chair), Jill Bednas (Children’s Ministry Liaison), Joan Nichols (playground representative), and Elizabeth Lewis (Secretary). Registration for the 2014 summer and fall programs will begin in April, with members of the parish receiving priority.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Lewis

St. Mark’s Preschool

Spring of 2013 saw the Preschool closing out another wonderful year. Special thanks to Cindy Flynn for serving as our Transition Director as we continued our search for a new Preschool Director. Additional thanks to Beth Figler and Holly Pelsor, and all the St. Mark’s Preschool staff, for their help and support in running the school so successfully during this transitional year. In early spring, the Preschool Board was thrilled to offer the position of Director to Andrea Cocke. Originally hailing from the midwest, Andrea came highly recommended to us from the prestigious Phillips Brooks School in Menlo Park, CA - a Reggio Emilia community Preschool - where she had been teaching for several years. With a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from the Erikson Institute, Andrea brings with her a wealth of educational experiences in both Chicago-based private schools and larger educational institutions. Andrea began her tenure with our Preschool in July, and jumped in full speed with the teachers in opening the 2013-14 school year. The Preschool also added an additional teacher; Michelle Matalone joined our staff to teach in the morning session. Currently, Miss Beth and Miss Michelle teach one morning classroom, and Miss Andrea and Miss Holly teach the other section. Our single afternoon section is taught by Miss Holly and Miss Beth. The close of 2013 found the Preschool gearing up for registration - hosting Open Houses and Information Nights for prospective parents and ramping up marketing efforts. In addition, our popular Reggio Chats for parents have continued through the school year. Amy Kalten has continued with the Handwriting Without Tears programming in all classrooms, and the teachers have all participated in some wonderful professional development activities. The Board has focused on fundraising efforts - hosting an Ice Cream Social in September, and planning for the upcoming Disco Night on February 1, 2014. Finally, the staff and Board continue to work together to craft new programming for the summer months.

Rachel Alcorn, Preschool Board Chair
**Buildings and Grounds**

**Ministry’s Purpose:** The Buildings and Grounds committee works toward supporting St. Mark’s vision as a welcoming place for all by planning and carrying out the necessary functions to ensure all the church buildings, systems, rectory, grounds and parking lots are safe, clean and well maintained.

**2013 B & G Maintenance and Repair Budget as of December 31, 2013:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Budgeted Amount</th>
<th>Expenses Paid</th>
<th>Year End Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Repairs and Maint.</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
<td>$37,535.49</td>
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<td>Outside Cleaning Services</td>
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<td>$17,455.00</td>
<td>$(4,455.00)</td>
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<td>Rectory Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Monitor</td>
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<td>$875.91</td>
<td>$624.09</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Establishing New Leadership Model:**
After three years of Buildings and Grounds committee leadership, Cheryl Olsen, who has been the general manager overseeing the facilities maintenance, resigned effective September 1. Leadership is key in maintaining smooth function of the committee; coordinating communications amongst all parties, watching the calendar for maintenance events, coordinating the services of vendors, keeping track of the budget, facilitating meetings and events, facilitating many of the projects to be done, and writing reports. St. Mark’s is a 27,000 square foot facility of multiple structures of varying ages, with multiple and complex mechanical systems, sitting on almost half a city block with a variety of outdoor features. The variety of skills/knowledge needed and time required to responsibly carry out this volunteer ministry presents a leadership challenge. In the fall of 2013 we implemented a new volunteer management model that utilizes four managers, dividing the work load into four concentrations of related functions as follows:

- **Mechanical** - boiler system, furnaces, all air conditioning systems, electrical, plumbing, elevator, fire alarm system, sump systems. Gary Kreutz manages the maintenance of Mechanical Systems.
- **Keeping House** - cleaning, de-cluttering, refuse and recycling, inventoried property, event set-up, painting, redecorating, minor repairs, signage, lights, lighting timers, floor drains, rectory. This position is still open.
- **Special Projects** - tasks of a larger scope requiring research, multiple estimates from outside venders, and perhaps special funding. Dave Rossi is our Projects Manager.
- **Grounds** - lawn mowing, snow removal and salting, garden beds, trees, flower pots, litter pick-up. Cheryl Olsen will continue managing Grounds. She also serves as Vestry Liaison for B & G.

