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Agenda

Opening Prayer

Re-Appointment of Clerk of the Annual Meeting
Bob Olsen is re-appointed Clerk of the Annual Meeting

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting
Please see the last pages of this handout for the minutes of last year’s meeting

Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden
Leo Lanzillo and Jennifer Dorn

Appointment of Youth Representative
Ryan Valdivia

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

Voting
Election of Vestry Candidates

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates

Reports
Finance Committee Report
2017 Year End Budget Report
2018 Budget

Senior Warden’s Report

Rector’s Report

Questions and Answers
Rector's Report for the St. Mark's 2018 Annual Meeting
January 21, 2018

Today we hear Jesus speak for the first time in Mark's Gospel. He proclaims, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near.” Churches put a lot of time and effort trying to come up with catchy mission statements. Here is one that won’t disappoint: “The time is now, and God’s kingdom is in our midst.” As Christians, we gather on Sundays to learn and practice what this means for us as individuals for the world we live in. You may have heard of Ancestry.com and AncestryDNA. The Internet site has a tool which helps you build your family tree. You can also send in a sample of your saliva which they analyze and then send you a report on your family origins from more than 150 ethnic regions around the world. Comparing your DNA with millions of family trees, they are able to connect you to small tribes in Africa to farmers in Ireland. This is both fascinating and big business. It is fascinating to know more about your ancestors and where they came from. A problem however is that all of this information perpetuates the belief that we are related to some people and not to others. When someone asks you, “Are we related?” we tend to think narrowly – cousins, aunts, uncles for several generations or to people in a country in Europe. But the answer is always yes. There is no one we are not related to. And this is the truth of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims in the Gospel. With that truth, if anyone asks if you are related, the answer is always, “yes, by blood and by God.” This simple truth, often lost on us, is a truth has existed since before the world came into being.

As a church, St. Mark’s continues the proclamation that Jesus first made on the hills and plains of Galilee. The kingdom of God has come near, is here, and is in our midst. On this third Sunday in January, we take stock of our church community, reflecting on the year just ended and on plans for the year ahead, remembering why we are here and how we are to proclaim the kingdom of God. Like an annual physical exam, we take a comprehensive look at our community – its membership and leadership, finances, accomplishments and goals.

In 2017, our membership continued to increase. We count over 2200 individual members and newcomers of St. Mark’s. Sunday attendance fluctuates throughout the year, with higher numbers in the fall and lower numbers in the summer with peaks at Christmas and Easter. On average, over 400 people were at St. Mark’s on a given Sunday last year. Our leadership is strong and committed across our ministries, from the Daughters of the King to the once-month Sunday DuPagePads overnight shelter team. We have 12 members on our Vestry, the leadership council of the church. Many Episcopal churches have had to reduce the size of their vestries because of declining membership. Today, we are electing four new members to our vestry: Joannie Somerville, Bob Lundin, Irma Solorzano and Kate Marsh. We also welcome Jennifer Dorn as the new junior warden, who will work with senior warden, Leo Lanzillo, as the pair of advisors that provides invaluable counsel to me and leadership to the vestry. We have a new and tremendously competent treasurer, Tom Agler, who has already been hard at work on updating forms, consolidating accounts and preparing for a professional audit of our books. Ryan Valdivia will serve as our youth representative to the vestry and Joyce Fletcher and Jeff Hill will represent St. Mark’s at our diocesan convention in November.

Our finances are solid. We ended 2017 with revenues matching expenses. Last Tuesday, the vestry has approved a balanced budget for 2018. Our total operations, including the Preschool and Parents’ Day Out program will exceed $1 million in 2018. The people of St. Mark’s are very generous. Over 330 households have made a pledge for 2018 representing $677,000, which is 99% of our budget goal of $678,000. While this is wonderful news, given previous years’ experience, we expect to experience a squeeze in cash flow, especially during the summer months. That is why I encourage you, if you haven’t already done so, to sign up for an automatic debit (weekly, monthly, or quarterly) to your checking or credit card, which you can set up through the St. Mark’s web site.

In addition to leadership and finances, St. Mark’s is clear about its vision and purpose. Guided by our vision statement, “Rooted in Baptism. Growing in Faith. Branching out into the World.” we present a wide welcome to everyone who comes through our doors, walks into the Pumpkin Patch, calls us up on the phone, or visits our web site. When someone walks into St. Mark’s for the first time, the message behind our welcome is, “We’ve been waiting for you.” That welcome extends to all areas of our church life. It’s one thing to say welcome and another to practice it. To be truly welcoming is to listen to new ideas. Consider some of the creative and new things at St. Mark’s – a new Bible Contemplation Group on Monday evenings; a bridge playing group on Friday afternoons; hosting a Farmer's...
Market and putting on events like the Malagasy Evening, Rosca de Reyes Night and the Night of Italian Opera, and walking 26 miles from St. Mark’s to Buckingham Fountain.

A test of a community’s strength and health is how it weatheres transitions. In 2017, St. Mark’s experienced a number of important transitions, and will again in 2018. In June, Kim Reed stepped down as our Coordinator of Youth Ministries. In August, Victor Conrado accepted a call to become the full-time Ministry Associate for the Diocese of Chicago. Fortunately, both Kim and Victor continue to be part of St. Mark’s – Kim as a volunteer, including the organizer of today’s cake auction, and Victor as a part-time priest associate officiating and preaching two Sundays per month. We welcomed Cynthia Mote into the position of Interim Youth Coordinator, and Jaime Briceño as our bilingual Ministry Associate. At the beginning of January, Bob Wyatt joined St. Mark’s as a priest associate who will assist with formation programs and pastoral care.

Marsha Webster has let me know that she will step down as our Associate Director of Music in May to pursue interests in not-for-profit fundraising and consulting. Marsha has played the organ for the 9:15 am service since it was launched in 2010, and also has played the piano for the 1 pm service since 2011. Fortunately, Marsha will continue to sing in the choir and assist the Preschool among other involvements. We not be able to find another Marsha, but we will be searching for musicians to assist Daniel Segner and our vibrant music program. In May, Kristin Margaglione has let me know that she plans to step down as our Director of Children’s Ministries, a position which she has held since 2014. We have recently created a team of staff and volunteers for our Children’s Ministries, which will be the context for finding a new Director. I am beyond grateful to Robin Currie, who is working with Kristin to establish and transition to a team structure.

