St. Mark’s
Episcopal Church
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Annual Report for 2015

January 24, 2016
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Agenda

Opening Prayer  
Rev. George Smith

Appointment of Clerk of the Annual Meeting  
Tim Sullivan is appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting  
Rev. George Smith

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting  
Please see the last pages of this handout for the minutes of last year’s meeting  
Rev. George Smith

Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden  
Peter Vagt and Joyce Fletcher  
Rev. George Smith

Appointment of Youth Representative  
Paige Hardy and Abraham Jimenez  
Rev. George Smith

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members, Youth Representative, Sr. Warden, and Convention & Alternate Delegates  
Edna Heatherington, Andrew Dorn, Patty Weaver, Jocelyn Briones, & Will Delany  
Peter Vagt

Voting  
Election of Vestry Candidates: 
Lynn Dornblaser, Flor Itzel Camona, Dan Lambert, Megan McGuire, Ricardo Soto  
Peter Vagt

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates: 
Will Dunlop

Reports  
Rev. George Smith

Finance Committee Report  
Hunter Walor

2015 Year End Budget Report  
2016 Budget

Senior Warden’s Report  
Edna Heatherington

Rector’s Report  
Rev. George Smith

Questions and Answers

January, 2016  
Page 3
Rector’s Report for the St. Mark’s Annual Meeting
January 24, 2016

Predictions are difficult, especially about the future – Danish proverb. This year’s annual meeting will be my tenth since coming to St. Mark’s in February, 2006. For me, it’s not too much of a surprise that I find myself at St. Mark’s after ten years, although back in 2006, the future, mine and St. Mark’s was a bit difficult to predict. Ten years ago, St. Mark’s was in a time of significant transition and uncertainty. After the “split” or what some called “the troubles” in 2004, St. Mark’s in 2006 was recovering from the trauma of losing its clergy and half of its membership over disagreements with the direction of the national Episcopal Church, especially the election of Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire. The search committee for a new rector settled on me, and I came to St. Mark’s in 2006 full of optimism and hope based on having met and gotten to know some of the strong and committed members of the church. I didn’t have a crystal ball, but I did have hope, and I still have hope for what is and will be happening at St. Mark’s. Hope is what Christianity is all about, that we as Christians are signs of hope to each other and to a world that is so often anxious and fearful.

Ten years seems to me to have gone by in a blink of an eye. As I reflect on what has happened and what we have done together, I realize that a blink contains many things. The highlights from my perspective include, in rough chronological order:

- Creating a companion relationship with San Marcos Church in Nigromante, Veracruz, Mexico in the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, which continues into its 11th year.
- In 2007 having a pumpkin patch at St. Mark’s for the benefit of DuPagePADS, which has continued every year since has raised over $56,000 for PADS; the patch brings color and many families to our corner of Glen Ellyn.
- Founding the St. Mark’s Preschool in 2010, which started with nine children and now has over 40 children and offers classes Monday through Friday.
- Expanding the St. Mark’s Parents’ Day Out Program from two days a week to five days a week, with today having full enrollment and a perpetual waiting list.
- The development of a useful and lasting vision statement, “Rooted in Baptism, Growing in Faith, Branching Out in the World.” So many vision statements are started with fanfare and end up in a drawer. St. Mark’s has been guided by ours and continues to be inspired by it.
- The 2009 Campaign for St. Mark’s, which raised $789,000 from our members and was matched by $600,000 from the Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of Chicago. This campaign to pay down debt, exceeded our original goal, was conducted during the Great Recession and put St. Mark’s on sound financial footing.
- The addition of the 9:15 a.m. Sunday service in 2010, which offers a one-hour or less worship service and a concurrent children’s program called JAM (Jesus and Me).
- Expanding the St. Mark’s commitment to the DuPagePADS overnight shelter program from the summer months only to every month of the year.
- The addition of a 1 p.m. service in Spanish in 2011. With this service, St. Mark’s has and is being transformed into a multilingual, multicultural Episcopal church, unique in our Diocese and one of a few in the entire United States.
- Icons in Transformation Exhibit in 2012 and the subsequent formation of the St. Mark’s Visual Arts Committee, which has opened our eyes to the beauty and power of art in our midst, while creating a cultural offering to our wider community.
- The Lifting Heart and Voice Campaign which raised $200,000 for the purchase of two grand pianos, completing our Walker Pipe Organ and funding an organ concert series, which begins in February. Jerry
and Tanya Carey provided the seed money which made the idea of a campaign feasible, and Paul and Annie Mahon provided a matching challenge that made it achievable with the contributions from many of our members.

- Steady growth in our membership and its commitment to St. Mark’s, from 150 pledges in 2007 to over 325 for 2016, and a Sunday attendance which averaged under 200 in 2006 and has exceeded 400 for the past three years.

While reflecting on the past ten years, I don’t want to short-change some of the highlights of 2015, which were significant and include:

- **Reading the Bible Together** – a church-wide effort to read the entire New Testament in eight weeks during Lent. Thanks to publisher Biblica, we received at no cost several hundred copies of the New Testament in an innovative and reader friendly format, conducive to a daily reading plan. Many of you read on your own, and others supplemented their reading with weekly group meetings to reflect on and discuss the readings.

- A number of significant improvement to our church **buildings and grounds**, including new concrete front steps and railings; new windows in the first floor office; fixes to the outdoor lighting; refinished and painted doors in the undercroft / PDO space; covering the unsightly opening in the chancel ceiling with drywall and an attractive vent grate; roof repairs and a well-implemented plan of maintenance to heating, cooling and safety systems.

- The completion of a **professional audit** of our finances in November, 2015 that showed robust procedures and transparency in reporting.

- **A tenth consecutive annual trip** to San Marcos, Nigromante, continuing our commitment to relationship, mutual respect and prayer with our brothers and sisters in a setting that is so different yet similar to ours here in Glen Ellyn.

- A men’s **breakfast series** which has featured talks by Bishop Lee, Bryan Campen and Randy Lewis.

- **WIT – Women in Touch** – a series of gatherings for all women of St. Mark’s.

- A fall sermon series called “What Every Christian Should Know” which included sermons by eight of our St. Mark’s clergy.

- A series of **adult forums** called “Meeting a Convert to Islam” where guest, Robert Benidettino, raised a Roman Catholic, shared his story of converting to Islam.

- **Victor Conrado** elected to serve on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Chicago, a key position of leadership and voice for the entire Diocese.

- Your rector was appointed **Dean of the Aurora** Deanery of the Diocese of Chicago, a geographical area with 13 Episcopal churches. The Dean serves a term of three years and meets several times during the year with other deans and the Bishop.

- The establishment of a **Music Maintenance Endowment**, thanks to the generosity of Tanya and Jerry Carey.

- Hiring **Chris Ponstein** as our St. Mark’s bookkeeper and assistant to the St. Mark’s Treasurer.

Now for the fun part of my report: what’s next? The difficulty of predicting the future (Danish proverb) is what makes it fun to do. What will the next ten years of the life of St. Mark's look like? One thing is certain, and that is change. The other is that we will continue to be living in a macro-environment that is challenging for mainline churches like St. Mark’s. Going to church on Sunday morning or at 1 p.m. is still common but not the dominant norm, and the trend away from church continues. Sunday mornings are for sports, shopping, and catching up on sleep. It’s not that most people are against church or even neutral. They like church and want to be a part of it, but there are so many competing and compelling alternatives and options to choose from. The challenge for St. Mark’s is to remain a relevant and compelling part of a diverse group of people’s lives. This is a challenge facing
all churches. Willow Creek church in South Barrington is planning to leave its existing campus and build a brand new facility that will feature a “parklike” atmosphere on 25 acres. We are not Willow Creek, and the way for St. Mark’s to be relevant and healthy is not complicated or difficult and does not require building a new building. We have the ingredients, and we need to remember and recommit to using them. A healthy church is one that combines humility, openness, humor, authenticity, curiosity and knowledge of its core claims and beliefs. As I have preached many times, Christianity is not complicated. It is about the love of God revealed to the world through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In our baptismal covenant, we promise with God’s help to respect the dignity of every human being. What are some of the things a relevant and healthy St. Mark’s will be doing in the coming years? Imagine with me:

- Expanding on our experience as a partner site for “Listen for a Change” with a commitment to seeing and understanding racism in our community and moving beyond simple answers.
- More partnerships with our neighboring Jewish and Muslim congregations.
- Renewing and growing a Stephen Ministry at St. Mark’s where more people are trained to be Stephen Ministers, in cooperation with other neighboring churches.
- Hiring a Communications Director to make our web site even better, more useful to the outside world and more connected to our church database.
- Starting a Planned Giving Ministry, where our members include St. Mark’s in their wills.
- Buildings and Grounds projects that will remodel the narthex, library and hallways on the first floor; improve the lighting in Mahon Hall; replace old windows in the office; add projection capability to the nave where images can be displayed on a movable screen or on the walls on either side of the cross; a permanent and visible sign at the corner of Main and Phillips; the use of “green” cleaning supplies and reusable dishes, glasses and utensils at all events.
- Forming a treble choir to fill the gap that exists between our chorister and adult choirs; trips to a new companion church, St. Mark’s, Washington, D.C.
- A “Walk from Lake Ellyn to Lake Michigan” – a 26 mile walk organized by St. Mark’s, seeing our wider community with new eyes and making new connections.
- A winter Farmer’s Market in Mahon Hall next January.
- Strengthening our financial base by increasing the number of household who make a pledge to St. Mark’s – 400 pledging households (versus 325 now).
- Asking every St. Mark’s household to invite one person to St. Mark’s in 2016, to a service on Sunday, to an art opening, an organ concert, a Preschool open house or to hear a special speaker.
- Becoming a partner church with Bridge Communities where St. Mark’s mentors and supports families as they transition from homelessness to a home and financial stability.
- Discerning and nominating one or more St. Mark’s parishioners to be a deacon, helping St. Mark’s hear and serve the needs of the world around us.
- Becoming even clearer that St. Mark’s is a church where all are welcome, creativity is encouraged and where we continue to try new things that help us see the love God in our midst.

As we plan and dream for the future, please join me in thanking those who have offered their time and talents so generously to St. Mark’s in the past year. Edna Heatherington is completing her two-year term as warden. I am truly grateful for her care, wisdom and commitment to her responsibilities as a warden. She has been particularly focused on making sure we have good procedures and documentation, and now plans to be the church liaison to our Boy Scout Troop 44 for the next two years. Andrew Dorn and Patty Weaver are completing their three year terms as members of the vestry. Andrew has been co-chair of the Giving Campaign for the past three years. Patty
has been a liaison to the St. Mark’s children’s ministries and the Preschool. Will Delany and Jocelyn Briones served as youth representatives to the vestry.

Please join me in thanking those who are beginning new leadership positions. We welcome new members to the vestry today: Ricardo Soto, Megan McGuire, and Flor Itzel Carmona, and replacement vestry members Lynn Dornblaser and Dan Lambert. Youth representatives for 2016 are Paige Hardy and Abraham Jimenez. Will Dunlo begins a three year term as one of our three delegates to Diocesan Convention.

One of the hardest working volunteers at St. Mark’s is Bill Novak, who steps down as our Treasurer today after a year of incredible dedication to the job of Treasurer. He has painstakingly documented every single procedure for the finances of the church, creating a three-ring binder encyclopedia. This work set the stage for hiring Chris Ponstein as our bookkeeper, the completion of a professional audit, and our next team of leadership, Harvey Dunham who will be our next Treasurer, and joined by Barbara Walden as Assistant Treasurer. Thank you Bill, Harvey and Barbara!

The coming year will be particularly triumphant for Charles Snider, our organist and choirmaster, as his now 25 year dream for the St. Mark’s organ is realized and celebrated with a truly remarkable concert series that debuts on February 26 when we welcome British organist, David Briggs who currently serves as organist for St. James Anglican Cathedral in Toronto. I am indebted to Charles for his persistence in seeing the organ completed, a gift to many future generations of St. Markers and to the wider community.

And lastly, I thank my wife, Cecilia, and our three children, Lydia, Frances, and Geo, for their unconditional love and support for me and my work at St. Mark’s over the past ten years.

With great optimism, I am looking forward to 2016 and the work we will do together.

Yours in Christ,

George+
Warden, Vestry, and Diocesan Delegate Nominees

We are pleased to announce the list of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee for the 2016 election to St. Mark’s Vestry. We have a total of five openings.

Senior Warden
Peter Vagt

Junior Warden
Joyce Fletcher

Vestry
Lynn Dornblaser, Flor Itzel Camona, Dan Lambert, Megan McGuire, Ricardo Soto

Youth Representatives
Paige Hardy, Abraham Jimenez

Candidates for Diocesan Delegate
Will Dunlop

For Senior Warden:

Peter Vagt: In 2007, we were invited by friends to St. Mark’s glorious Lessons and Carols service. Virginia and I loved the service and felt at home. So we started attending. The warm St. Mark’s welcome we received, and the vibrancy and sincerity of congregation and clergy, made us want to become regular attenders, to become part of things, and to join in to parish life. Another part of the wonderful St. Mark’s adventure has been becoming a multicultural and multilingual parish.