**Current B & G Team membership:**
- George Smith - General consultant.
- Cheryl Olsen - Grounds Manager and Vestry Liaison.
- Gary Kreutz - Mechanical Systems Manager
- Dave Rossi - Special Projects Manager
- Position Open - Keeping House Manager
- Michael Benich - Rectory maintenance contact, general handyman, audio system.
- Dick Mylander - General handyman.
- Ted Figler - Technology support, special projects.
- Jeff Hill - Floor drains and grease trap.
- Dick Anstee - Pest control.
- Edna Heatherington - Communications, organization.
- Ryan Dunham - Special projects/construction consultant.
- Scott Shorney - Special projects.
- Ginnie Judd - Energy efficiency, misc. projects.
Meetings:
Although the goal was to increase the number of meetings in 2013, we last met as a full team February 2, 2013. An attempt was made to meet in August, but no one date seemed to work for the majority. Most communication has been completed by one on one, email or phone to accomplish tasks and projects. Team meetings are usually published in the PostMark or Sunday Bulletin, and all are welcome to attend.

Parish Clean-Up Day:
No clean-up day was held in 2013. In 2014, we hope to return to this tradition of supporting the parish through the sharing of necessary maintenance chores while enjoying great fellowship.

2013 Highlights:
• A Linens Ministry was organized in response to the issue of dirty and scattered table linens. Linen storage was moved from the basement to the right side of Mahon Hall storage closet. New shelving was donated. A dirty linens laundry hamper was added to the kitchen thanks to Dellana Mote. Sue Mylander has volunteered to launder tablecloths accumulated in the hamper.
• April’s Fire Marshall inspection required that action be taken to correct the electrical access in the choir room. Alternating Currents added two new outlets. We were “educated” on the condition of our sprinklered storage areas, sprinklered hall, and potentially combustible materials. Closet areas have been checked so stored items are at least 18” below the sprinkler system, stairwells were de-cluttered and NO STORAGE signs were posted. The Hillside stairwell was emptied, but the south (elevator) stairwell still needs to be emptied. Thanks to Dellana Mote, the unused stage stored in the basement hall off the elevator has found a new home in an area school. The attic still needs more cleaning. We still need to obtain some kind of metal cabinet for combustibles.
• New windows have been installed in Lehman parlor via the generosity of PDO, with the materials and labor arrangements made by Ryan Dunham. The new windows and the ones installed in the girls’ restroom are still in need of finishing.
• The most ambitious project of the year was the lower east parking lot repair and resurfacing, while the upper south lot was seal coated. Stall lines and directional arrows were painted. Bob Lewis was consulted on the available use of the Lewis capital funds for this project, and it was deemed an appropriate use. With vestry approval, A & A Paving was contracted after they discounted their bid down to the $20,000 we had available. Dave Rossi managed the research and obtained all bids and permits.
• The boiler system continues to keep us busy with repairs. This past year we replaced the actuator on the three-way valve of the boiler system’s supply line to the radiant heat areas after it became evident that it would continue to malfunction. The bladder in the expansion tank required replacing. Each pressure gauge and pressure release valve on each of the six boiler units were replaced. They should be replaced every 5 years and ours were at least 8 years old.
• Under Ginnie Judd’s management the Energy Audit, as required by the diocese, was completed by CNT Energy/IFF. In August the Vestry approved completion of the recommended remediation. Hot water pipes were insulated, insulation was added in some areas, and much lighting was upgraded for energy efficiency, including over 200 spotlight bulb replacements with very efficient LED’s. Between a 25% grant for the cost of the work, rebates from Nicor and ComEd, and lower gas and electric bills, we expect the project payback to be less than two years. Lowered impact on the environment and reduced energy bills were the goal.
• Ginnie Judd also managed the rectory energy audit and the remediation work recommended.
• The state inspection and recertification of our Hydrotherm boiler and Bradford White hot water heater was completed in June. Next inspection date is June 2015.
• The annual state required elevator inspection was completed in September.
• The basement ceiling pipes and ductwork, windows and floor were cleaned in June by Service Master at a cost of $1,175.00. As best could be ascertained, this cleaning of the ceiling area had not been done since construction in 03-04. With all the various basement usage, this should be done every few years.
• The Boy Scouts cooperated in consolidating their storage spaces. They have removed items from the attic, and now only store their flags in the Mahon Hall closet.
• Gardening help continued to whittle down this last summer. Bob Beeching, Chris Castelli, and George Smith assist with bed maintenance.

Pending Projects for 2014:
• In Lehman Parlor the stone masonry joint above the right side angle of the bay widow needs repair.
• Re-siding of the upper half of the office building. What appears to be incorrect installation has resulted in repeated repairs over the years.
• The front step railings need refinishing.
• Rectory master bath flooring tile and shower area are loose and cracking, calling for replacement.
• Painting will be done in various rooms of the rectory as much of the painting dates back to when it was built in 1998.
• Testing/Implement the e-file record system that Mr. Figler has created would be a worthwhile endeavor if there is a willing volunteer to help collect and enter data, and scan documents.