A number of exciting projects are in store for 2018. In May or June, we will undertake an expansion of the niche wall of the Columbarium, adding 120 niche spaces. The existing wall of 80 niches is over 90% occupied or sold. Before the expansion happens, there will be an opportunity to buy niches at a discount. These sales will help fund the construction budget which will be approximately $40,000. Another project planned over the summer will be the renovation of the basement, two floors below Mahon Hall. This is a joint project of the Preschool, PDO and the Sunday school programs. The basement will be improved with new flooring, paint and lighting. We also have plans to improve the lighting in Mahon Hall, to add a permanent projector to the sanctuary and to construct an information center in the hallway between the library and sanctuary.

Our director of communications, Sam Campen, has been working on a new web site for St. Mark’s, which will be live in the next month. It will feature the new St. Mark’s logo (designed by Beth Treleaven) and a cleaner, user-friendly format. We are also experimenting with a new format for the St. Mark’s newsletter, the PostMark. The most recent edition focusing on the annual meeting was mailed last week.

During 2017, the vestries of St. Mark’s and Calvary in Lombard met to discuss opportunities for our two churches to collaborate in mission and ministry. We are located less than three miles apart, a short eight minute drive from door to door. Yet over the years, beyond cordial friendship, there has been little cooperation or connections. For too long, churches have been siloed and cut-off from other churches because of fear or complacency. But there are opportunities to grow in strength and mission through cooperation. St. Mark’s and Calvary have recently discussed a range of ways to cooperate, including a merger into one church with two campuses. There are few examples of Episcopal churches or any denomination working together and sharing ministries, so we are forging new ground. An advantage in all of this is that the new rector of Calvary, Maureen O’Connor, did her field education for ordination at St. Mark’s and is well-acquainted with the people and culture of St. Mark’s. In the coming months, clergy from St. Mark’s will be assisting at Calvary from time to time, and Maureen will assisting at St. Mark’s. Office work, Bible studies, children and youth ministries, outreach, and adult formation are among many opportunities for cooperation.

A new series of classes will be offered in 2018 that will offer a fresh look at Christianity, for those at St. Mark’s and anyone beyond our doors who is confused, befuddled or simply interested in knowing more about Christianity. Modeled after the Alpha formation program, this series will be presented over a period of eight weekday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm and will include dinner, a presentation, and table conversations. The goal of this series is not to convert people to Christianity but to present the origins, basic doctrines and resources of the faith in an atmosphere
that welcomes questions, doubts, epiphanies and humor. Still be to determined is the name of the series, but Aleph (first letter of the Hebrew alphabet) and Fresh Look at Christianity are two possibilities.

The activity and energy of St. Mark’s reflects its adherence to its vision and dedication to proclaiming the kingdom of God in our midst. On the back of or inside back cover of the Sunday bulletin you will see a list of names of clergy, staff and lay leaders. Nine priests and one deacon make up the St. Mark’s clergy team. Most are volunteers and each provides gifts for preaching, leading worship and pastoral care. There are thirteen members of the St. Mark’s staff, not counting our Preschool and PDO teachers. Lay or ordained, each of these people is dedicated to the mission of St. Mark’s. Julian Mendoza is a jack of all trades who cleans, repairs, sets up chairs and tables and takes them down to keep our building an inviting and hospitable home. Sam Campen navigates social and print media to help communicate all that is going on at St. Mark’s. Chris Ponstein accomplishes the enormous task of processing payroll, creating reports and handling weekly contributions and member accounts. Ginnie Judd maintains the church data base, creates Constant Contact emails, assists with creating Sunday bulletins and manages the ministry scheduler program. Dellana Mote sits at the “nerve center” of St. Mark’s in the front office, printing bulletins, forms, and performing a hundred miscellaneous tasks. Kristine Osmond is the new director of our Preschool, which has grown to an enrollment of 71 children and is already half enrolled for fall, 2018. Kathy O’Rourke is the director of our Parents’ Day Out program, which is always at capacity enrollment and has expanded to offer two summer sessions. Kathy has advised two other Episcopal churches in starting their own PDO programs, both of which began in 2017 and are successful. Norma Cid is a teacher in Parents’ Day Out who also supervises our Sunday nursery, where she is beloved by parents and children alike. Jaime Briceño joined the staff in September and will be preaching, assisting with children’s ministries and helping with various projects. Cynthia Mote has stepped into the role of Interim Youth Coordinator with energy and enthusiasm and just last week led a group of youth to the annual Miqra event at St. James Cathedral, where over two days, a group of youth read through the entire Bible. Kristin Margaglione, as previously mentioned, has been overseeing Children’s Ministries since 2014 and this past fall launched a year-long “All About Jesus” Sunday school curriculum. Daniel Segner and Marsha Webster beautifully lead music at four Sunday worship services, special concerts and Evensongs, and train and rehearse both youth and adult choirs.

The listing of leaders is incomplete but includes our wardens and vestry. Vestry members concluding their terms of service today are Scott Shorney, Kim Lloyd -Eichenauer and Jim Grotelueschen. With an interest in buildings and grounds, Scott has helped to keep our church campus in good condition and overseen many improvements, many of which are out of sight but keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Kim has worn two hats with her service on the vestry and chair of the St. Mark’s Preschool board. Jim helped establish our partnership with Bridge Communities and improved our outreach allocation process. As senior warden, Joyce Fletcher has offered wise counsel at all times of day, at early morning meetings and at evening vestry meetings. We continue to keep Joyce and her husband David in our prayers as David recovers from being hospitalized for over a month.

The chief pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in Barrington has said that the local church is the hope of the world. St. Mark’s strives to be a place of hope and community to the people of Glen Ellyn and beyond, where we remember what is true – that we are all children of God, brothers and sisters, one family. St. Mark’s is a place for worship, for children and youth, art, study, support, counsel, fun, sorrow and joy, singing, music and helping other people. Like Peter and Andrew, James and John, we are called by Jesus to follow him as disciples – to learn and grow in the ways of kindness, compassion, courage and respect. As we are called to offer our time, talents and treasure, today the most valuable of these three is time. As we look forward to the year ahead, take time, that most precious of what each of us has, to commit to this community in ways that bring you joy and express your talents. On the back page of your bulletin is a partial list of ministries and ways to be involved at St. Mark’s. I ask you to pray for St. Mark’s and how you will be part of this community and its mission. And as you pray and hear a call to serve, get involved.