It has been an honor to be Jr. Warden this past year and it has been a joy working with Sr. Warden Edna Heatherington. Together we have supported George in planning vestry meetings and vestry activities, including the OneChurch get together in March and the Vestry Retreat in April at the Nicholas Center at the Diocese Center in Chicago in April. I am looking forward to all the joys, challenges and blessings that will come to me as Sr. Warden in 2016!

For Junior Warden:

Joyce Fletcher: My husband David and I started attending St. Mark’s in February 2000, along with our son Andrew who is now 27 years old. During the past 15 years at St. Mark’s, I have served on the Vestry, planned numerous retreats as an active member of the Women’s Retreat Committee, served on the St. Mark’s Visioning Committee, led Children’s Worship, served as a sub-deacon, and participated with the Parish Life Committee and the Coffee Hour Ministry. I retired at the end of October after 30 years as a counselor at College of DuPage. In the 15 years David and I have been involved at St. Mark’s we have witnessed many changes. We are at a strong place now with four unique services, mission trips to Mexico and Appalachia, and outreach to the community. I am honored to be nominated as Junior Warden and hope to be of service to the congregation as we continue to grow and serve in our community.
For Vestry:

**Lynn Dornblaser:** We (husband David and I) joined St. Mark's in early 2013. Since joining, we have been active in PADS, newcomers breakfasts, warming center, and more. I have also joined Daughters of the King. I work at a research company in Chicago, spending my time talking about and thinking about the trends that drive new product development for consumer products (the kinds of things you would buy in a grocery store). I very much appreciate and am so thankful for the warm and generous welcome given to us by the St. Mark's community, and am happy to have found a church home. I grew up in the Lutheran church, so find St. Mark's a very good fit. I hope my time on the vestry will allow me to give back to this great community and to do my small part to make St. Mark's even better.

**Flor Itzel Camona:** Mi nombre es Flor Itzel Camona, tengo 32 años y soy mexicana. Mi esposo, Rodolfo López y yo tenemos 3 hijos Frida de 13 años, Diego de 10 y Andrea de 5. Llegué a este país a la edad de 18, con la misma esperanza que muchos latinos llegamos aquí: tener una mejor calidad de vida. Dejando atrás familia, amigos y escuela. Mis primeros meses fueron bastante difíciles, otra cultura otro idioma. Con el tiempo, mi esposo y yo nos fuimos estableciendo y nos acostumbramos a este nuevo estilo de vida. Me encanta trabajar con niños y tengo 8 años trabajando y aprendiendo de ellos. 13 Dec 2015-Jan 2016 Llegamos a San Marcos en el año 2013 y desde entonces nos envolvimos mucho en las actividades y celebraciones en el servicio de la 1pm. También formo parte de la escuela dominical para niños entre 5 y 8 años. Este año formo parte del consejo parroquial, espero ser de mucha ayuda y dar lo mejor de mí.

**Dan Lambert:** I was born and raised in Wheaton, but spent 10 years in Massachusetts. My wife, and I moved back to the area and found St. Marks at the recommendation of our previous rector. He said "it looks friendly." He may have just looked at the website, but he was right. My wife, Darcie, my son, Robert (2) and I have quickly found St. Marks to be a vibrant and welcoming spiritual home. I have been serving on the Vestry on a temporary basis to fill a vacancy. I would welcome the opportunity to serve a full term and give back what I can to help keep St. Marks thriving.

**Megan McGuire:** I have been attending St. Mark’s for the past two years with my husband Drew and our son, Caden who is now 2. I was born and grew up in Loves Park, IL where I attended a Lutheran Church. I went to Elmhurst College, where I received my teaching degree in elementary education. I met my husband while teaching in Elmhurst and we got married in 2010. We have found St. Mark’s to be a wonderful fit for our family and is such an inviting place to come each week.

I currently teach fifth grade in Addison in a low income school. Each day, I am faced with challenges that these students bring in from their home life, but I find it rewarding at the same time. Teaching children is a passion of mine, so I enjoy each day and love to find new ways to engage them and help them become successful students. I look forward to serving on the vestry, if elected, and am excited for new opportunities to grow and meet new people at St. Mark’s.

**Ricardo Soto:** I have been living in Glen Ellyn since 2009 and am married to Anne Moriarty Soto. Together we have 2 children, Alejandro (Alex) and Norah. I am from Mexico City, where I lived until 2006 when we moved to Phoenix, AZ. In 2008 we moved to Chicago. I have an MBA from Vanderbilt University and work in Finance for a renewable energy company (wind turbines). We have been members of St. Mark’s since 2013. I enjoys sailing and biking with my family.
Youth Representatives to the Vestry:

**Paige Hardy:** I have attended St. Mark’s for almost my entire life. This coming year, I will serve as a youth representative. In the past, I have been a reader and a member of the youth choir. I am also a junior at Glenbard West High School, where I play clarinet in Marching Band and attend Spanish Club. In the future, I want to attend the University of Michigan and become a veterinarian.

**Abraham Jimenez:** I am a junior at Glenbard South High School. My grades overall are A's and B's. My hobbies are drawing, band, and math. At St Mark’s, I attend the 1:00 service, and I play drums when I am there. If I am free over the weekend, I help with being an acolyte. I went on the Mexico Mission Trip in 2013.

Diocesan Convention Delegate:

**Will Dunlop:** My wife, Betsy, and I started attending St. Mark's when we lived in Glen Ellyn for three years while finishing school. We moved to St. Charles a few years after becoming members, but decided to continue attending because we have always felt so comfortable with our St. Mark's family. Over the past few years I have helped with the Crop Walk and helped teach the 7th and 8th grade Sunday school classes.
Senior Warden’s Report

A year goes by very quickly, and yet is enough time for many events. In January of 2015, St Mark’s held a workshop for bilingual parishes in our diocese, to share our experience of three years of developing a bilingual and multicultural parish. We held our March vestry meeting jointly with the vestries and church councils of our sister parishes in OneChurch.

In her report on the tenth year of the St Mark’s annual visit to our companion parish San Marcos in Nigromante, Vera Cruz, Kim Reed recalls that when “we called George Smith to be our rector...he told us that to continue to heal, we needed to focus beyond our problems, beyond our building. He recommended a mission trip to Mexico....”

During 2015, Bill Novak served St Mark’s as Interim Treasurer and heroically compiled a manual recording the management of St Mark’s finances. Advised by the Finance Committee and guided by Bill’s outline of duties, we hired Chris Ponstein as bookkeeper at the beginning of September. Now Harvey Dunham is prepared to accept the responsibility as Treasurer, and Barbara Walden as Assistant Treasurer.

The Lifting Hearts and Voice campaign for the music fund concluded in June, and during the summer the technicians from Walker in England took our organ apart and installed new pipes to complete it. Peter Vagt took wonderful photographs of the inside of the organ and the work in progress. As we look ahead, Organist/Choirmaster Charles Snider has arranged a concert series with celebrated organists from late February through early June.

As our clergy and staff continued St Mark’s weekly and seasonal liturgies and programs, the changes of 2015 took our deacons to other assignments, Judy Jackson to the Cathedral and Miguel Briones to St Paul’s, Kankakee. Our seminarian intern, Maureen Elliott, was with us for the first half of the year and led Rector George Smith’s project for the parish to read together all of the New Testament.

Associate Rector Victor Conrado has now led us in our fourth year as a bilingual parish. Marsha Webster is Music Associate for Children’s Choirs, and also the leader of music for the Spanish-language services. Marsha teaches children to sing, plays organ and piano for many of our services, and leads and encourages members of the parish who share their musical skills to enrich our liturgies. In all of St Mark’s worship, formation, and parish life programs, our staff and the parishioners who participate and do the work of each activity have opportunities to know one another. With open hearts to join and meet one another, time, and attention to the guidance of our leaders, we can become the richer community we hope to be.

The vestry and the Finance Committee have prepared an ambitious budget for the year ahead. St Mark’s will become a Bridge Communities partner parish, which includes a serious financial commitment. With two part-time positions, bookkeeper and in the near future a communications consultant, and increased cost-of-living and other routine expenses, the proposed budget is ten percent greater than last year’s, and all of us are called upon to pledge and give to continue our parish work.

At the beginning of 2015, our Rector asked the vestry to review our Vision Statement: Rooted in baptism, growing in faith, branching out into the world. We spoke of many aspects of our parish life, and agreed repeatedly on our call to welcome all people. We continue to envision St Mark’s in the tree. Just as the prophet and the psalmist described God’s community more than 2600 years ago: like a tree planted by the waters, our leaves shall be green and we shall not cease from yielding fruit.

Edna Heatherington
# 2016 OPERATING BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 BUDGET</th>
<th>2015 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2016 BUDGET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Year Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledge Payments</td>
<td>$ 635,000</td>
<td>$ 611,513</td>
<td>$ 699,714</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Plate</td>
<td>$ 68,000</td>
<td>$ 60,638</td>
<td>$ 68,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Collections</td>
<td>$ 2,000</td>
<td>$ 6,288</td>
<td>$ 2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Raising Events</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
<td>$ 1,394</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts to Outreach</td>
<td>$ 7,500</td>
<td>$ 5,328</td>
<td>$ 7,500</td>
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<td>Prior Year Pledges</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Usage Income</td>
<td>$ 7,500</td>
<td>$ 10,339</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$ 12,100</td>
<td>$ 9,747</td>
<td>$ 12,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Lang Service</td>
<td>$ 18,333</td>
<td>$ 15,778</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mark's total revenue</td>
<td>$ 760,433</td>
<td>$ 721,025</td>
<td>$ 804,814</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mark's Pre-school</td>
<td>$ 93,000</td>
<td>$ 97,508</td>
<td>$ 93,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDO Cost Reimbursement</td>
<td>$ 85,000</td>
<td>$ 84,619</td>
<td>$ 85,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$ 938,433</td>
<td>$ 903,152</td>
<td>$ 982,814</td>
</tr>
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</table>

| **Expenses**         |            |             |             |
| Clergy Payroll (incl Benefits) | $ 235,950 | $ 229,381   | $ 244,983   |
| Other Expenses:      |            |             |             |
| Programs             | $ 20,700   | $ 20,426    | $ 25,700    |
| Music                |            |             |             |
| Staff                | $ 62,945   | $ 62,339    | $ 64,985    |
| Program              | $ 6,500    | $ 6,727     | $ 6,500     |
| Administration       |            |             |             |
| Staff                | $ 36,782   | $ 35,654    | $ 37,682    |
| Program              | $ 21,000   | $ 40,091    | $ 38,343    |
| Buildings & Grounds |            |             |             |
| Staff                | $ 20,454   | $ 22,357    | $ 20,454    |
| Program              | $ 195,765  | $ 189,197   | $ 195,765   |
| Our Children         |            |             |             |
| Staff                | $ 52,672   | $ 49,283    | $ 52,672    |
| Program              | $ 7,020    | $ 3,217     | $ 7,020     |
| M&O                  | $ 70,870   | $ 66,147    | $ 81,141    |
| Rectory Expenses     | $ 17,570   | $ 13,025    | $ 17,570    |
| Spanish Language Service |         |             |             |
| Staff                | $ -        | $ -         | $ -         |
| Program              | $ 12,000   | $ 9,447     | $ 12,000    |
| St. Mark's total expenses | $ 760,228 | $ 747,291   | $ 804,814   |
| St. Marks Pre-School | $ 93,000   | $ 93,929    | $ 93,000    |
| PDO Expenditures     | $ 85,000   | $ 81,437    | $ 85,000    |
| **Total Expenses**   | $ 938,228  | $ 922,657   | $ 982,814   |
| St. Mark's Net Total | $ 205      | $ (26,266)  | $ (0)       |
### Accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts</th>
<th>Current Balance (Last Year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1101.00 - Checking Community Bank</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1103.30 - Money Market Acct - Community Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>1106.00 - DK Checking</td>
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<tr>
<td>1107.00 - PPO-Checking</td>
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<tr>
<td>1109.00 - St. Mark's Preschool checking</td>
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<td>1215.00 - Wayne Hummer - Lewis</td>
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<td>1705.00 - Furniture and Fixtures</td>
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<td>2150.00 - Wedding Transmittal</td>
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<td><strong>Long Term Liabilities</strong></td>
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**Fund Balance**

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<td>Excess Cash Received</td>
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**Restricted Funds**

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<td>Total Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>Total Permanently Restricted</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, &amp; Restricted Funds</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Designated Memorial Funds

There are a number of designated memorial funds at St. Mark’s under these names: Ida Hanson, Bruce Mahon, Jean Lattan, Philip and Drew Carter, John Schmuck, Marion Hesterman, Peggy Scopinski, Dorothy Peterson, Keith Schoen, Jan Novak, Wick Goodspeed, Gary Leid, Peter Norton, and Robert Linde, with a combined balance totaling $13,999.80 as of 12/31/15. The amounts in the designated memorials are included in the temporarily restricted funds total in the balance sheet.

2016 Giving Campaign

Once again, serving on the Annual Giving Campaign was a rewarding and inspiring experience. Our committee this year chose to emphasize the number “10” in our publicity for St. Mark’s 2016 campaign. We highlighted 10 great facts about our parish, and at the same time emphasized our campaign’s intention to support a much-needed 10% budget increase for 2016.