Thank You Very Much goes out to:
• The whole B&G Team! You are a blessing to the parish for giving of your time and talents. The results of your efforts are priceless!
• Much handy-work continues to be done by volunteers Michael Benich and Dick Mylander. Michael has completed the assembly of preschool furnishings, hung shelves, adjusted faucets, adjusted hand dryers, repaired a damaged downspout, repaired broken door handles, and participated in the rectory energy assessment. Michael also gave a lot of his time to assisting set-up and tear-down of last summer’s art exhibit. Dick Mylander continues to mend pews and kneelers, and completed tuck pointing on the office steps’ wall.
• Dave Rossi put a lot of time and effort into meeting with contractors on the parking lot project.
• Ginnie Judd put a lot of time and effort into the energy audits and with follow-up remediation work. She has also made headway in organizing key assignment records.
• Dellana Mote, Office Manager, continues to provide valuable and much appreciated support.

Peace in Christ,
Cheryl Olsen
Parish Register 2013

**Baptisms**
- Miguel Angel Barrera
- Miles Carson Ruskusky
- Ty Willis Griffith
- Elisabeth Jo. Campen
- Aiden Thomas Joyce
- Joseph David Joyce
- Connor Lynn Joyce
- Tucker William Guare
- Miles Carson Ruskusky
- Matthew Thomas Barrett
- Teagan Eleanore Dickey
- Liam Robert Ayers
- Charles Victor Davia
- Deacon Louis Davia
- Sarah Patricia Hafner
- Rowan David Roberts
- Eva Elizabeth Miller
- Matthew Alessandro Riccio
- Brady Scott Riccio
- Madelyn Roberts
- Hailey Roberts
- Jacob Gerard Guidi
- Carter Isaac Valluzzi
- Delaney Marie Lemar
- Daniel Adrian Cox
- Madeline Marie Kexel
- Alexander Steven Weaver
- Ryder Marlin Schaffnit
- Lucy Suzanne Leder
- Jack Robert Pope
- Elizabeth Tecuapetla

**Confirmations**
- Kendall Lesly Arlasky
- Norvin Briones
- Ethan Lansing Churchill
- Timo Leslie Curtis
- William Nathaniel Figler
- Siena Frances Gagliano
- Paige Lauren Hardy
- Scott Patrick Hetzel
- Jenna KLathering Kelly
- Nathan Robert Littlefield
- James Victor Madary III
- Alma Delia Barrera
- Alfonso Cielo
- Noelia Galvan
- Glori Itzel Garcia
- Jovani Garcia Ramos
- Abraham Jimenez, Jr.
- Omar Jimenez
- Ruby Arlin Mendoza
- Areal Olvera
- Edwin Olvera
- Daisy Oliva
- Eric Neftaly Oliva
- Litzy Reyes
- Areal Ruiz
- Luis Fernando Salgado
- Andrea Yasmin Tapia
- Maria Tapia
- Mayelian Beltran
- Bryan Beltran
- Sergio O. Beltran
- Luis A. Beltran
- Jonathan Hernandez
- Christian Hernandez
- Arturo Rubio
- Samantha Madrigal
- Abraham Madrigal
- Erik Favela
- Marcos Sanchez
- Kevin Santana
- Jesus Rebolledo
- Jamie Esquivel
- Luis Angel Solis

**Funerals**
- Perry Knutson
- Beverly Fawell
- Elizabeth Morison
- Margaret Marines
- Peter Foersom
- Gary Leid
- Frances Jones

**Marriages**
- Ashley VanTiem & Andrew Vock
- Tiffany L. Spencer & Thomas J. Unterfenger
- Tracy E. Johnson & Robert J. Gagliano
- Amy E. Warman & Bradley A. Eaton
- Katherine Rudolphy & Ronald Hart
- Jessica J. Tschampa & Myles G. VanCamp
- Robert J. Mrozek & Kelly E. Kluckman
- Michael J. McHale & Patricia L. Byers
- Melissa Callihan & Troy Grews

**2013 Average Sunday Attendance:** 437
February 10, 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

Cake Auctions

Karen Doran approved as Annual Meeting Clerk

Discussion of Minutes from 2012 Annual Meeting
Unanimously approved.