Lastly, I want to let you know that I love my work and ministry at St. Mark’s. There is never day without unexpected blessings, surprises and humor. I am grateful every day for the opportunity to serve this amazing church as it prays, serves and shares the message of God’s love. The kingdom of God has come near. Let us rejoice and be glad.

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 2018 election to St. Mark's Vestry.

Senior Warden
Leo Lanzillo

Junior Warden
Jennifer Dorn

Vestry
Robert Lundin, Kate Marsh, Irma E. Solorzano, and Joanie Somerville

Youth Representative
Ryan Valdivia

Delegates to Diocesan Convention
Joyce Fletcher and Jeff Hill

For Senior Warden:

Leo Lanzillo: My wife Elizabeth and I first attended St. Mark's before we moved here in 1993, and we are now beginning our 24th year. We both were struck by how welcoming the people were on that first Sunday, and before we packed to move, we knew this was going to be our church. We have 4 boys: Joseph (22), William (19), Anthony (16) and Jeremiah (14). Our entire family has grown and been strengthened by the friends and learning that we have experienced at St. Mark's. We have both been involved in a number of ministries and positions over the years, and I have been a long-time organizer of activities for the St. Mark's Men's Group, Glen Ellyn Lakers Soccer program and the Glen Ellyn Park District Finance Advisory Committee. I serve on the board of Thresholds, a Chicago-based social service organization provides healthcare, housing, and supported employment services for people living with mental illnesses in Illinois. The last 11 years, I have worked in finance and IT for The Northridge Group, a data analytics and customer service consulting company. I am very much looking forward to working with the community and the leaders in St. Mark's as we continue to branch out and serve.

For Junior Warden:

Jennifer Dorn: My husband Andrew and I have been members of St. Mark's parish for 27 years where our faith foundation has formed. We have 3 daughters who were baptized and confirmed here in our church community. I have been a member of our choir for 26 years and recently served on the search committee for our new Director of Music. Highlights from my years here would include my involvement in our VBS, PDO Board, and Mexico mission trip fundraising. I have a degree in Education from University of Illinois and worked as a professional Technical Trainer. Staying closer to home to raise our girls I transitioned to managing a local retail shop and recently joined the staff at Marcels in Glen Ellyn. We are very thankful to call St. Marks our home and I look forward to the opportunity to work with our clergy, vestry and parish members.
For Vestry:

**Robert Lundin**: An Episcopalian all my life, I have been a parishioner at St. Mark’s since moving to Glen Ellyn in 1991. For the last four years I have been a part of the music at the 1:00 Sunday service (I play guitar) which has given me a great admiration and appreciation for the Latino culture. In my daytime job, I work as an instructor at the DuPage County Health Department where I teach classes in health and wellness to people afflicted with mental illness. While that is my occupation, my avocation is writing and especially playwriting. I wrote the script for the Christmas pageant several years ago and two of my plays, *The Icon* and *The Cornerstone*, have had staged readings as the church. I am also the founding editor of an internationally recognized literary magazine for writers and poets with mental illness, *The Awakenings Review*.

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**Kate Marsh**: I joined St. Mark’s as an adult in 2016, after moving back to Glen Ellyn with my husband Lennie and our daughters, Lily (7) and Hannah (3). But I first attended the church while I was in middle school, and attended until the time I left for college. After spending many years away, it’s been nice to see many familiar faces among the congregation. I have enjoyed working with the St. Mark’s Outreach committee, and plan to continue that work while deepening my involvement through the vestry. In past churches, I have coordinated Newcomer Ministries, and sat on the board for mission funding, as well as participated in music programs. In addition to the church, I also volunteer time with our school’s PTA and professionally I work in Human Resources for a beverage company. I appreciate and am looking forward to this opportunity.

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**Irma E. Solorzano**: I’ve been happily attending St. Mark’s since 2013. At St. Mark’s I feel that I am at home and in a church family where there is good communication among the pastors and the people, where everyone is welcome, and where there are opportunities for involvement in church life through growing friendships. I appreciate that the pastors at this church help the people directly and are always open and willing to talk with us, to listen about our ideas, our losses and struggles, as well as our joys that we have in our own lives, which helps us toward greater peace with God. Because of being a part of this church inside my soul I feel that I am different, closer to God, and able to trust God for everything in my life. At St. Mark’s I have enjoyed participating in women’s retreats, serving Pumpkin Patch, assisting in preparations for special events, and last year I enjoyed being a member of the Appalachian Service Project team. I enjoyed helping the team raise donations for the trip, and offering my practical skills, ideas, and energy for doing all kinds of work efficiently and helpfully together with our team as we served the people of Appalachia. I am originally from Guadalajara, Mexico and have family in both Mexico and in the States. I am retired, and last November I became a citizen of the United States. This year I look forward to participating in a mission trip project to Toliara, Madagascar, to serve the ministries of Bishop Todd and the Rev. Patsy McGregor, together with a team from St. James the Less, another church in our diocese. And I especially look forward to serving St. Mark’s on our vestry. Adelante!

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**Joanie Somervilllle**: Joanie has been a member of St Mark’s since 2009 when her family moved here from Minnesota. At St. Mark’s, Joanie has served as part of the Parish Life Committee and as a Coffee Hour Minister. Originally from Indiana, she received her undergraduate degree from Ball State University and shortly after she moved to Minneapolis where she earned her Masters of Agriculture in Landscape Design. She looks forward to serving as liaison to the Building and Grounds Committee. Joanie currently resides in Wheaton with her husband Ron, son Parker (15) and daughter Carly (13).
For Youth Representative to Vestry:

Ryan Valdivia: Ryan is a Junior at Glenbard East where he plays trumpet. A life long member of St. Mark's he serves regularly as a Senior acolyte and thurifer.

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Joyce Fletcher: My husband David and I started attending St. Mark’s in February 2000, along with our son Andrew who is now 28 years old. During the past 16 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 16 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.