Each August we begin our planning with the knowledge that, for St. Mark’s to be a thriving congregation and serve many, regular contributions are needed from all of us. And, as every year, we know that the Wardens and Vestry need to hear from all of us, in the form of pledges, in order to make a responsible budget that will support the ministries and congregational life of St. Mark’s.

We gathered a group together in the summer to brainstorm new approaches. As usual Javier Valdivia came up with lovely graphics and our overarching theme – the number “10”. As a result of our church’s significant growth, beginning with 2016, St. Mark’s will add two new paid positions: a Communications Coordinator, and an Accountant/Bookkeeper. These salaries mean significant budgetary increases. Additionally, St. Mark’s is increasing its local ministry support, becoming partnered with Bridge Communities to help the homeless in DuPage County. St. Mark’s will also be increasing our financial commitment to the Diocese of Chicago. These new ventures need your support for their financial underpinnings.

We also continue to strongly encourage electronic giving and online giving options, to help keep the church balance sheets more even and steady throughout the coming year, with regularized incoming monies and also improve the efficiency overall for the pledging and payment process.

Pledges have come in a record number (322 compared to 275 a year ago by January 15) and pledges have also arrived in a record amount ($675,000 compared to $615,000 by January 15 a year ago). We hope to achieve our ambitious financial goals of 330 pledged families and $700,000 in pledges.

Thank you, everyone, for your participation in the 2016 Giving Campaign. If you haven’t been able to return your pledge card yet, there’s still time and our goal is in sight! Our goal is 100% participation, at whatever commitment level is comfortable to you.

Your 2016 Giving Campaign Team,

Javier Valdivia, Andrew Dorn, Ellie Dunham

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

Thank you to those who so far have turned in a pledge for 2016. If you haven’t turned in your pledge, please email the treasurer at treasurer@stmarksengelly.org or submit your pledge online on the St. Mark’s web page.

Phil & Sarah Adler
Raul Aguilar & Maria Chavez
Chad & Rachel Alcorn
Sandy & Rinda Allison
Guillermo & Ana Lilia Alvarado
Guadalupe & Lucita Alvarado
Josh & Dihara Anbil
Jerry & Prilla Anderson
Dick & May Anstee
Rob & Lesley Arlasky
Doug & Julie Armantrout
Dave & Kris Baier
Margaret Barclay
Francisco & Belen Barrera
Jerry & Christy Becker
Michael & Tricia Benich
Carol Bennett
Tom & Jennifer Bergmann
Jerry & Linda Bertrand
Chris & Andrea Bilotti
Elliott & Mimi Black
Cory & Teresa Blalock
Carolina Blancas
Cory & Ali Blane
Michael & Rebecca Boskovic
Barbara Bradley
Dave & Ellen Brannegan
Keith Brickey
Jocelyn Briones
Miguel & Norma Briones
Bob & Connie Brooks
Sean & Jennie Burke
Gustavo & Dalia Cabrera
Higidio Camarillo & Esther Davalos
Bryan & Sam Campen
Miguel & Maria Cano
Bob & Ann Cardwell
Jerry & Tanya Carey
Joe Carlton
Eladio Carrillo & Maricela Gomez
Andy & Chris Carter

Chris & Karen Castelli
Paul-Gordon & Lynne Chandler
Jen Chavez
Rafael Chihuahua & Tomas Casas
George & Deirdre Churchill
Bruce & Hanna Clements
Barbara Colombo
Scott & Jess Commo
Dan Conaway
Victor & Lucia Conrado
Jose Contreras & Iliana Paez
Antonio & Irene Cortez
Rosio Covarrubias
David & Melissa Creech
Sue Crosson-Knutson
Craig & Ann-Marie Cudzilo
Gilberto & Rebeca Cuellar
Robin Currie & Bob Beeching
Stephen Curtis & Dianne Hunter
Dennis & Miriam Curtis
Keith & Amanda Cyzen
Bermundo & Yolanda Damian
Jennifer Davis-Johnson
Hugo & Alva De Casas
Roberto & Maria De Lara
Ryan & Julia Delack
Leslie Delaney
Inocencia Diaz
Todd & Ellen Dickey
Raymond & Cari Dinglasan
Dianne Dinse
Jeff & Elizabeth Diver
Pat & Karen Doran
Andrew & Jennifer Dorn
David & Lynn Dornblaser
Liam & Annie Dunch
Harvey & Ellie Dunham
Ryan & Jodee Dunham
Will & Betsy Dunlop
Walter & Dolores Dunnett
John Earley, Jr.
Brad Eaton & Amy Warman

Scott Eichenauer & Kim Lloyd-Eichenauer
Scott & Deanna Ellison
Daniel & Laura Ellison
Charlene Elwood
Pete & Abby Emerson
Carlos Escorcia & Claudia Reyes
Elia Espinoza
Jaime Esquivel & Carmen Solis
Karen Evans
Tom & Carin Fanter
Maria Fernandez
David & Joyce Fletcher
Frank & Charlotte Flores
Tim & Joyce Frawley
Jared & Gina Friebel
Kevin & Jody Friesen
Pat & Nikki Fry
David Funck & Jen Grant
Fildeberto & Lucila Galvan
Rafael Garcia & Michelle Roman
Manuel Garcia & Leticia Esquivel
Roque & Teresa García
Richard & Nancy Gier
John & Cindy Glavin, Jr.
Leonardo & Marilu Gomez
Javier Gonzalez & Alejandra Rubio
Lorenza Gonzalez
Mary Goodspeed
Myrra Grant
David Greengas & Eden Shadis
Steve & Kelly Gross
Jim & Kit Grothueschen
Michael & Tina Guglielmo
Joe & Tara Guidi
Anne Hacker
Matt & Patty Hafner
Audrey Halbeck
Merrilee Hall
Felicitas Hanandez
Rich & Melissa Hardy
Joyce Harper
Edna Heatherington
Peggy Heilig
Rad & Ilona Helin
José Hernandez & Marciana Moreno
Mauro Hernandez & Alejandra Montes
Esteban Hernandez & Ofelia Beltrán
Casimiro Hernandez & Hilda Gomez
Mary Hess
Steve & Amy Hess
Ron & Joyce Hetzel
Bill & Liz Heun
T.J. Hill & Renee Hughes
Karen Hill & Oo Thein Maung
Jeff Hill & Catharine Phillips
John & Bettye Hille
Suzi Holding
Perry & Tammy Hookham
Judy Jackson
Edith Jacobson
Joel & Teresa Jasso
Jim & Phyllis Jenkins
Abraham & Juana Jimenez
Felipe Jimenez & Laura Lopez de Jimenez
Chip Johnson
Gilda Jordan
Pat & Denise Joyce
Bob & June Judd
Ginnie Judd
Bill & Raleigh Kalbfleisch
Dan & Kathy Kelly
Molly Kennedy
Wade & Eileen Kennedy
Gretchen Kenower
Don & Rhonda Kent
Margaret Kidd
Randy & Heather Knotts
Bob Kopf
Ken & Gail Kramer
Alex & Eleanor Krause, Jr.
Gary Kreutz & Carolyn Faivre
Arthur & Jeanne Kreymer
Dan & Darcie Lambert
Don Lamont
Mel Lane
Jan & Steve Langford
Nancy Lanham
Leo & Elizabeth Lanzillo
Blake & Penny Latta
Brenda Laws
Dave & Amber Lemar
Bob & Pauline Lewis
Elizabeth Lewis
Terry & Elizabeth Lin
David Lincoln & Nancy Purcell
Wilma Linde
Zach & Jamie Littlefield
Montalvo & Maria Lopez
Alex Lopez & Lindsey Paris – Lopez
Rodolfo Lopez Solorzano & Flor Itzel Carmona
Bob Lundin
Paul & Annie Mahon
Guillermino Maldonado
Lou & Kristin Margaglione
Guido & Susan Mariottini
BB & Becky Markham
Fanny Martin
Bradley & Becky Martin
John & Janet Maurin
Ben & Pam Maxson
Gary Mazzio & David Danaher
Dave & Doris McCarraher
Roby & Laura McGovern
Drew & Megan McGuire
Ana Medina & Alicia Barraza
Bob & Susie Meehan
Julian & Ofelia Mendoza
Pat & Mandy Mercadante
Richard & Fiona Miller
Roberto Miranda & Paola Valdez
Clint & Jane Moore, III
Isabel Morales
David & Rosario Morales
Joe & Melody Mordini
Francisca Moreno & Porfirio Vivaldo
Marisol Moreno & Ricardo Gonzalez
Azucene Moreno
Fred & Dellana Mote
Dick & Sue Mylander
Barbara Newsom
Inocencio & Norma Nolasco
Teresa Norris
Heather Norton
Bill Novak
Greg & Marylu Olsen
Bob & Cheryl Olsen
Andres Olvera & Azucena Moreno-Hernandez
Dave & Stephanie Ott
Anna Panor
Sandi Perez
Peter & Petra Peterson
Carl Peterson
Mark & Martha Pefferman
Carrie Pihl
George Pliml
Jim & Jamie Plumb
Dave & Laurie Plumb
Greg & Alice Plutko
George Porter
Eve Poth
Dan & Helen Pradt
Jesús & Angelica Rebolledo
Lane & Kim Reed
Mike & Jennifer Reese
Ken & Cathy Reich
Mario & Rayna Reyes
Julio Reyes & Angeles Perdono
John & Susann Rhoades
Matt & Katie Riccio
Joey & Stephanie Rivera
Mark & Laura Roberts
Raul Rocha & Ereida Aguilar
Steve & Julie Rodriguez
Gody Rodriguez & Magda Sanchez
Keith & Pam Rojc
Sahid Rosas & Esmeralda Torres
Michael & Kristina Roth
Paul & Heidi Ruskusky
Bill & Susan Sallas
Karl Sandin & Laura Montgomery
Richard & Rebecca Sandrok
Steve & Kristin Sassi
Greg Schall
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<tr>
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Questions? Contact Giving Co-Chairs Ellie Dunham at elliedunham@gmail.com or Andrew Dorn at andrew_dorn@msn.com
Report on the Latino/Hispanic Experience at St. Mark’s

Annual Meeting 2016
Report on the Latino/Hispanic Ministry at St. Mark’s Glen Ellyn

I am writing this report in the midst of the news that the Anglican Communion has suspended the Episcopal Church from full participation in this body over its position on same sex marriage. This is yet another reminder to me that the work of truly welcoming and accepting another person is not an easy one. At the same time it is an invitation to deepen in dialogue and in the work of reconciliation. At St. Mark’s we have decided, long ago, to remain open and ready to start and continue with the conversation. We have made some important contribution in welcoming. We are celebrating four years of intentionally welcoming people me and people like me, Latinos/Hispanics, in our space, celebrations, and worship. We have seen the amount of growth that this has brought to us as individuals, families and community at large. It is important to recognize this space where the Status Quo is being challenged.

This work has been made possible because of the people who have invested their treasure, time and talents and have sacrificed family and work to be present. Some of them are: George Smith, Robin Curie, Marsha Webster, Kim Reed, and Kristin Margaglione; our teachers Itzel Carmona, Lucia Conrado, Laura Lopez, Alejandra Rubio, Alejandra Montes, Michelle Roman, Alejandra and Daniela Uribe, Patty Spencer, Cynthia Mote. I want to give thanks to Mauro Hernandez, Peter and Virginia Vagt, David Dornblaser, Alva de Casas, Julio Reyes and Angeles Perdomo, Francisco and Belen Barrera, Daughters of the King, Beremundo Damian, Edna Heatherington and our youth leaders Joseline Briones and Karen Jimenez. We are blessed to have them in our parish.

How are we challenging the Status Quo? As you can see the above list is very diverse in itself. This is not something common among Episcopal and other mayor denominations. The common practice is to have communities, of different socio-economic background, separated from each other and keeping their own spaces. This list shows how St. Mark’s grows more and more in the line of becoming a bilingual and multiethnic congregation. And this is something worth noticing to you that our parish community is Rooted in Baptism in a way of respecting the dignity of every human being. We have welcomed many families on Sundays. Many of them have come looking to continue with their sacramental life. They have brought their children to be baptized, to receive their first communion, to be confirmed. Other important aspect of respect is the acceptance and participation in some important cultural celebrations along this year. Our photos show how St. Mark’s face has changed and grown. Latino/Hispanic members of our congregation feel that they can celebrate their birthdays, quinceañeras, day of the dead, posadas, rosca de reyes, etc. Our experience has been rooted in baptism when we respect the dignity of every human being. Yes, we have challenges in this experience. We want to expand the list. We know that not everyone wants to go out of his or her comfort zone. But we want to invite many more to experience a different service on Sunday.

Growing in Faith has been a reality at St. Mark’s. We have welcome many to our different adult, youth and children formation opportunities. One of the most important outcomes of this formation is that, those who attend it are able to challenge their traditionalist faith perception. We are offering formation on Sundays, Wednesdays and during our home visits. We talked about the sacraments, faith connections to the day-to-day. This year, we have made a clear emphasis on our identity as the Episcopal Church. We define ourselves by what we are and no by what we are not. This has helped us see that the people who stay and want to be part of St. Mark’s have a clear idea of what we are and what we offer to the. It is an experience of journeying together with other people who want to deepen their faith life. Growing in faith has helped us bring issues of race and immigration in our forums. We have talked about finances and the ways we can improve them. One of the
challenges that we have experienced this year is that some members don’t stay after receiving the sacraments. We have seen the need to grow in volunteer’s service in the church.