Introduction of Senior Warden Paula Zwiebel and Junior Warden Eric McAlpine

Appointment of Youth Representative Theo Grant-Funck

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members
Thank you, Jerry Carey, Dana Gross, Reeny Linstrom, Ben Maxson, Cynthia Mote, Scott Bednas, Bob Bernero, and Diane Hunter, for serving St. Mark’s. Big round of applause. George mentioned a little something special about each outgoing member and presented each with a Book of Common Prayer.

Election of Candidates to Vestry and Diocese Convention Delegates
Vestry: John Campen, Brian Thompson, Patty Weaver, and Andrew Dorn. Delegates: Kristine Margaglione, Jay Madary (alternate).
All unanimously voted yea.

Financial Report (presented by Steve Webster)
Thank you to everyone on the finance Committee.
2012 year ends statements should have arrived at everyone’s house by now.
Update on Capital Campaign, which began in March, 2010 – really successful in our goal to pay off our debt.
We are trying to be more transparent. Look at the bulletin each month to see how we’re doing – you will see our income and expenses in both the bulletin and the Postmark.
Performance of our church – very good.
Our open plate last year exceeded our expectations, thanks in large part to the Spanish service.
We also spent less on B&G than we had thought we would, thanks largely to our decreased mortgage payment.
We had a much better year than anticipated.
We have a balanced budget. Much applause.
George mentions that we have exceeded our goal in the number of pledges.

Senior Warden’s Report (presented by Scott Bednas)
Thank you to everyone who contributes to everything that happens at St. Mark’s. He encourages us to read through the reports. Highlights from last year is a delight to worship and hear from our dynamic clergy and we are so blessed to have Charles and all of our other musicians and music director Marsha Webster, which all adds so much to our worship.
The 1:00 p.m. service started out as an idea in 2011 and is now a flourishing service with over 200 people each week. Steve encourages us to attend.
Our preschool has also grown significantly. In only its third year it’s grown so much. He believes our next year’s preschool is already fully registered.
He thanks Fiona Miller for directing him last year. An honor to work with her, George, our clergy, Paula, our staff, the countless volunteers.
We are in very capable hands with our new wardens and vestry. Big round of applause.
George thanks Scott again. He is a great example of how we can combine so many things: family, career, church.
Scott is a person of prayer which we value deeply.
Rector's Report (presented by George Smith)

Encourages us to read his report. Hope is an idea with an engine. We have so many ideas with engines that run well. We’ve an environment here where folks have ideas that they’re able to run with. Our 1:00 service, our preschool, our partnership with San Marcos. This summer we’re looking forward to bringing a 5-week art exhibit on Russian icons. Today we saw at least 10 new visitors (first time). This is just a typical Sunday – “welcome” is an idea with an engine. Thank you to all of us who are welcoming. Welcome is part of God’s plan for creation. Our average attendance has grown from 300 to 365. We have to have integrity, good mission, welcoming – if we continue to do that this will continue to be a place of abundance.

Elizabeth was invited up to the podium. She has been called to become the rector at the Annunciation of Our Lady in Gurnee. Her last Sunday with us will be in four weeks – March 10 and she will begin as their rector on March 17, in time to finish up Lent and to celebrate Easter. Huge applause.

Thank you to our clergy. Big applause.

Everyone is welcome to attend the 1:00 service.

Thank you to George and his family and for our church.

Karen Doran, Clerk
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Bishops of Chicago

the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop
the Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Epting, Assistant Bishop

Clergy

the Rev. George D. Smith, Rector
the Rev. Victor H. Conrado, Associate Rector
the Rev. Dr. Walter M. Dunnett, Associate Rector
the Rev. Dr. Robin Currie, Pastor Associate
the Rev. Catharine Phillips, Priest Associate for Pastoral Care
the Rev. Miguel Briones, Deacon

Program Staff

Mr. Charles H. Snider, Jr., Organist/Choirmaster
Ms. Marsha Webster, Music Associate for Children’s Choirs
Ms. Jill Bednas, Director of Children’s Ministries
Ms. Kim Reed, Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator
Ms. Norma Cid, Nursery Supervisor
Ms. Kathy O’Rourke, PDO Director
Ms. Andrea Cocke, Preschool Director

Office Staff

Ms. Dellana Mote, Office Manager

Senior Warden
Paula Zwiebel

Junior Warden
Eric McAlpine

Clerk of the Vestry
Karen Doran

Treasurer
Dick Anstee

Chancellor
Bob Lewis

Vestry
John Campen, Dianne Dinse, Tim Dorgan, Andrew Dorn, Lea Forsman, Nancy Gier, Cheryl Olsen, Scott Taback, Brian Thompson, Patty Weaver, Steve Webster

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