Jeff Hill: Jeff and his wife, Catharine Phillips, and children Sawyer and Erik, joined St. Mark’s in 2007. During that time he has volunteered for the Sunday nursery and for 12 years he served the diocese as a member of Bishops and Trustees. He is a professor of political science and public administration at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago.

Continuing Vestry members

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 good fit.

Jared Friebe: My wife, Gina, and I began attending St. Mark’s in the summer of 2007. We quickly developed an appreciation for the welcoming atmosphere, built by other parishioners and the clergy, and the subtle but defined stands St. Mark’s takes on a number of social-justice issues. Having moved from Michigan to the Chicagoland area in 2001 and specifically to Wheaton in 2006, we have enjoyed raising our daughters, Isabelle (9) and Arielle (7), as members of St. Mark’s; teaching various Sunday School classes; working at the annual pumpkin patch; and facilitating the United Thank Offering each spring. Professionally, I am an English Teacher and the Assistant Department Chair of English at Hinsdale Central High School; in my 16 years there, I have served on a variety of committees for the department, school, and district. As a member of the Vestry, I look forward to using my experience with collaboration to give back to a faith community that has given so much to my family and me.
Bill Kelly: I joined St. Mark's parish in March 2016, two months after I married my delightful fiancée, Yolanda. We were looking for a church where we could practice our faith, and were delighted with St Mark's, its leadership, and the faith community we found. I am originally from Colombia, but left when still young. My family and I arrived in the U.S. four years later, via England, Canada and Spain. Once arrived, I grew up in Mt Prospect, and now reside in Bloomingdale. Being bilingual, I currently attend the 1 pm Spanish speaking service. My professional career has been in a management capacity in different roles in the corporate structure, purchasing, customer service, inside sales, and technical support services. My current position is a mix of some of these, and a liaison, within the department, to the Operations Manager. My wife and I became involved as members of the decorating committee, and co-treasurer of the committee, respectively, for the Virgin of Guadalupe festivities in 2016. We also volunteered at the pumpkin patch, We attended the picnic in 2016, and volunteered our services in helping return all items to St Mark's. Yolanda and I want to become more involved within the parish, and thank St. Mark's for the opportunities presented to us, whether jointly or separately, as devoted servants of God.

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. Mark’s 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. Mark’s to be a vibrant and welcoming spiritual home.

Megan McGuire: I have been attending St. Mark’s for the past three years with my husband Drew, our son, Caden who is now 2, and Emersyn who is 5 months. 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.

Angeles Perdomo-Reyes: I am a 38 years old Mexican, I have a sister of 39 years and a brother of 30. They live in Mexico with my Dad. My hobbies are reading and exercising. I live with my husband Julio Reyes and my son Julio Jr. in Glen Ellyn. I have lived 8 years in this country and at first it was not easy to adapt to another language, climate, customs, without my family and friends. Now, I can say that I am fully integrated in this environment and culture. I am working and contributing to the good of my community. I come from a Roman Catholic religious education and culture. In January 2012 I joined St. Mark’s. At first this change was a bit difficult because of my Roman Catholic upbringing, but I felt welcomed, I found a family and I felt part of it. I liked it. It impacted me that the priests preach by example as good leaders. I am proud to be an Episcopalian. I wish to contribute as best I can to the growth and welcoming that St. Mark’s offers to others. People at St. Mark’s have done many things for my family and for me and I wish to make others feel that they can find a home here. I am excited and blessed to be part of the Vestry and I am willing to learn more as time permits. Thanks for the opportunity.
Steve Sedall: In 2009, my wife April introduced me and my daughters, Lauren (24) and Christina (19), to the St. Mark’s community. We are forever grateful to have found a community so welcoming and devoted to treating all persons with love, kindness, and respect. We have truly found a home with such wonderful and thought-provoking clergy; talented and friendly parishioners; and dedicated programs/ministries that directly support St. Mark’s and profoundly impact the communities where we live. I am an International Tax Director for Sims Metal Management. I hope to use my 30 years of professional experience in accounting, auditing, and tax to humbly serve the St. Mark’s Vestry and to give back to the community that has provided so much to my family.

Virginia Vagt: Peter and I are beginning our 10th year as parishioners at St. Mark’s. We love our wonderful, diverse parish, and enjoy worshipping God together with all of you. At St. Mark’s I appreciate the many opportunities for us to grow, share faith and life, and serve together. For me those include: participating in women’s ministries, writing skits with and for our middle schoolers, becoming a Daughter of the King, serving on planning committees such as the 10th Anniversary Celebration for George Smith as Our Rector, attending a mix of worship services including our Spanish language service, making friends bilingually, and participating in our intercultural parish life. Other dimensions of my life, past and present: I have an MBA, was Director of Research at a publishing company, served as Minister of Christian Education at a previous church, love to write journalistically and creatively, and am currently serving on a national Episcopal Church task-force which is creating a course entitled Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency: An Intensive Course Designed for Church Leaders Exploring Latino Ministry and Intercultural Ministry.

St. Mark’s Directory, Calendar, Giving and More on your cell phone!

Setting up the St. Mark’s ChurchLife app involves 2 steps.

1. Create a member directory account through the St. Mark’s web site:
   i. Top right tab “Connect”
   ii. Sub-tab “Member Directory”
   iii. Click on here

2. Download the ChurchLife app from the app store and log in using the member directory username and password you created for the member directory.
Senior Warden’s Report

What a privilege to serve as your Senior Warden during 2017 and as Junior Warden during 2016! St. Mark’s is a remarkable place because of you! We have a wonderful group of parishioners, staff members, dedicated Sunday School teachers, and inspiring clergy. We are fortunate indeed.

We accomplished many things this year. We sent missions teams to Mexico and Appalachia. We hosted several successful and fun fundraising events that raised money for the music program, the Mexico missions trip, PADS, and our global partners, the McGregors in Madagascar.

The year of 2017 saw the continuation of many wonderful programs and the beginning of some new ones as well. The Choral Masterworks Series debuted a splendid performance of the Faure “Requiem” and other pieces, accompanied by a wonderful small orchestra. A new music program for children began this fall. We experimented with a new format for Sunday School at 10:15 and 12:30.

Last year I was struck by the simplicity of Edna Hetherington’s comment, “I pledge because I want to have a church.” This year, I’d like to challenge you a little further.