Branching Out into the World – St. Mark’s has presented a model that works when talking about bilingual and multiethnic congregations. We have a story to tell to the Diocese of Chicago and the national church. We have been invited to share our experience in Diocesan events as well as national events. I am convinced more than ever that we, at St. Mark’s, are a witness of unity in diversity. This branching out to the world means that we consider our gifts, gifts of the wider church. We had helped in opening a new experience at St. Paul’s Kankakee. The challenged we have seen along this year is the involvement of lay Hispanic/Latino leaders in the discussion and sharing what we are living at St. Mark’s. This year we had members of the 1pm service that have joined the Appalachia Service Project and the Mexico mission trip as well as in PADS and other programs.

We are reevaluating our ESL and Bible Study programs as well as inviting 1pm parishioners to keep their pledges for 2016. Our ESL program was run by College of DuPage and due to some economic restrain they close our program. This is helping us to talk to our 1pm parishioners and to get them more involved in recreating this program at St. Mark’s. The Bible Study and Prayer Group that normally meets on Wednesday is entering into a new face. We have seen that for many it is hard to come during the week to St. Mark’s. We are now visiting them at their homes. We have what we call the Pilgrimage with our Virgin of Guadalupe. We are going to strengthen this moment and invite families to create prayer moments in their homes. We will continue with our formation program on stewardship. We know that investing our Time, Talent, and Treasure is a continuous formation program for adults and children.

We are a bilingual and multiethnic parish. We want to celebrate four years of intentionally welcoming our Latino/Hispanic brothers and sisters in our parish community. We are playing an important role in reformulating many religious and cultural convictions in their lives. We are helping many to be rooted in baptism, to grow in faith, and to branch out into the world. This is not an easy task. We have gone beyond of what others have done in creating a bilingual and multiethnic community and we are invited to continue.

I thank God for the life and ministry of my wife Lucia and my two sons David and Daniel. They have been a great support and have helped me be present at St. Mark’s. They have helped me live and understand what it means to love someone.

Yours in Christ,

Victor+
Reunión de Anual
Ministerio Hispano/Latino Parroquia Episcopal de San Marcos

Ya ha pasado un año de muchas actividades y retos para todos y todas en San Marcos. Nos encontramos en medio de unas sanciones impartidas por la Comunión Anglicana a la Iglesia Episcopal debido a su posición relacionada a la bienvenida que se les da a todas las personas homosexuales y la opción que se ha tomado por celebrar matrimonios entre personas del mismo sexo. Esta realidad nos recuerda que cosas dar la bienvenida de forma radical, como lo hacemos en San Marcos, es el camino con más retos, pero al mismo tiempo, el que da vida abundante a todos/as. Hay una forma de pensar y de actuar que nos lleva a dividir y discriminar que se está haciendo normal en muchos sitios. Nosotras/os hispanas/os lo sabemos y lo hemos experimentado en carne propia. Es por esto que nuestra respuesta debe ser siempre la de la bienvenida a las demás personas no importando su situación económica o social. Dar la bienvenida a la otra persona como a mí me han dado la bienvenida.

Este trabajo lo hemos logrado a lo largo del año 2014 gracias a la entrega y compartir de Talentos, Tiempo y Tesoro de muchos de ustedes. Quiero reconocer a algunas personas: George Smith, Robin Curie, Marsha Webster, Kim Reed, and Kristin Margaglione; nuestras profesoras Itzel Carmona, Lucía Conrado, Laura López, Alejandra Rubio, Alejandra Montes, Michelle Román, Alejandra and Daniela Uribe, Patty Spencer, Cynthia Mote. Doy gracias a Mauro Hernández, Peter and Virginia Vagt, David Dornblaser, Alva de Casas, Julio Reyes and Ángeles Perdomo, Francisco and Belen Barrera, Daughters of the King, Beremundo Damian, Edna Heatherington and our youth leaders Joselino Briones and Karen Jiménez. Somos bendecidos por tenerlos/as en nuestra parroquia.

Como pueden ver la lista es diversa e incluye a personas que hablan español e inglés. Esto nos muestra de primera mano que San Marcos y lo que vivimos lo realizan muchas personas convencidas de que no podemos permanecer aislados/as. Hay que reconocer y valorar la presencia de las otras personas, especialmente aquellas que son diferentes a mí.

Estamos Enraizados en el Bautismo y esto nos hacer iguales y desde aquí nos lanzamos, durante el año pasado, a compartir nuestras tradiciones y respetar la de los demás. Tuvimos un gran éxito en la cooperación y colaboración durante los eventos que organizamos (fiesta de Reyes, celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe, Kermess). Lo más importante de estos eventos fue que nos dimos a conocer a la parroquia y comunidad en general.

Retos – Uno de los grandes retos que tenemos en esta área es el de saber dar la bienvenida e integrar a las personas y familias nuevas que llegan a nuestra parroquia. San Marcos no es de unos pocos. San Marcos es de todos/as y por esto queremos que se envuelvan.

Creciendo en la Fe ha sido nuestro lema en este año. Queremos que las personas sientan, durante la formación de adultos, jóvenes y niños/as, que crecen y maduran en su fe. Hemos enfatizado que San Marcos es una Iglesia Episcopal. Tenemos muchas cosas buenas que compartir con toda la comunidad. Hemos sentido que esto nos ayuda a cimentar nuestras raíces y nos permite comunicar mejor lo que somos. Él estar seguros de quien somos nos ha ayudado a compartir más generosamente nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro.

Retos – Hemos dado la bienvenida a muchas familias que han venido en busca de los sacramentos y muchas se han ido y no han quedado muy envueltas con San Marcos. El reto es que queremos envolver lo más posible a estas familias durante este tiempo de formación. Estamos invitados a dar la bienvenida.

Proyectándonos al Mundo es el resultado final de todo lo que hacemos en San Marcos. No estamos aquí para ser un grupo cerrado. No, estamos aquí porque queremos ser fermento de cambio para todos/as. A lo largo del 2014 pudimos participar y mandar responsables para diferentes encuentros de jóvenes y adultos al nivel de la diócesis. Esto nos ha ayudado a comunicar nuestra experiencia desde muchos ángulos y puntos de vista. Gracias a la visión
que se tenemos de ser una parroquia que comparte sus recursos con otras comunidades, hemos compartido nuestra experiencia con San Pablo en Kankakee.

Retos – Invitar a las personas que se envuelvan en diferentes y participen en eventos en representación de San Marcos para que compartan estas experiencias en momentos de formación.

Entramos en una etapa en la que queremos reevaluar y dar otro enfoque a nuestros programas. ESL – Inglés como segunda lengua. Este era programa dirigido por College of DuPage. Por una reestructuración importante de recursos y personas ya no podrán seguir en San Marcos. Ahora queremos envolverlos en la discusión y ver en dónde y cuándo podemos implementar este programa o si ha llegado el momento de cerrarlo.

Grupo de Oración y Estudio Bíblico – Este programa lo tuvimos los miércoles a las 7:30 PM. Debido a cambios en la participación, hemos decidido evaluar su importancia. Queremos saber si hay propuestas concretas de días y horas en que lo queramos tener.

Esta dinámica de envolvernos en la discusión nos ayudará a entender que los programas no están para siempre de la forma como los vemos en un principio. Es también una buena prueba para aprovechar mejor nuestros recursos.

Hay retos económicos que debemos asumir para que esta experiencia siga creciendo y se fortalezca. Debemos envolvernos todos/as en esta tarea cumpliendo con nuestras promesas y creando otras fuentes de ingreso para nuestra parroquia.

Somos una parroquia multicultural y bilingüe. Debemos profundizar en este modelo de vida y tomar nuestra responsabilidad para esta experiencia siga siendo parte de nuestra. Estamos ayudando a muchos/as a que sigan enraizándose en el Bautismo, creciendo en la fe y proyectándose al mundo. Esta experiencia vale la pena. Convéncete de que si tenemos algo que ofrecer a nuestras nuevas generaciones.

Estoy muy agradecido por mi esposa Lucia. Sin su apoyo y compañía no podría ejercer de forma eficaz este ministerio. Le doy gracias por su gran ayuda en la casa con nuestros hijos David y Daniel. Ellos son la razón por la que queremos ofrecer algo diferente en la iglesia.

Sigamos unidos/as en la oración.

Respetuosamente,

Víctor+
Children and Youth Formation

Children’s Ministry: Nursery through 5th grade

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

Nursery
Norma Cid, supervised our nursery and has been with us for 18 years. She relies on 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, as well as the 11:30 Sunday School. Thank you to Stephanie Rivera, Farrll Turner, Isabel Grant-Funck, Petra Peterson, Rebecca Boskovic, Annie Dunch, Ellen Dickey, Kendall Arlasky, Sydney Arlasky, Jeff Hill, Nancy Gier, Jennifer Vincent, Liz Valdivia, Delany Gross, Carrie Gowans, Kristina Roth, Abby Emerson and Evelyn Cabera. Norma and her daughter Jocelyn or Nura Tomain stay until 2:30 pm on Sunday afternoons to offer childcare. We average 17 children in the nursery each Sunday.

Sunday School
At 10:15, Sunday school classes are offered for children age 3 through fifth grade. This Sunday School group are using year one of our online accessible curriculum called “Weaving God’s Promises” that was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. It offers suggested activities and crafts by 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 13th this year and will go through May 22. We have a 3-4 year old class, K-1 class, 2nd grade class, 3rd grade class and a 4-5th grade class. We average 17 children per class each Sunday.

At 10:15 there is a class geared for children with special needs, called Allies. This class currently serves three children with various needs. They use both Godly Play materials and “Weaving God’s Promises” to enhance their instruction.

We added one more classes this year at 12:00. We now have one afternoon SLS Sunday School class for Preschool-Second Grade and one for Third-Fifth Grade, both using Godly Play in Spanish. Attendance has been 3-4 children per class.

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers. At 10:15 Sunday School, we have the following volunteers:

Preschool 3s and 4s: Amanda Cyzen, Nancy Lanham, Heidi Ruskusky, Alison Roberts, Kim Lloyd-Eichenauer, Alice Plutko, Claire Margaglione, Molly Hughes, Liam Dunch

Kindergarten-First grade: Deirdre Churchill, Nancy Lincoln, Terri Thomalla, April Sedall

Second: Jennifer Davis-Johnson, Denise Joyce, Carney Noensie, Chip Johnson

Third: David Greengas, Patty Weaver, Carrie Pihl

Fourth-Fifth: Rachel Alcorn, Denise Joyce, Amy Kaminski, Jenna Kelly

Allies: Katie Tebrugge, Darcie Lambert
At 12:00, we have the following dedicated volunteers:

PreK-2: Laura Lopez, Alejandra Montes and Itzel Carmoda
3-5: Lucia Conrado, Alejandra Rubio and Patricia Spencer

**Jesus and Me (JAM)** This class offers the Godly Play approach on Sunday mornings during the 9:15 a.m. service for our youngest members, ages 4-8 years old. We average 8-9 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, Anne Soto
- Greeters: Melody Mordini, Maureen Isphording, Lindsey Paris-Lopez

**Vacation Bible School**
The VBS theme this year was Everest. We kicked off early registration May 3rd with a decorating and craft party in Mahon Hall. We set up stations and got a jump on making props and decorations needed for VBS. The actual VBS morning camp was held July 20-24th and we were filled to capacity this year with 64 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 an outstanding group of adult leaders. Thank you leaders Megan McGuire, Kristina Roth, Sarah Adler, Patty Weaver, Jocelyn Briones and Rebecca Boskovic. Thank you to all our assistants who assisted the children and helped guide them from activity to activity. These helpers were Erin Delany, Sarah Delany, Claire Margaglione, Christina Sedall, Rachel Harris, Myrna Grant, Mia Grant-Funck, Izanah Hill, Ingrid Anderson, Heather Luttenton, Julia Dorn, Marilyn Boskovic, Jonathan, Heidi Ruskuski, Isabel Barrea, Abraham Jimenez, Alma Barrea, Delany Gross, Farrell Turner, Erin German, Karen Jimenez, William Lanzillo, Timmo Curtis and Alex Margaglione.

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

- **St. Mark’s Superstars Drama Camps** – There was a one-day drama camp held Jan 2nd. The morning group of 4-6 year olds had 10 excited participants and there were 30 in the afternoon group of 7 year olds and older. St. Mark’s also hosted 22 children (first grade through seventh grade) to a four day 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.

- **Group Sunday School K-5th** In January 2015, Steve and Kelly Gross led a Group Sunday School and made PADS care packs for the homeless. In May, Thrivent presented to parents ways to teach your child to be financially responsible while I taught the children separately. October, Todd Jabbay came and did a magic show with a biblical message called Multiplying Rabbits and Laughter. Pastor Robin ran our next Group Sunday School, focusing on sharing her biblical books and the process which she uses in her writing. The children were lucky to have a visit again this year from Bob Raczk, author of many books. He presented his latest book, Santa Clauses: Short Poems from the North Pole and offered the children a glimpse of his soon to be published book of concrete poems.