Decide to give St. Mark’s a little more of yourself this year. Find something to say yes to. It’s easy to think that someone else will do it. As warden, I have become acutely aware of how St. Mark’s operates with very few paid staff members. Currently, Father George is our one full-time staffer, since Father Victor took a full-time position with the Diocese of Chicago in August. When you look at the back of the bulletin and see that list of clergy, you should know that most are volunteers—just like you.

We are all busy, but together we can make St. Mark’s even more vibrant than it already is. Find something new this year at St. Mark’s to say yes to!

Financially, we were able to close the year with a balanced budget and we gratefully acknowledge and rely on the contributions each one of you makes to St. Mark’s—both time and treasure. The financial sheets reflect that we are financially sound, though not financially independent. The reports are also a reflection of the tireless dedication from a number of people led by Steve Sedall, Vestry member and the head of the Finance Committee, along with Tom Agler, our new Treasurer, Lenny Marsh, Don Sutherland, and Dick Anstee, former treasurer and longstanding participant on both the finance and investment committee. We had to say goodbye this year to Harvey Dunham and Barb Walden, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer who have helped guide us through our cash-dry summer months! You’ll notice the redesigned financial presentation, intending to bring more transparency and clarity to our financial situation.

These are just a few of the many activities, ministries, and areas of outreach at St. Mark’s. This annual report contains more than 30 sub-reports, each telling a part of the St. Mark’s story. I’m excited for the bright future of St. Mark’s with George, Robin, and Bob leading, with Leo as senior warden, Jennifer as junior warden, the new Vestry, and all of us joining together on Sundays and all week long, during 2018.

Joyce Fletcher
## Sunday attendance trend:

- 2006: 218
- 2016: 410
- 88% increase

**Take away:** We are a growing, multi-cultural congregation.

## Pledge trend:

- 2006: 117 pledges for $266,595
- Goal for 2018: 370 pledges for $678,000

**Take away:** to meet our goal, the average pledge will need to be $1,832.

## Mortgage / Debt:

- $1,338,879

## Annual Debt Service:

- $72,185

## Percentage of Church Budget:

- 8.8%

**Take away:** Debt payments are a significant on-going expense.

## Total St. Mark’s Total Operations:

- 2006: $580,702
- 2018: $1,076,000

**Take away:** St. Mark’s is one of a few congregations in our Diocese with growing programs and ministries.

## Investments:

- $347,685

## Endowment as % of Debt:

- 25.9%

**Take away:** St. Mark’s is not able to rely on endowment funds. Every dollar given to St. Mark’s supports our programs and ministries.

## Operating Cash:

- Dec 31: $91,092
- Target: $50,000

**Take away:** Our cash balance is healthy right now, but we will need to carefully manage expenses and encourage regular giving to avoid a cash squeeze during the summer months.
# OPERATING BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>2017 BUDGET</th>
<th>2017 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2018 BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Year Contributions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledge Payments</td>
<td>$740,000</td>
<td>$652,675</td>
<td>$678,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Plate</td>
<td>$68,000</td>
<td>$64,273</td>
<td>$58,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Collections</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$14,408</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising Events</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$2,258</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts to Outreach</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$2,640</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations (Music, Flowers, Landscape)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$5,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prior Year Pledges</strong></td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$8,552</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mission and Outreach Transfers</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings &amp; Grounds Transfers</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usage Income</td>
<td>$23,500</td>
<td>$41,397</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
<td>$10,444</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance Transfers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Pledges</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$72,153</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Activities Income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mark’s total revenue</td>
<td>$858,100</td>
<td>$877,906</td>
<td>$827,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Mark’s Pre-school</strong></td>
<td>$161,278</td>
<td>$187,625</td>
<td>$187,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDO Cost Reimbursement</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
<td>$107,463</td>
<td>$107,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$1,104,378</td>
<td>$1,172,994</td>
<td>$1,121,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clergy Payroll (incl Benefits)</strong></td>
<td>$251,544</td>
<td>$221,193</td>
<td>$212,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Expenses:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Music</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$70,313</td>
<td>$73,692</td>
<td>$72,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
<td>$6,526</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$38,999</td>
<td>$63,897</td>
<td>$60,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$47,843</td>
<td>$37,880</td>
<td>$49,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings &amp; Grounds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$20,454</td>
<td>$20,338</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$229,315</td>
<td>$203,806</td>
<td>$237,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our Children</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$52,672</td>
<td>$48,431</td>
<td>$47,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$7,520</td>
<td>$6,762</td>
<td>$11,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;O</td>
<td>$85,200</td>
<td>$60,315</td>
<td>$74,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectory Expenses</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish Language Service</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$9,630</td>
<td>$9,392</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Mark’s total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$857,690</td>
<td>$780,931</td>
<td>$819,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Marks Pre-School</strong></td>
<td>$161,278</td>
<td>$187,256</td>
<td>$187,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDO Expenditures</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
<td>$108,348</td>
<td>$107,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,103,968</td>
<td>$1,076,535</td>
<td>$1,113,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Mark’s, Preschool, and PDO Net Total</strong></td>
<td>$410</td>
<td>$96,459</td>
<td>$8,373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Breakout:**
- **St. Mark’s Net Total** | $410 | $96,459 | $8,373 |
- **St. Mark’s Preschool & PDO Net Total** | - | - | (516) |
- **St. Mark’s Restricted Accounts Activity (See Page 2 Detail)** | - | $54,571 | - |
- **Total Excess Cash Received** | $410 | $151,030 | $8,373 |

**Loan from Diocese**
- end of year | $536,169 | $536,169 |

**Building Mortgage**
- end of year | $703,960 | $667,760 |

**Rectory Mortgage**
- end of year | $98,749 | $94,300 |
## Operating Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash and Cash Equivalents</th>
<th>Dec 31 2016</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Dec 31 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Checking</td>
<td>138,779</td>
<td>3,198</td>
<td>141,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Market Account</td>
<td>12,302</td>
<td>-4,022</td>
<td>8,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters of the King - Checking</td>
<td>5,804</td>
<td>4,842</td>
<td>10,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent's Day Out - Checking</td>
<td>15,324</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mark's Preschool - Checking</td>
<td>64,599</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Money Market</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rector's Discretionary Fund</td>
<td>1,584</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>1,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Rector Discretionary Fund</td>
<td>1,854</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>2,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds CD</td>
<td>45,190</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>45,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission &amp; Outreach Reserve Fund</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Checking</td>
<td>1,966</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</strong></td>
<td><strong>$218,733</strong></td>
<td><strong>$112,619</strong></td>
<td><strong>$331,353</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investments</th>
<th>Dec 31 2016</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Dec 31 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Foundation - General Endowment</td>
<td>26,403</td>
<td>40,215</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carey Music Fund</td>
<td>11,443</td>
<td>32,774</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wintrust - Operating Stock Donations</td>
<td>4,408</td>
<td>9,621</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Foundation - Lewis Trust</td>
<td>20,558</td>
<td>265,335</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Investment Accounts</strong></td>
<td><strong>$285,133</strong></td>
<td><strong>$62,813</strong></td>
<td><strong>$347,945</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Non-operating Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property and Equipment</th>
<th>Dec 31 2016</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Dec 31 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Buildings</td>
<td>6,098,900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,098,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Fixtures</td>
<td>703,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>703,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Equipment</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stained Glass</td>
<td>163,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>163,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectory</td>
<td>473,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>473,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,438,493</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,438,493</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total Operating Assets

**$506,336** **$172,962** **$679,298**

## Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th>Dec 31 2016</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Dec 31 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Tax Liabilities</td>
<td>1,048</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDO Reimbursables</td>
<td>1,728</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Reimbursables</td>
<td>5,360</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,593</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,543</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,136</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total Liabilities

**$1,391,200** **$172,962** **$1,564,162**

## Fund Balance

| General Fund Balance | 1,789,569 |
| Investment in Property & Equipment | 4,384,015 |
| Excess Cash Received | 152,571 |
| **Total Fund Balance and Excess Cash Received** | **$6,170,263** | **$1,564,162** |

## Restricted Funds

| Total Temporary Restricted | 28,516 | 145,773 |
| Total Permanent Restricted | 32,740 | 298,849 |
| **Total Restricted Funds** | **$383,366** | **$61,256** | **$444,622** |

## Total Liabilities, Fund Balance, & Restricted Funds

**$7,944,829** **$172,962** **$8,117,791**
St. Mark’s Investment Accounts

In November, the Vestry of St. Mark’s voted to establish the Endowment Fund of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church to “benefit St. Mark’s for so long as it operates as an Episcopal church for the benefit of Glen Ellyn and its surrounding communities.” The fund is intended to exist in perpetuity and there is an expectation that it will grow over time through parishioner’s donations. Per the Fund document, three trustees were appointed by the Vestry to fill terms of 1, 2, and 3 years. Once these initial terms expire, the Vestry will appoint trustees for three-year terms. The initial trustees appointed by the Vestry were Hunter Walor, (1 year), Jake Weaver (2 year), and Dick Anstee (3 year).

The Fund documents establish a perpetual trust fund and allows the addition of “designated purpose funds” (including those heretofore made to St. Mark’s). The assets of all designated purpose funds and other trust assets shall be commingled and invested by the Trustees. Combining our various investment accounts in this way allows the Trustees to achieve better investment results and simplifies management and record keeping. The Trustees have selected the Common Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago (commonly known as the Diocesan Foundation), which has over 26 million dollars under management, as the investment vehicle.

In December, the Trustees, by resolution of the Vestry, established two accounts with the Diocesan Foundation: the “St. Mark’s General Account” and the “St Mark’s Lewis Trust Fund”. The General Account will be the perpetual trust account and the Lewis Trust Fund is a designated purpose fund. The annual distributable amount for the General Account is 4%-5% of the fund balance at the end of the prior year. Those funds are paid to the St. Mark’s Treasurer on February 1 and can be used for: (1) “the purchase, construction, installation, and repair of its capital improvements, (2) outreach and missionary projects and (3) special one-time projects (and not for usual and ordinary expenses and maintenance of St. Mark’s).” The annual distributable amount of the Lewis Trust Fund is, as it has been since its inception, the income received during the year, but not capital gains. The applicable income will be paid quarterly to the St. Mark’s Treasurer directly by the Diocesan Foundation and can be used only for “the purchase, construction and installation of its capital improvements (and not for usual and ordinary expenses and maintenance of the Church).”

The chart below shows the summary of the church’s investment accounts, including the transfers of funds included in the establishment of the new Diocesan Foundation accounts. Any questions about the endowment fund should be addressed to the Trustees.

**ST. MARK’S INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY FOR 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND</th>
<th>OPENING BAL</th>
<th>DEPOSITS</th>
<th>WITHDRAWALS</th>
<th>PAID TO ST. MARK’S</th>
<th>ENDING BAL</th>
<th>INVESTED IN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Trust</td>
<td>$244,777</td>
<td>$26,231</td>
<td>$265,335</td>
<td>$5,673.8</td>
<td>$265,335</td>
<td>Diocesan Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;O Reserve</td>
<td>$26,851</td>
<td>$44</td>
<td>$24,757</td>
<td>$2,137.5</td>
<td>$24,757</td>
<td>Fifth Third Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelham Fund</td>
<td>$13,939</td>
<td>$1,519</td>
<td>$15,458</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$15,458</td>
<td>Edward Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carey Music Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>checking account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897 Society</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Diocesan Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ST. MARK’S ENDOWMENT FUND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND</th>
<th>OPENING BAL</th>
<th>DEPOSITS</th>
<th>WITHDRAWALS</th>
<th>PAID TO ST. MARK’S</th>
<th>ENDING BAL</th>
<th>INVESTED IN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$15,458</td>
<td>$24,757</td>
<td>$40,215</td>
<td>$265,335</td>
<td>$265,335</td>
<td>Diocesan Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Trust Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$265,335</td>
<td>$265,335</td>
<td>$265,335</td>
<td>$265,335</td>
<td>Diocesan Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUND</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>Diocesan Foundation</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ST. MARK’S TOTAL INVESTMENTS**

$339,064
Thank you to all the generous people of St. Mark’s. Thank you for your dedication and participation in so many ways - worship, church programs, and outreach that has helped St. Mark’s grow and thrive.

Each year, St. Mark’s conducts a giving campaign where all households are asked to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge for the coming year.

What is a pledge? A pledge is your best estimate of your financial support over the course of the next year.