- **Advent Wreath Making** – Offered on the first Sunday of Advent at 11:45 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 enjoyed using the script written by parishioner/playwright Robert Lundin again this year. Amber Lemar directed the flawless pageant to a full house. “St. Mark’s Christmas Pageant 2016” was presented on December 20 during the 10:30 service. 64 children were cast in the production and did a
wonderful job. We had a wonderful core team of volunteers: Marsha Webster—Music, Megan McGuire—Director’s Assistant, Ellen Dickey—Angel Mom, Kelly Gross—Angel Mom, Kristina Roth—Sheep Mom, Patty Hafner—Shepherd Mom, Susan Sallas—Shepherd Mom, Karen Hill—Costumes, Gayle Todd—Sheep Mom. Thank you to Cheryl Olsen who made several last minute angel costumes for us this year!

Outreach

- **Birthday Boxes**—In 2015, we started a new outreach to the PRC. Children were to earn money around their houses to help purchase a small toy to give to a child ages 1-12 who pick out birthday gifts at the PRC. It was quite a success.

- **Glen Ellyn Food Pantry**—Starting in September, the Sunday School classes have been taking turns bringing in donations for the food pantry. I have been keeping track of the donations on a graph in the Undercroft. This has increased our donations to the food pantry over last year.

- **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 4th annual pumpkin decorating contest during the 11:45 coffee hour during late October. In total we raised $348.04 for UNICEF.

- **St. Nicholas Luncheon**—This annual luncheon was held on December 6, and Mahon Hall was full again this year. Participants raised hundreds of dollars in gift cards, cash, and toys for the Peoples Resource Center. Brynn Wulf organized the decorating and Kathy Kelly arranged a lovely warm meal. David Fletcher (our very own St. Nicholas) brought great stories and treats to the children. Thank you to Lou Margaglione and Steve Gross for managing the registration table. Thank you also to Katherine Littlefield and Kate Adler by entertaining the crowd by playing piano and offering live music for the luncheon. Other important helpers for the luncheon were Beth Treleven, Patty Weaver, Stephanie Toppen, Pamela Rojc, Adela Sexaur, Emily Sexaur, Claire Margaglione, Alex Margaglione, and Anne Soto.

- **St. Mark’s Preschool and Parents Day Out**—I serve on the board of the PDO program and am in regular communications with both the Preschool and the PDO to keep synergy between the groups. Our preschool was offered 5 days this year, with one offering as a studio arts program. PDO was full again this year and operates 5 days a week.

Kristin Margaglione

**2015 Youth Ministry Report**

At St. Mark’s, we want youth to feel connected and to know that they are a valued and necessary part of our community. We encourage their participation in all aspects of parish life—worship, education, service, and governance—and in the broader Church as well. Below is a summary of what was offered in 2015.

- We have two sessions of **Sunday School** classes for youth. At 10:15, we have 6th grade, 7th & 8th grade, and a high school class, and at noon, there are two Sunday School classes for youth, a middle school class and a high school class. Teachers for youth classes are: Graham Smith, George Churchill, Nancy Purcell, Dan Kelly, Will Dunlop, Steve Webster, Chad Alcorn, Cynthia Mote, Michelle Roman, Alejandra Uribe, Daniela Uribe, and Pastor Robin Currie.

- We offer a **Middle School Youth Group** that meets the third Wednesday of the month during the school year and is led by Jocelyn Briones and Teresa Norris. This year, we are combining with the high school group when it makes sense to do so. Both take place on the third Wednesday. Last January, St. Mark’s middle schoolers joined St. Pets for one of their Friday Night offerings. Other highlights included dodgeball with First United Methodist Church and the annual Christmas party.
• Twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays, we have the **High School+ Youth Group**. “Plus” because we have a few students recently out of high school who would like to be included. This group is led by Myles and Jess VanCamp. In October, we combined with the middle schoolers and First United Methodist of Glen Ellyn for an evening of dodgeball, root beer floats, and pumpkin decorating, spending time at both churches. Two other highlights were the Summer Parking Lot Cookout and the Christmas Potluck Dinner Party.

• **Confirmation** is offered to those currently in 8th grade and older, but we begin the process in 7th grade. Many of our 7th and 8th graders currently are meeting with mentors. In November, they attended the first of two evening confirmation retreats. A similar retreat will be offered for those in high school (and older) who would like to be confirmed when the bishop visits on April 24, 2016. Twenty-nine youth were confirmed at St. Mark’s in April 2015, and eight youth and two adults, at the Hispanic Liturgy at St. James in October 2015.

• **Youth Bridge Group** continues on the first Sunday of the month, to coincide with St. Mark’s Sunday with PADS. We make PADS lunches during this time, offer a variety of programs, and have pizza. This past fall, parishioner Kelly Gross met with us two months in a row to discuss public art and homelessness. The youth visited the Glen Ellyn Public Library to observe a bench designed to prevent people from sleeping on it, discussed the lack of public bathrooms in the community, and made personal care kits for the homeless. Youth Bridge Group is an opportunity for youth from the morning to integrate and work with youth from the afternoon.

• **Youth have been asked to participate in worship** as acolytes, ushers, subdeacons, chalice bearers, musicians, and readers. There was a youth-led Taize service during Lent with guest participants from St. Pets (coordinated by our music associate, Marsha Webster). For **All-in Sundays**, the last Sunday of the month, we have encouraged youth to attend and participate in worship (there is no Sunday School for youth on those Sundays).

• **Youth are volunteering** at PADS, helped with the St. Mark’s pumpkin patch, and are working at the People’s Resource Center’s Food Pantry. Once again, a group from Glenbard West (which included some of our youth) along with Boy Scout Troop 44 participated in Sleep Out Saturday this past November, sleeping outside at St. Mark’s to raise money for Bridge Communities. Special thanks to Troop 44 for the use of their tents and their participation, to Mallory Holding and Jim Grotelueschen for chaperoning, and to Fiona Miller and Ginnie Judd for providing breakfast.

• This fall, there was a **parent meeting** held at the home of Julie and Hunter Walor to discuss youth opportunities at St. Mark’s.

• **Two youth served on Vestry in 2015**: Jocelyn Briones and Will Delany. Nathan Littlefield was a youth delegate at the **Diocesan Convention**. Karen Jimenez attended, too, participating in conversations about youth in the Diocese. The two youth representatives for the **2016 Vestry** will be Abraham Jimenez and Paige Hardy.

• Cynthia Mote continues as our **college intern**. Cynthia, a long-time parishioner, is a junior at Elmhurst College. Cynthia helps teach the two high school classes on Sundays, helps lead the Youth Bridge Group, and assists with other youth events.
• **Mexico Mission Trip:** 12 youth and adults traveled to our companion parish in Nigromante in June, continuing the relationship that began in 2006. This year, 2016, we celebrate our 11th visit to San Marcos. Fundraising and planning are ongoing. Please see the Mexico Mission Trip Report for more information.

• **Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Trip:** 8 youth and adults went to Martin, KY for a third year, to help repair homes of needy families. The group raised funds with a flower sale that helped offset the cost of the trip for the individuals going, and then they paid for the van and gas with their “The House That St. Mark’s Built” fundraiser. Plans for a 2016 July Trip are underway. Please see the ASP Mission Trip Report for more information.

• **Jr. High Mission Camp:** St. Mark’s offered a Jr. High Mission Camp at Herrick Lake in August that included an overnight in the historic youth cabin at this DuPage County Forest Preserve. Special thanks to Christina Sedall, Timo Curtis, Isabel Camarillo, Lane Reed, Teresa Norris, Jocelyn Briones, Diana Damian, and George Smith for their help and participation.

• **Hispanic Youth Event:** Jocelyn Briones, Erin Delany, Alma Barrera, and Isabel Barrera helped organize activities for this Diocesan-wide event, which took place at St. Helena in Burr Ridge. Karen Jimenez did the artwork for the publicity.

• **St. Mark’s and Diocesan Retreats:** Youth participated in St. Mark’s evening retreats and those sponsored by the Diocese, which included January’s Miqra Retreat, where we collectively read the entire Bible over a long weekend and a two-night Happening Retreat for High Schoolers, which took place at St. Mark’s in March.

• **Summer College Intern Program:** Three high school/college interns worked at St. Mark’s this summer: William Lanzillo, Julia Dorn, and Christina Sedall. They helped with Children’s and Youth Ministries, assisted the office manager and music associate, worked with the Finance Committee, and participated in and helped facilitate Adult Ed.

• Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)! St. Mark’s has three private Facebook pages, one for Middle School, one for High School, and one for the Mexico Mission trip. We are in the process of creating one for the ASP trip. If you would like to join any of those pages, please let us know. You can also follow us on Twitter @stmarksyouthge1.

St. Mark’s continues to be blessed by its youth, their families, and all those who work with them!

Kim Reed, Youth Ministry Coordinator
**Boy Scout Troop 44**

Troop 44 Mission Statement

Troop 44 is a Boy Scout Troop that is affiliated with St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn. Our goal is to shape the character of boys into the leaders of tomorrow with an upstanding moral and ethical character. This is accomplished by having the boys be active leaders within the Troop and by having them plan and run outings and meetings and perform community service activities.

Our Troop currently consists of 9 active boys and 2 boys that occasionally show up. Boy scouts in general range from 10-18, but our boys are 10-14. As you can see, we have a young Troop and lack the older boys to guide the younger boys. This guidance is therefore placed upon the adult leaders of the Troop. This can sometimes be a tricky situation because we want the boys to be leading, but they don’t always have the knowledge base that is needed.

Our scouting program has strengthened in the last year. Although we lost some members, we have new members who have stepped up and are dedicated to the scouting program. During the past year, our Scouts have implemented a yearly outing calendar. They planned a camping outing every month, except December (due to the busy holiday season), and have actually gone on the camp outs. They are also becoming more instrumental in planning their weekly meetings. Some of the camp outs that they have planned included hiking, skiing, canoeing, orienteering and different cooking methods. Their day outings have included museums, skating, hiking, bike riding, fishing, go carting and swimming. Scouting is not just about fun activities, it also teaches the boys to be compassionate and to give back to the community. The boys have performed several hours of community service helping PADS, IIT, St. Mark’s, the Village of Glen Ellyn, and the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry to name a few.

In 2016 we plan on strengthening our program and solidifying the values that we have begun to teach the boys. Hopefully we will have more new scouts join our Troop and the boys will begin to teach the younger scouts, a true way to evaluate how well we are teaching and guiding our boys. Thank you for sponsoring us in this valuable mission.

**Adult Formation**

The Adult Forum is typically held on Sunday mornings, often with multiple presentations to accommodate everyone's schedule. It is a place to gather together, learning and growing in our faith. In 2015 the forum consisted of lectures, presentations and TED-style video talks. The forum is place for open and honest discussion and everyone is welcome and encouraged to share their perspective.

Presenters at the forum in 2015 were as varied as the topics discussed – we had experts in our church community sharing their knowledge on a particular topic and we brought in individuals from the larger community to share their experiences. Topics ranged from depression to understanding Islam. As we move into 2016, we hope to continue to come together as a community, learning, exploring and finding new ways to grow in knowledge and faith.

Dan Lambert
Music

The year 2015 proved to be a very positive year for our music program. I am deeply grateful for Marsha’s coordinating work in involving many parishioners, besides those in the choirs, in various opportunities for presenting their musical talents. From Taize services led by our youth group to Evensong recitals, we are continuously discovering the impressive amount of talent with which we have been blessed in this parish.

Early on in the year the committee was formed for the purpose of guiding our capital campaign for the music program, “Lifting Heart and Voice”. Chaired by Ellie Dunham it included Marsha Webster, Karl Sandin, George Smith, Amy Joyce, Javier Valdivia, and myself. I am so very grateful to these people for their time, help, and guidance with this campaign which brought us to a most successful conclusion. I am also especially grateful to the people of St. Mark’s who so generously offered their gifts toward the support of music in this parish, and especially to Tanya and Jerry Carey for their significant and valuable encouragement of this project.

By summertime the new pipes for the organ had arrived from England and the installers began their work. This included removing over 1,700 individual pipes from the case and storing them in the choir room while each one of them was cleaned individually, as well as the interior of the case itself. Once that was completed, the pipes were returned to their places, along with the new pipes which were being added to complete the organ. At this point 1,987 pipes had to be individually tuned. In addition, one brave installer climbed to the top of the organ case to add the rotating gold star that is part of the new Cymbelstern which makes a heavenly and ethereal sound of tinkling bells when used. Perhaps you were able to hear it during the Christmas services.

Marsha and I both have so very much enjoyed playing this completed instrument, and many parishioners have commented quite favorably on the richer and fuller tone the organ now provides. But it would be selfish for the two of us not to share. Again, because of the generosity of the people of this parish, we will be able to offer a series of concerts where this organ will be placed in the talented hands of four of the most prominent concert organists of today. Every year the American Guild of Organists holds a nation convention, usually attended by two to three thousand guests. You don’t get invited to play for a gathering like that unless you are among the very best. It wasn’t until after I had booked all four of our performers that I found out that not one, not two, but three of them had also been invited to play for the national conference in Houston in June! I cannot encourage you enough to avail yourself of the opportunity to hear four such amazing performers.

I want to say again that the musical talent of this parish lies not just with the organized choral groups, but with many people who have gifts to share. We are especially excited to see so many young musicians stepping forward to play in services and other events. With Marsha’s help we are able to involve everyone from babies and toddlers to those of many years and experience in numerous and varying opportunities for music. And speaking of Marsha, her work in this program is both essential and priceless. It would not be possible to find anyone who could do all that she does with such kindness, cheerfulness, and humor. To her, to the members of each of the choirs, to all the volunteer musicians, the members of this parish, and to the entire parish staff I offer my sincerest gratitude for the privilege of making music in this place.

Charles Snider
Organist and Choirmaster
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8 Stopped Flute
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Music Associate

The following is a report of my work in the music area for 2015.

Cherub Choir – Preschool 3s and 4s Sunday School Classes
I visit the preschool Sunday School class when it is in session. The children sang in church on Mother’s Day.

Chorister Choirs – Kindergarten – 1st grade and 2nd – 5th grades
The Choristers follow the school year calendar, rehearsing on Wednesdays. After a very successful end of the 2014-2015 school year, it was decided to break the group into two choirs. In September, we started the year with K-1 Choristers rehearsing 4:00 – 4:40 and 2nd – 5th Grade Choristers rehearsing 4:45 – 5:30. Each choir sings once a month during the 9:15 service and at Christmas the choirs sang together, including special anthems for the Christmas pageant. The offering of two groups has resulted in a doubling of our Chorister numbers from 13 to 25 and now includes participation of school friends of Choristers. My goal is hold the interest of these singers for years to come so that we can offer choral opportunities for all ages. Special thanks go to my accompanists, Marilyn Justus, Katherine Littlefield and Karl Sandin. I would be lost without them.

Music for Youth – 6th Grade – Senior High
We have involved youth in music on an intermittent basis. While I scheduled rehearsals with the hope of presenting an anthem for Christmas, there were not enough youth available to participate. Perhaps an offering at a less busy time of the year would be more successful. However, on a positive note, we did offer a youth led Taize service of prayer during Lent in 2015 and we intend to repeat that offering in 2016. Additionally, I assisted Kim Reed in Christmas caroling with the middle school group. I also recruited youth to play in a Christmas pageant ensemble and to play solos for worship.

A Choir for the 9:15 service
The 9:15 choir is in its fourth year, providing music leadership for the 9:15 service once a month. Our loyal group of singers grew with two new members and we rehearse a “hymn anthem” at 8:45 on the morning we sing in worship. Music and mp3 files are often sent in advance to help choir members prepare. Newcomers are always welcome and I am in regular contact with those who express an interest in singing at St. Mark’s.

Special musicians – Summer, 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. services
I worked with a number of youth and adult musicians from the congregation, who provided a special solo or ensemble piece of music each Sunday while the choir was on summer break. Several musicians also contributed their talents for the 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. services through the program year. These included, but are not limited to: Elise Olsen, flute; Amelia Benich, violin and piano; Isabel Bergmann, violin, Sarah Delany, bass; James Van Camp, guitar; Katherine Littlefield, piano; Lina Benich, soprano; Liam Dunch, bass; Cari Dinglason, soprano; Rebecca Sandrok, violin/viola; Amy Joyce, soprano; Eric Dinse, guitar; Tanya and Jerry Carey, cello and flute; Geo Smith, trombone; Anna and Molly Creech, piano; Maggie and Nola Gross, piano; Abigail Bergmann, piano. I apologize if anyone was inadvertently left out.

Musica por Santa Misa Parroquia de San Marcos
It continues to be a privilege to be able to play the piano and work with our Spanish congregation on Sunday afternoons. Bob Lundin, is now into his third year of playing guitar every week and we are delighted to have Roberto DeLara, a wonderful tenor now helping to lead singing.
Other Special Services and Offerings

- A youth led Taize service in March.
- In July I coordinated a program of Summer Music, which included offerings by several St. Mark’s musicians, a ladies ensemble and a piano duet accompanied by photography by Peter Vagt.
- The Carey Consort provided another wonderful recital prior to Evensong in March, and Tanya Carey is now in the final year of her three year project to perform all of the unaccompanied cello suites by J.S. Bach, using Baroque bowing as prescribed by Anna Magdalena Bach. She played the First Cello Suite for all four services on November 15 and will complete the project on March 13, 2016.
- In September I started a new music and movement class for babies and toddlers and a parent/grandparent/caregiver. It was an 8 week session, which provided an opportunity for adults and children to bond, sing and move together. A winter session of the class will begin on Feb. 2.
- **St. Mark’s Preschool music** – I lead 20 minutes of music in the Preschool every other week in each of the classes.

Continuing Education

Last summer I participated in two local continuing education offerings. I sat in as an observer (for free) at music camps hosted by Anima for children grades K-5. I also attended one day of the national convention of musicians from the Congregational Church, which was hosted Elmhurst. It was from these experiences that I gained confidence to add a second chorister choir and start the music and movement class. This month I attended the Choristers Guild Mid-Winter Conference to learn from nationally recognized professionals in the area of children’s music, to find new music to bring to St. Mark’s and to recharge my batteries for the coming year. I appreciate the support of George Smith and the St. Mark’s Preschool in allowing me to attend these meetings.

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. They assist with recording attendance, taking the collection, bringing forward 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. If someone has an extra need during the service, it is highly likely that the usher will be first person contacted.

During 2015 approximately 40 people who are on our usher roster worked to provide this valuable contribution to our Sunday services. We need to also thank those who are not on the roster but who helped out on a moment’s notice when we needed help at a service. This year many of our ushers were recruited from the confirmation class and several of them served with their parents. Family usher teams make for a great combination. 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

**Daughters of the King**

We are members of St. Anne’s’ Chapter of the Daughters of the King which is a national order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communions with it or churches in the Historic Episcopate. We are an order, not a committee or an organization, a group of women of faith who have made a commitment to live a life of prayer, service and outreach and come together as a community to help one another on this spiritual journey. We work together, study together, pray together and support one another. Here at St. Mark’s we serve in a number of ways to the glory of God and in support of the parish:

**Altar Guild**

One of our primary responsibilities is that of altar duty: setting up for each and every communion service that occurs in the church. We are partners with the clergy in preparation for the Eucharist, the center of Anglican worship, setting the Lord’s Table around which we gather in love and unity. We clean the chapel and sanctuary, order the flowers fill and set out the vessels and plates, place the linens, and fill the candles hundreds of times a year. We shop for supplies, wash everything including the linens after communion and store until the following week. In a two week period encompassing Christmas this year we set up for 18 communion services, almost twice as many as a regular two week period. On Ash Wednesday we put out the ashes and set up the table for the clergy. At Easter we again handle all the communion services of Holy Week, including organizing for Palm Sunday (and making the small crosses out of palm leaves) overseeing the washing of the feet and preparing the chapel for the Great Vigil. We prepare for communion for each baptism, wedding, Quinceanera, and funeral regardless of day of the week. This year we have opened up altar duty to parish members who are not Daughters, both women and men, to allow more parish members to participate in what we consider our sacred work. Eighteen months ago we completed a Spanish translation of all our instructions and training manuals to encourage non-English speaking parishioners to participate more fully in the broad parish life.

**Wedding Coordination**

The wedding ministry is another way in which Daughters of the King offer service to the parish. Daughters act as a church liaison to each couple being married in the church. In the months before the wedding she makes sure that the couple is aware of the liturgy, and church policies and procedures for use of the building. She works with the couple to make sure that they have plans in place for all aspects of the wedding day, such as a seating plan for blended families. During the rehearsal, the liaison takes notes and offers advice and guidance to ensure a smooth ceremony. On the wedding day, she works with the florist, the photographer and videographer to make sure everything and everyone one in their place then turns to overseeing the logistics of the ceremony itself: walking family members in, lining up bridesmaids, and making sure all groomsmen are in place in the right order. At the conclusion of the ceremony she makes sure all belongs have been returned to the families and tidies up in
preparation for the Sunday morning worship services. And of course, from start to finish, the wedding liaison prays for the couple that she is shepherding through this momentous occasion.

Funeral Receptions
One of the most satisfying aspects of our work is organizing funeral receptions for those who have their loved one’s funeral here at St. Marks. This involves setting up the tables with flowers, china and silver, arranging pictures and a guest book, supplying many handmade sweets and savories, and coffee and serving as well as cleaning up afterward. This year we have had 6 funeral receptions, two for more than 100 guests. At time of sorrow and loss we offer comfort and food and a place to gather and remember the loved one lost.

Decorating the church
Just as we do in our own homes, at Christmas and Easter we decorate the church, setting out candles, ordering and arranging flowers, making the church a warm welcoming place for the many visitors that attend those services.

Aside from our DOK responsibilities, all of us fully participate in other aspects of church life, from serving on the vestry to singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school and serving at the altar. 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 meetings and participate in a study to join us. For more information contact Karen Evans, Chapter President, or talk to any women wearing our distinctive silver cross.

Karen Evans

Worship Commission Report
The Worship Commission is made up of several ministries, all dedicated to support our worship of God and the fostering of relationships at St. Mark’s Church. These ministries are: music, lay readers, ushers, acolytes, subdeacons and chalice bearers, altar duty (via the Daughters of the King).

The Worship Commission meets four times per year, usually prior to the next Liturgical season.
Members:

- Paula Zwiebel - Chair
- Rinda Allison - Lay Readers
- Charles Snider - Music
- Marsha Webster - Music
- Bob Olsen - Ushers
- Robin Currie - Acolytes Trainer
- Ginnie Judd - Ministry Scheduler
- Gretchen Kenower
- Karen Evans - Daughter of the King
- George Smith - Clergy
- Victor Conrado - Clergy
- Judy Jackson - Deacon
- Vestry Liaison - open

The activities and accomplishments involving the individual ministries are detailed in the respective reports.

Paula Zwiebel

Pastoral Caring

Pastoral Care Prayer Ministry/Providers: From Rebecca Sandrok: We have 10 active parishioners and 1 additional person who hasn’t been well enough to come to meetings pray for the individuals and families on the
St. Mark’s prayer list on a daily basis. The Prayer Providers Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00. This is a peer led group with members group taking turns being in charge of the monthly meeting which includes offering an opening prayer, distributing individual prayer lists, providing a presentation and/or discussion on an aspect of prayer, and closing with prayer. The Pastoral care alerts sent by e-mail to pastoral care network. Prayer requests come from pew cards, or through phone calls and emails to the clergy or front desk. The Prayer list is included in the bulletin in the ‘Prayers of the People’.

**Prayer Request Box:** Dick Mylander created our beautiful box which sits on a table in the narthex. This encourages parishioners and visitors to confidentially request prayers and support.

**Clergy visits:** George, Victor, and Robin (who fills as she can and with some advanced notice). Bruce Clements also assists, particularly at Beacon Hill. The number of visit requests continues to rise as the needs and size of congregation has increased.

**Lay chaplain and Eucharistic minister visits:** Clergy assign lay ministers to continue to make visits as needed for those in need.

**Meal ministry from Julie Walor and Renee Hughes:** In 2015 we provided meals for approximately 10 parishioners through our Meals Ministry. The meals were coordinated mostly for families that have welcomed new babies into their homes but also for those with health issues. We have been very fortunate in that the response from the approximately 25 people on our list of those willing to provide meals has been good. We average about 2-3 meals provided for each request. The recipients have been appreciative of the meals provided. In terms of a "wish" list, it would be great to get some more parishioners on our list to call on for meals!

**Prayer shawls:** One of our PCC 2014 and 2015 goals is still a goal for 2016 to reintroduce the creation and distribution of prayer shawls. At this point, there are prayer shawls ready for distribution. A list of names has been gathered for shawl creators, and our hope is to have the ministry active in the fall. Questions: Could these shawls be blessed during the Litany of healing on the third Sunday, and could parish members request a shawl for themselves or a loved one?

**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one ministry for those with a listening countenance to be present for those experiencing a transition in life. Training for new Stephen Ministers is in the planning for the 2016 liturgical year. The Stephen Ministry offers a safe place to speak in confidence and be heard, to vent without remorse, to be present and move forward.

**Spiritual direction:** Catharine Phillips continues to serve the spiritual direction needs of our congregation.

**Baby baskets:** Elizabeth Lewis: I don’t have any numbers data, but we continue to provide baskets whenever a child is born or adopted by a parish family. The baskets accompany the priests when they visit the home, and contain a candle, a hand painted St Mark’s cross, candy kisses and the board book "A Prayer for a Child" in either English or Spanish. I am sure that more than a dozen baskets were delivered this past year, but did not keep track.

**Altar flower deliveries:** Diane Dinse continues to serve our congregation as she has done for a number of years: take communion to shut-ins, altar flowers to those with a concern or a happy occasion, hospital visits, the Christmas poinsettias to shut-Ins. $200 of our budget is allocated for reimbursement for her expenses.
**Car rides:** The establishment of a ride ministry remains on the wish list as we move into 2016. This ministry continues to develop organically—rides are found when they are needed. It would be great if there would be one or two individuals who would be willing to serve as organizers to track names and geographical areas of congregation members who are willing to occasionally drive parishioners in need to services or other church events.