The spiritual part: God blesses us with many gifts. Pledging is a way to respond to our blessings and the work we are called to do to make the world a better place. Pledging therefore is a spiritual act that requires careful and prayerful reflection on our lives.

Why do we ask people to pledge? The combined pledges from all households make it possible for St. Mark’s to create a budget. Through the budget, St. Mark’s is able to provide full Sundays of liturgies and Sunday School classes, maintain the church building and grounds, provide for our ministers and staff, support outreach work such as the Food Pantry, DuPage Pads, Walk-In Ministry, the St. Mark’s Preschool, Parent’s Day Out, art exhibits and receptions, concerts, and to empower various ministries to truly make a difference in the lives of our parishioners and the community.

How to pledge? You can fill out a pledge card printed in recent bulletins and mail it or bring it to St. Mark’s. You can go to the St. Mark’s web site (Google St. Mark’s Glen Ellyn) and click the button “Make Your Pledge.” You can pledge through the ChurchLife.app on your cell phone. Or you can simply send an email to treasurer@StMarksGlenEllyn.org with your pledge amount for 2018.

Some families stretch when giving $100 for the year. Others give $100 a week or more. It can be helpful to think about pledging in terms of a weekly or monthly amount, similar to other financial commitments in your life for running your household and other memberships.

How to fulfill a pledge? There are many ways to fulfill a pledge, including the offering plate passed on Sundays, mailing a check to the church, setting up an automatic monthly debit from your checking account or credit card or PayPal. If you add the ChurchLife.app to your cell phone you can use one of its functions to contribute to St. Mark’s.

Every pledge, regardless of the amount, is acceptable to God and strengthens the church. As of mid-January, St. Mark’s had received pledges from 335 households (compared with 337 this time last year and 275 the year before). These pledges represent $678,000 (compared to $675,000 this time last year and $615,000 the year before). Our goal for 2018 is 370 households and $678,000.

Together we can continue the life-changing work of St. Mark’s Church.

The Giving Campaign for 2018 will continue to invite our church community to participate with generosity.

Yours in Christ,

Co-Chairpersons: Peter Vagt and Susan Shivas
Committee: Jerry Carey, Ann-Marie Cudzillo, Jeff Diver, Rafael Garcia, and Teresa Norris.
Graphic Design: Javier Valdivia
Finance Committee Chairman: Steve Sedall
Rector: George Smith
Priest Associate for Latino/Hispanic Ministries

John 17:21 - that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

This Bible passage has been part of my prayer for the last year. It has helped me understand the purpose of my calling as a baptized person and it had guided me through and in some important conversations that I have had regarding race, sexual orientation and the future of the church in different geographical areas. The common perception is that being one means or is being the same. Being one does mean that what happens to my neighbor, affects me, transforms, and challenges me. Being one brings to life what St. Paul invited us to believe that the typical divisions based on gender, race, socio-economic status, do not apply to us. Here at St. Mark’s we want to be one. We have been in this path for the last six years, when we decided to add a fourth service in Spanish. We want to live into this dimension of the Kingdom of God because this is how we understand and believe in a God who is one and three.

In today’s world this message of oneness, not of sameness, is very important. We appreciate and value what the other person, culture, community, country brings to the table. In this way, we are more, we enrich each other, and we are a source of strength for each other. We are living this ideal at St. Mark’s. During the last six years, we have seen how we can continue to be a sign of hope in our community. But the best is yet to come.

Victor’s Transition – Last year, I took a full-time job in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago as Associate for Ministries. On August 1st, I started this job that is mainly centered in transitions, that means working with and equipping congregations to be more vital in responding to a change in their clergy leadership and searching for ways to be more effective in their context.

I have continued to be involved at St. Mark’s. Two Sundays a month I am present during the worship services, lead the 1 pm adult formation, meet with parishioners for pastoral care, respond to some administrative needs. For two hours during the week, I am in communication via social media, text and, sometimes, I have one-on-one meeting with 1 pm parishioners. With the Rev. George, we started to work in a transition plan and we have implemented some parts of this plan. Together we have identified and called Mr. Jaime Briceno to join St. Mark’s staff and we have invited the Rev. Miguel Briones to take on the accompaniment of some groups and events. The Rev. Robin Curie is taking on the responsibility of coordinating and guiding the 1 pm Sunday School program.

As part of my compensation package as full-time clergy here at St. Mark’s, my family and I lived in the rectory. And after, I started my new job, we stayed in the rectory paying the utilities and a usage fee. At the end of January, we are moving to Chicago to live in our new condominium. It is again a transition time moment for my family and I after six years of living in this wonderful community. Please keep us in your prayers as we start this new adventure in Chicago. I will continue assisting at St. Mark’s two Sunday’s a month with some administrative and pastoral responsibilities, until June of this year.

I want to share with you now some important moments we have had together, as we celebrate the sixth year of as an intercultural congregation in the Diocese of Chicago.

I want to start by acknowledging our sisters and brothers who have contributed with their time, talent, and treasure during this year. Some of them are: George Smith, Dellana Mote, Robin Curie, Jaime Briceno, Marsha Webster, Kim Reed, Julian Mendoza, Miguel Briones, and Kristin Margaglione; our teachers Sandra Barrera, Lucia Conrado, Maria Fernandez, Rafael Garcia, Michelle Roman-Garcia, Lupita Cano and Evelyne Lopez, Cynthia Mote. I want to acknowledge, as well, the great contribution and efforts to help us see ourselves as one parish that the following people have made: Ashley Santillan, Alejandra Montes and Mauro Hernandez, Peter and
Virginia Vagt, Inocencio and Norma Nolasco, Rodolfo Lopez and Itzel Carmona, Rafael and Tomasa Casas, Laura Lopez, Alejandra Rubio, Adolfo and Gabriela Hernandez, Juanita Jimenez, Alva de Casas, Lorenza Jimenez, Julio Reyes and Angeles Reyes-Perdomo, Linda Bergstrom, Francisco and Belen Barrera, Daughters of the King, Beremundo Damian, Edna Heatherington and our youth leader Julio Reyes. I know there are many others who have helped us move forward and I want to say thank you for loving your neighbor as yourself. We are blessed to have them all being a part of our parish community.