**Social Service Agency Support:** Pastoral Care Ministry makes an annual contribution of $1200 each to Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service and Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center.

Carolyn Faivre, Vestry Liaison

**Church Tellers**

The tellers for St. Mark’s faithfully show up every Monday morning to open the giving envelopes and count the Sunday offering. Their work allows the proper recording of contributions in the Church’s accounting system and they take the deposit to the Bank. Their efforts in this critical function are vital to St. Mark’s financial process, and St. Mark’s is blessed to have them serve in this capacity.

Tellers this year were May Anstee, Doug Armantrout, Jerry Becker, Bob Beeching, Bob Cardwell, Harvey Dunham, Karen Evans, Bob Judd, Gretchen Kenower, Brenda Laws and Barbara Stephani. Thank you to all.

Dick Anstee

**St. Mark’s Outreach Committee**

2015 saw St Mark’s parishioners continue their tradition of reaching out to those in need on local, regional, national, and international levels. All activities experienced a wider cross section of the parish as more people got involved and helped St Mark’s REACH OUT into the various communities it serves—hungry, homeless, poor, third world. By branching out into the world in this way, we strengthen our baptismal root and help the faith of our parish and our communities grow as we witness Jesus’s love energize our actions.

New activities this year included the parade shopping cart brigade to support the GE food pantry, resale goods collection to support Holy Cross School, Bread and Soup dinner to support Bridge Communities, bicycle collection to support health service providers in Zambia.

A budget process was begun to allow more parishioner participation in allocating the funds available to our programs.

Five parishioners have been trained by Bridge Communities; we intend to adopt a homeless family by the end of January.

In addition to the projects, scholarships were made available for PDO and Preschool. Our building was an activity venue for AA, Al-anon, CODA, Boy Scouts, Recitals, Concerts, Folkloric Dancers, and ESL via COD. Thanks to each of you who has shared your time, talent and treasure by helping REACH OUT!! If you are interested in joining in on the activities, please contact me at jgsqed51@gmail.com.

Regards,

Jim Grotelueschen

January, 2016

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St. Mark’s Visual Arts Group

St. Mark’s invites artists to exhibit at the church several times a year. We seek work that enhances and engages with our worship, since the main display area is in the church itself. The congregation and artist find themselves in a mutually giving and receiving relationship that acknowledges the presence of God in our lives and in our abilities of expression. Some work that has been shown directly falls into the genre of spiritual art; other pieces reference the spiritual in a celebration of nature and personal experiences.

In 2015 we hosted the following exhibits:

- **Historic and Holy Places**: an exhibit of European church and cathedral etchings loaned to St. Mark’s by an anonymous collector.

- **Stations of the Cross** by Dick Rush. These pieces are owned by St. Mark’s and are displayed annually during Lent.

- **Simple Gifts** by Antoinette Traynor. Oil paintings expressing the joys of family life.

- **For the Beauty of the Earth** by Ellie Dunham. Watercolors inspired by the beauties of nature.

- **Windows of Faith**, Icons created by Mother Magdalena using often historic found wood and accented with gold and silver metal.

- **Advent Twig wreaths**: simple grapevine wreaths owned by St. Mark’s and displayed annually during Advent

- **Twig wreaths decorated for Christmas**: red bows and berries enhance the Advent twig wreaths in celebration of Christmas.

Art Group members, Ellie Dunham, Edna Heatherington, Gretchen Kenower, Mary Elizabeth Lane, Cecilia Smith, Pat Sullivan, Beth Trevelen and Peter Vagt have enjoyed a lively year. They met with artists and reviewed their portfolios, selected works to be exhibited and installed them. A reception was hosted for each artist who was invited to give an artist’s talk, describing their work and their careers as artists. We were most privileged this year to be joined by St. Mark’s Music Associate Marsha Webster who with musicians including pianists Jean Tschampa and Amelia Benich and guitarist Eric Dinse entertained reception guests.

The Art group welcomes new members and nominations for contributing artists. Please contact Cecilia Smith or Pat Sullivan if you have suggestions or would like to join the group.

Pat Sullivan

St. Mark’s Green Team 2015 Report

The Green Team is a small group (and would be happy to have more participants): Edna Heatherington, Judy Jackson (until she was tapped to be Deacon at the Cathedral), Ginnie Judd, Jeanne Kreymer, and Jan Langford.
Education: we sponsored several adult forums on earth care; one with Kay McKeen of SCARCE, one with a video presentation. Also spoke to several groups and the staff about recycling and green cleaners. We arranged to have Rev. Brian Sauder of Faith in Place, an environmental nonprofit which works with people of faith to care for the earth, preach at all the services on a Sunday in April.

Recycling: We realized that if we want people to recycle, we need to have a recycling bin in every spot there is a trash bin. Our waste and recycling hauler, Groot Industries, provided us with green bins which we have labeled and placed around the church in classrooms and meeting rooms. We purchased (via the B&G budget) 3 tall, narrow recycling bins with special lids for Mahon Hall. New signage went on all the bins. We need to do more to educate parishioners on what is OK to put into the bins. Plastic bags, for instance, should never go into those bins – they clog up the machinery at the recycling sorting plant and end up in landfill. They should be taken to Jewel, Trader Joe’s, Target, Walmart, etc., who provide bins at the front of their stores specifically for plastic bag recycling – those bags are hauled away and turned into decking, fencing, and outdoor furniture by companies like Trex.

Cleaning: We learned that we can do better about the cleaning products used at the church. On our list to do is meet with Service Master to switch us over to safer products, for the benefit of our employees, members, and our air and water.

Pumpkins: We arranged for a dumpster through Republic to put the leftover pumpkins, straw, and fallen leaves after the Pumpkin Patch was over. The contents were taken to a commercial composting site instead of being put into landfill; keeping food/yard waste out of landfill means a reduction in methane gas production as well as capturing the nutrients and water contained in the plant materials for use in compost.

Wash, don’t Waste: 72 coffee mugs and 72 glass water glasses were donated to St. Mark’s late in 2015. The goal is to reduce the amount of single use products, most of which end up in landfill and last for hundreds of years. The disposable coffee cups we use at St. Mark’s are not recyclable. Better to wash coffee mugs or water glasses and reuse!

Please contact a Green Team member if you would like to learn more or become involved. Thank you!

Ginnie Judd

Mexico Mission Trip and Companion Parish Relationship 2015

St. Mark’s is returning to San Marcos in June 2016 for our 11th visit—celebrating 10 years as companion parishes!

In June 2015, we celebrated our 10th visit to San Marcos in Nigromante, Mexico. There were 12 of us, 6 returning (Olivia Vanderlei, Geovanny Hernandez, Hunter Walor, David Funck, George Smith, and me) and 6 going for the first time (Alie Oates, Elise Murphy, Isabel Grant-Funck, Marin Walor, Alyssa Elliott, and Priscilla Elliott). The Mexico Mission Trip and our companion parish relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante is directly tied to George Smith’s arrival at St. Mark’s ten years ago.

Let’s go back to 2003. Gene Robinson had become the Bishop of New Hampshire, the first bishop to be in an openly gay relationship. At St. Mark’s, as a result, we lost most of our clergy and staff and a 1/3 of our parish. This flight came at a time when we were finishing construction on a major addition, in the middle of a capital campaign. For those of us who remained at St. Mark’s, we were able to work together to keep things running. We soon called George Smith to be our rector, and he told us that to continue to heal, we needed to focus beyond
our problems, beyond our building. He recommended a mission trip to Mexico, one for youth and adults. Within a few months we put together a small, exploratory team of 9 youth and adults and headed to Nigromante in our companion diocese of Southeast Mexico. That was June 2006.

We continue to raise and send money to the Diocese of Southeast Mexico. It’s an important part of our companion relationship. We pay ½ of Padre Senobio’s annual salary – our share is now $3,000 a year. We contribute annually to scholarships to help keep kids in school; even public school costs are a hardship for many. We’ve helped with projects, including a bakery that is part of the church and operates as a micro-business, helping and empowering women to learn skills and earn income. Currently, we are helping with a renovation project at San Marcos. And like so many projects, it’s costing more than was initially projected, and they’ve asked us to donate more. We’ll see what we can do.

Has this long-standing relationship with San Marcos changed us? You bet. Many of us decided to learn Spanish. That was almost ten years ago. This year, George was able to lead VBS and give part of a homily in Spanish. And as you know, St. Mark’s added a Spanish language service 3 years ago. That’s been transformative and a blessing for all.

The 2015 mission trip, in addition to celebrating with a special service/misa and dinner/cena, was like those preceding it in that we worked with the members of San Marcos to offer VBS, we stayed with host families, and we held a community dinner. Our youth on the trip, so many going for the first time and with limited Spanish, were fully engaged during the visit, opening their hearts to the children, women, and men with whom they worked. Like past trips, we were struck by the community’s generosity, the ability to communicate despite language barriers, how the seemingly beautiful simplicities are also paired with complexities that are almost beyond our understanding. How hard people work for so little. How challenging for some to dream of a future that isn’t a struggle – for education, for work, for good health, and more.

We remain convinced that this relationship with our companion parish is God’s work. That this weaving of our lives and stories is part of his plan. When we left this past June, we said adios to our hermanos and hermanas en Cristo. We said we would keep each other in prayer; we also said “hasta el año viene” – until the coming year.

Plans are now underway for our 11th visit in June 2016! Please continue to support the Mexico Mission Trip’s fundraising efforts: the Cake Auction and Bake Sale, the Cinco de Mayo Dinner and Silent Auction, and the Mother’s Day Rose Sale. Or better yet, consider coming with us!

Kim Reed, Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Appalachia Service Project**

The 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. ASP believes 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.

St. Mark’s sent eight youth and adult volunteers to Warfield, KY on the 3rd annual ASP trip in July of 2015. They worked hard and had the time of their lives! Not only did they fulfill the ASP mission of making homes safer, warmer and drier, the real joy of the trip was the relationships they developed with each other and with the people of Kentucky.
The ASP trip dates for 2016 are: Saturday, July 16 thru Saturday July 23. ASP holds two fundraisers, the first, is a flower sale - flowers will be sold February 21 – March 6 for delivery the weekend before Mother’s Day. The proceeds from the flower sale helps each volunteer earn a portion of their own ASP participation fees. The second fundraiser - “The House that St. Mark’s Built” (April 3-17) raises money to subsidize the transportation costs associated in getting to Kentucky.

The ASP trip is open to adults and youth who will be entering 9th grade in the fall of 2016. It is not necessary to be a member of St. Mark’s. Prior experience is not needed, just a willingness to work! You'll raise roofs, fix floors and build a whole new you! If you would like more information about ASP, please contact Cindy Glavin at cjglavin92@yahoo.com or 630-858-1946

Come on and join us, you'll never regret it!

Cindy Glavin

Communications Committee Report

St. Mark’s is a community in communion and in communication. Numerous people and groups across St. Mark’s provide communications in traditional formats from bulletins to the PostMark, email messages, press releases to the media. Communications are also provided by seven bulletin boards and four information tables arrayed through the buildings. Visual and social media are becoming ever more important ways that people learn about St. Mark’s and keep up with what has happened and what is scheduled. Besides the very active website: http://www.stmarksstlouis.org, St. Mark’s has a YouTube channel, four Facebook pages, and several twitter feeds. During 2015, a live action bulletin board has been activated in the office entry area, by way of LCD screen.

St. Mark’s benefits from dozens of people who contribute their time and talent in producing all the communication through word, paper, screens and the internet. The general mission of the Communications Committee is to facilitate and coordinate among these many venues. The specific objective for the committee in 2015 and 2016 is to be more coordinated in the use of “Social Media.” This past year we have catalogued the wide range of communications active at St. Mark’s to identify overlap and intersections of content and audiences. We have researched the personnel roles at other churches for managing and coordinating communications. In 2016, we will be seeking to add a part time position for a Communications Coordinator.

Mauro Hernandez, Vestry
Peter Vagt, Jr. Warden

Newcomers Committee

During 2015, the newcomer ministry was active in its mission to welcome our newest members to our parish. These welcoming efforts include delivering baked goods to the homes of newcomers, offering a welcome to those who come through the front doors on Sunday morning—with a banner and information table and our greeters—and three newcomer breakfasts. With our continued growth, these efforts will continue in 2016, and we hope to do even more to orient and integrate our newer members into all that our church community has to offer.

Kim Lloyd-Eichenauer
Parish Life

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

- Parish Life hosted four successful all-parish events this year:
- Parish Annual Meeting: January 25th – organized by Kathy Kelly and Heather Luttenton
- Lenten Suppers: March 11th, March 18th, March 25th and April 1st – organized by Kathy Kelly
- All-Parish Picnic: June 13th – organized by Kathy Kelly
- Kick-Off Sunday: September 13th – organized by Kathy Kelly

We went back to four Lenten suppers as opposed to having just one Lenten Supper. The division of the organizing of Parish events has taken a burden from them being the responsibility of only one person. Please contact Kathy Kelly with your ideas and to volunteer for parish life events.

Kathy Kelly, Martha Sexauer, Eden Shadis, Susan Shorney and Joanie Somerville continue to serve as coffee hour ministers. Coffee hour ministers assist members of the parish who provide food and greetings during the post-10:30 service coffee hour.

Kathy Kelly

Men’s Ministries:

The St. Mark’s Men’s Group had another active year. Once again, we hosted the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, and again, we had a great turnout for the Annual Barbecue at Father George's house. The twice-monthly Saturday morning DVD/discussion sessions continue, where we have been working through sessions on the Old Testament. This fall the Men's Group helped coordinate and sponsor a Series of "TED-like" talks at St. Marks - open to all, with Bishop Lee featured as our first speaker. That was followed by a fascinating talk on space exploration by Brian Campen, and most recently, an inspiring presentation from Randy Lewis on the rewards (and potential) of each of us to drive change at any level - and for Randy that meant re-setting the attitude of corporate America toward those with disabilities through his leadership at Walgreens. A valuable lesson for all those in attendance. Men of any age: you are welcome to join us at any of our activities, and the "TED-like" talks are open to all. Contact us at mensgroup@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Leo Lanzillo

Women’s Ministries:

We launched WIT/MEC (Women in Touch/Mujeres en Contacto) in August 2015 with a salad supper. About 35 women attended; it was a vibrant, intergenerational group that included a few newcomers and visitors to St. Mark's. In fall 2015, we held two evening gatherings and four morning meetings. These were attended by between 10 and 35 women each time. We have a few regular WIT morning meeting attendees who are not members at St. Mark’s, but who desire to connect with other women. We are also planning on inviting women from other Episcopal churches in the area to join us at our morning and evening meetings.

We recently sent a survey to women at St. Mark’s to gauge their interests, ask which events were most meaningful to them, and ask for general input. About 30 women responded, and the WIT steering committee met to incorporate their good ideas. Women indicated that they are very glad that the women’s ministries at St. Mark’s are “up and running” again. One of the primary ways we keep in touch with the women of WIT is via our
Facebook group. There are currently 89 members who follow these posts. To be added to the group, please contact Susan Shorney via email at shorney@me.com. Not all of the women of St. Mark’s are on Facebook—to receive emailed event information, please email Susan. We also post information about upcoming gatherings on the website and in the bulletin.

Our steering committee members are Susan Shorney, Kathy Kelly, Karen Evans, Joyce Fletcher, and Kristin Margaglione—with Jen Chavez and Lucia Conrado as advisors.

Looking ahead to 2016, we are planning a few events that will be co-sponsored by WIT and DOK. We are looking at ways to gather more often in the evenings to accommodate women who are not free during the day and have some new plans in the works. On Friday evening, 4/22, we will have an “in-town” retreat at Blackberry Market whose theme is “What I Know for Sure.” Four women (one from each of our Sunday services) will briefly share a story from their own lives and then we will mingle and enjoy each other’s company.

Jennifer Grant, jen@jennifergrant.com

Parents’ Day Out Ministry

Parents’ Day Out (PDO) provides once, twice, or three times a week care for children ages 2 to 4. The program is in session five days a week, Monday through Friday, and continues to operate at capacity, 79 children from 73 families, and maintains a substitute list. PDO has had a strong following in our community since it began in the late 1980’s.

Scholarships: In keeping with our mission, we offer scholarships and flexibility to suit a variety of circumstances. Two children are currently benefiting from scholarships.

Summer Session: PDO follows the Glen Ellyn D41 public school system calendar during the school year and also offers summer programs in June and July, which fill up quickly. As with our school year program, our summer care includes fine and large motor skill activities, arts and crafts, songs and stories, as well as lots of fun play time.

VBS Session: Additionally, PDO coordinates with St. Mark's Children's Ministries to offer care during VBS week to those siblings not yet old enough to participate in VBS and for the young children of VBS volunteers.

PDO’s Gifts: PDO continues to cover its operating cost and provide cash and service benefits to St. Mark’s. In addition to scholarships for students, PDO donated $6000 to the parish’s 2015 general operating fund this fall and paid for the repair of the cupboards and the refurbishing of all of the doors in the Undercroft (with a shout-out to Buildings and Grounds’ Scott Shorney for his help with these projects).

Staff: We continue to be blessed by a very dedicated staff—Director Kathy O’Rourke and teachers, Cindy Glavin, Melody Mordini, Carrie Pihl, and Norma Cid, and with frequent help from Jocelyn Briones. The other young adult daughters of our staff also substitute and help out when needed: Abbey O’Rourke, Lisa Mordini, Lauren Mordini, and Lauren Glavin. We are truly grateful for our staff and their endless enthusiasm and dedication to PDO and its children. Thank you to the PDO Board members, too, which include: Kim Reed (Chair), Elizabeth Lewis (Secretary), Kelly Gross (Treasurer), Joan Nichols, Kristin Margaglione, and George Smith.

2016-17 Registration: Registration for the 2016 summer and fall programs will begin in April, with members of the parish receiving priority.
St. Mark’s Preschool

St. Mark’s Preschool is experiencing another amazing year! The Preschool is influenced by the Reggio Emilia project approach to teaching, which features child-directed learning. We continue to approach learning with the whole child in mind, first and foremost.

We are so very blessed with the families and alumni that contribute to and participate in our preschool community. Partnerships with the parents and the community are a cornerstone of our philosophy. We are grateful for the opportunity for the students to explore their own community and to be provoked and inspired by their surroundings.

The Preschool has expanded its class offerings this past year to include a 4-day class and a Studio Arts Program. Both have been well received. Registration for the 2016 school year is now open and we are excited to announce that we have added a Kindergarten Enrichment class for the next year.

Many thanks to the Board members for volunteering their time and talent to the Preschool, helping to ensure future success and growth. And many, many thanks to our teaching and administrative staff for all of their hard work this past year and their commitment to enriching the lives of the students and their families - Andrea Cocke (Preschool Director), Jayne Armstrong, Jenna Armstrong, Jocelyn Briones, Kristine Corpora, Jeannie Iseman, Carey Murphy, Leslie Sommers and Marsha Webster.

Patty Weaver, Preschool Board Chair

Buildings and Grounds

Ministry's Purpose: The Buildings and Grounds committee works towards 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.

Our current committee is now made up of the following members:
George Smith – General Consultant
Scott Shorney – Vestry Liaison and B&G Coordinator
Gary Kreutz – Mechanical Systems Manager
Michael Benich – Rectory Manager
Ginnie Judd – Green Team Manager
Dick Mylander, Jeff Hill, Dick Anstee, Edna Heatherington and Ryan Dunham – Committee Members

2015 B & G in Review
During 2015 we were able to make some major improvements, as well as many smaller ones. The biggest one was replacing the front steps and railings to the church. That project was funded from a special capital improvements account. We patched the sanctuary carpet in front of the pews. We also replaced 7 windows on the first floor of the office and the outdoor low voltage lighting. A helpful parishioner supported the repairing of the air vent in the chancel ceiling. The PDO group funded the repair and painting of 20 doors in the undercroft as well as improving the cabinet doors. We kept up with fixing various leaks and other random problems, seal-coating, and minor repairs in the rectory.
2016 B & G Plans
The Buildings and Grounds committee will review and prioritize the potential improvements to be made in the coming year. Possible projects and suggestions you may see come to fruition include, but are not limited to:

- New windows on the 2nd floor of the office
- 2 New AC units for the church building
- Improved lighting in Mahon Hall.
- A new Information Center outside the library.
- Permanent projection capabilities in the sanctuary.
- New masonry sign on SW corner of lot.
- Numerous painting, plaster, staining of windows, and ceiling repairs.
- Remodel narthex.

We are looking to fill the positions of Keeping House Manager and Grounds Manager. The Keeping House Manager is responsible for coordinating various tasks and projects such as painting improvements, closet organization and de-cluttering, and other redecorating initiatives. The Grounds Manager oversees the garden beds, tree-care, and flower pots. If you would like to take on one of these jobs, join our committee, or volunteer in any way, please contact Scott Shorney at scott@hopepublishing.com or at (630)730-6076. Thanks to our whole team for a great year in 2015, especially our managers Gary, Mike and Ginnie, and Julien for taking over the lawn care, leaf pick-up, shoveling and other daily grounds care, and our behind-the-scenes donors who made so many projects possible.

Scott Shorney
Parish Register 2015

Marriages
Rebekkah Bury & Matthew Carney
Maureen Elliott & Mike O'Connor
Joanie Somerville & Ronald Ummel
Katherine Heun & Charles Schwartz
Natalie Maurin & Sean Koop
Gary Mazzio & David Danaher

Funerals
Barbara Page
Peter Norton
Juan Gonzalez
Patricia Lamont
Marty Bates
Robert Linde
Elaine Yankula
Fred Dornblaser
Nicholas Anderson
Carol Anderson
Linda Boskovic
**Baptisms**

Henry Raymond Vincent
Thomas Lester Pope
Charlotte Cambell Emerson
Molly Jane Laughter
Grace Shaun Anbil
Juan A. Tinajero Paez
Candi Marisol Aguilar
Shayla Alexandra Porrua
Stephanie Porrua
Rafael Porrua
Gerardo Luna
Lorraine Martinez
Wyatt Mark Markham
Ava Louise Kexel
Alyssa Nicole Guglielmo
Charles Farrell Turner
Mary Gayle Turner
Riley Norma Anne Ott
Isabelle Helen Dickey
Joseph Thomas Glick
Jackson Charles Fackler
Luiz Ramos Vivaldo
Alessandra Cabrera
Diego Garcia Cortez
Fernando Ramos Vivaldo
Cosette Aideen Wakerly
Reina Martinez
Ashley Contreras
Jordan Omar Carnalla Nunez
Jeyden Anastacio Chavez

**Ellie Riccio**
Miriam Carrillo
Haydon Gregory Beasley
Rozalyne Ila-Jane Spencer
Diego Hernandez
Stephanie Hernandez
Ashley Hernandez
Rowan James Ayers
Wyatt Schultz
Bridger Schultz

**Maritsa Carrillo**
Ulises Heredia Davalos
Yesenia Garcia
Sonia Nevarez
Stephanie Porrua
Juan Quinto
Monica Urquizo Sanchez
Jose Torres
Maria Guadalupe Urquizo
Anthony Vallejo
Marcos J. Arias
Julissa Gomez
Cinthia Gomez
Alex Hernandez
Joselín Ortiz
Adriana Yrquizo
Jarette Valencia
Hilda Gomez
Alvaro Gomez

**Confirmations**

Sydney Ann Arlasky
Joseph A. Black
Ismar Francis Cabrera
Elliott Scott Churchill
Henry Kees Curtis
Riley A. Ellison
Louis Alexander Margaglione
Adela Elizabeth Sexauer
Jack Thomas Toppen
Ryan Christopher Valdivia
Priscilla Victoria Elliott
Katja Elizabeth Thomalla

**Marrisa Alcantar**
Rosario Arias
Abel Barraza
Alicia Barraza
Israel Barraza

**2015 Average**

**Sunday Attendance: 420**
Minutes from January 25, 2015 Annual Meeting

Opening Prayer
At 12:00 George opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tim Sullivan, Vestry Clerk, was appointed as the Annual Meeting Clerk.

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David Funck and Ian Grant-Funck auction off Cakes.

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were discussed and unanimously approved.

Appointment of new Senior Warden and Junior Warden

Edna Heatherington was appointed as the Senior Warden. Peter Vagt was appointed as the Junior Warden.

Appointment of Youth Representative
Will Delany and Jocelyn Briones were appointed as Vestry Youth Representatives.

Cake Auction
Proceeds benefit the annual trip to Nigromante Mexico. Geo Smith shows off a cake baked by Men Maxson.
Thanks and appreciation were expressed to the outgoing vestry members including Eric McAlpine as Senior Warden, Tim Dorgan, Carolyn Arlasky and Arturo Rubio. Sawyer Hill and Jeff Hill were thanked for being Diocesan Convention Delegates.

Edna Heatherington introduced the new vestry candidates Jim Grotelueschen, Kim Lloyd-Eichenauer and Scott Shorney. A vote was taken; all were elected.

David Fletcher and Beremundo Damian were nominated as delegates for the diocesan convention and elected unanimously.

Sandy Allison presented the Finance Committee Report detailed in the Annual Report Booklet.

Eric McAlpine delivered the Senior Warden’s Report. He thanked Victor Conrado for his successful efforts and building the parish through the Latino/Hispanic experience at St. Mark’s.

Eric also praised George’s leadership and led an enthusiastic round of applause.

In the Rector’s Report, George thanked Dick Anstee for ten years of service as St. Mark’s Treasurer. A standing ovation was given for Dick. Bill Novak agreed to continue his long service on the Finance Committee as Chairman. George also recognized and thanked David McCarraher for fifteen years as teller.

George thanked Ben Maxson for being an “engine of fun, hope and the Gospel.”

Brian Thompson, Cathy Wilkinsen and their daughter Chloe have relocated to Napa, California for a new career opportunity. Prayers and best wishes go with them.

Cecilia Smith then rose to express her joy for her family being a part of St. Mark’s.

Kathy Kelly and the Parish Life Committee were thanked for the lunch.

Respectfully submitted by Tim Sullivan

January, 2016
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