Rooted In Baptism - This past year, we continued to offer formation opportunities, every Sunday from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm, to children, young and adult. We realize the great need of formation for our 1 pm parishioners. Starting in September, there is a change in the way we gather adults, youth and children for formation. They are invited to start all them together at 12:00 pm with a story moment and then they are sent to their respective classrooms. We are aware that many come from different denominations and traditions and the need to reconnect them with their faith life, now in the Episcopal Church, is crucial. Many take it very seriously and they commit themselves to be here every Sunday. Last year we had 9 baptisms, 23 children and 18 youth had their communion celebrations, 15 young adults and one adult were confirmed. We celebrated 14 Quinceañeras. We know that by celebrating these sacraments we have welcomed these people in a different way and they had this opportunity. Being rooted in baptism means that everyone is welcomed. We are aware that many of these families that came to receive sacraments in 2017 left due to a variety of situations. This is a great challenge. We want to believe that we have touched their lives and that eventually, they will come back. It does not stop the feeling of disappointment and frustration from coming up. We know that in baptism we are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. This is what has a reality at St. Mark’s in 2017.

Growing in Faith - Being rooted in our core beliefs of our baptismal covenant has helped many of our 1 pm parishioners grow in their faith. Some of them have taken on positions of responsibility and some others have represented us in diocesan events. We are preparing our 1 pm parishioners to take on positions of leadership to grow in their sense of belonging and ownership of their faith-process. We continue to face the challenge of socio-economics as well as their reality of proper documentation in this country. We are aware that due to this and other situations many of our 1 pm families face, there is fear and mistrust in institutions. Last year we were able to organize different activities that helped our desire and promise to respect the dignity of every human being. We continue to invite people to improve their personal and work skills to face the many challenges they have in their day-to-day life. We continue our pilgrimage with the Virgin of Guadalupe and we visited 23 1 pm families. We were blessed to share with them who we are and invite them to join us. We were able to offer immigration workshops twice a year and had some deep conversation about who we are as Hispanic/Latinos and what we are contributing to our local communities and churches. One of the greatest challenges that we are facing in growing in faith is our commitment to contribute more in our stewardship (time-talent-treasure). I know that as we grow more in our faith, many of our 1 pm will find that they are here to stay. One of the most life-giving gifts St. Mark’s is bringing to many, is the witness that Jesus is forgiving our sins. This is life-giving ministry and a sign that we are growing in faith and breaking the chains that have kept many isolated. We are seeing growth in many ways.

Branching Out into the World - St. Mark’s experience of being an intercultural and bilingual parish community has reached out to the world. We have been present in diocesan events that have been organized for youth and adults. Today, more than ever, we are challenging the common perception (and soon growing perception) that Hispanic/Latinos and Anglos cannot share the same space. The contrary is the sign that this experience will be relevant not only in our society but today more than ever, in the church. Branching out has meant to go to have a presence in our annual trip to southeast Mexico as well as our Appalachia Service Project. It has become important for our youth to be present in our diocesan gatherings. Our pledging numbers have increased, and people have felt the need to contribute more and more to the different events that show who we are as a multicultural and bilingual congregation. One important addition to St. Mark’s this year is the St. Mark’s Cultural Committee (Comité Cultural de San Marcos). This committee is helping us promote our cultural values
and promote them in our church and community. We have organized cultural and religious events that have brought many people to St. Mark’s. We have a folkloric dance children’s group called Quetzalli that represents St. Mark’s in different events and that is traveling to other parishes to share with them who we are.

Our being an intercultural and bilingual congregation is changing the way we see Hispanic/Latino ministry being done in the Diocese of Chicago and the National Episcopal Church. We are already challenging common perceptions and we will continue to do so because we have seen, and we believe that we are one community, one congregation, one in Baptism, one in Christ.

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 remained a source of strength in this time of transition. They have helped me live and understand what it means to love someone.

Respectfully,

Victor+

Reporte del Sacerdote Asociado
Ministerios Hispanos/Latinos de San Marcos

Juan 17:21 - Te pido que todos ellos estén unidos; que, como tú, Padre, estás en mí y yo en ti, también ellos estén en nosotros, para que el mundo crea que tú me enviaste.

Este pasaje bíblico me ha acompañado a lo largo de este. Ha estado presente en mi oración y lo he compartido con algunas personas con las que he tenido algunos momentos de conversación. Les confieso que no ha sido fácil, sobre todo cuando esos encuentros han sido con personas que creen que lo más importante es el dividirnos. Creo que este pasaje nos ayuda también a entender que el ser uno, estos unidos, no significa que seamos lo mismo, que ignoremos nuestras diferencias. Creo, al contrario, que Jesus en esta oración, nos invita a apreciar nuestro ser único, lo que nos hace lo que somos y que, con esto en mente, nos lancemos al gran reto de construir algo juntos. En San Marcos hemos comenzado con esta tarea que se parece mucho a lo que el Reino de Dios nos propone. Ahora es tiempo de comenzar a vivir desde este ideal y de unirnos más y más en la oración para poder afrontar las tentaciones del maligno.

Tiempo de Transición en San Marcos – El año pasado tomé un nuevo trabajo como Asociado para Ministerios en la Diócesis de Chicago. Este trabajo me permite trabajar con congregaciones a lo largo de la diócesis que se encuentran en un tiempo de transición como cambio del párroco, retos económicos o que se encuentran buscando que van a ser como parroquia en el futuro. He continuado en San Marcos, especialmente dos domingos al mes. También he continuado acompañando a algunos de ustedes y he seguido con algunas funciones de administración. Este formato va a continuar hasta junio del 2018, cuando ya dejaré definitivamente mi posición en la parroquia. Con el P. Jorge, párroco de San Marcos, hemos estado trabajando en implementar algunos cambios e invitar a algunas personas a que asuman algunas de las responsabilidades que afectan directamente a ustedes. Se ha contratado a Jaime Briceño a que se una al cuerpo de trabajadores como asociado de ministerios; se le ha pedido al diacono Miguel Briones que asuma el acompañamiento de algunos grupos, organización de algunos eventos como visitas a las casas con la Virgen. A la reverenda Robin Curie se le ha pedido que asuma la organización de las clases de primera comunión y formación de niños. En fin, se ha tratado de mantener las cosas funcionando de la mejor manera posible.
Como parte de mi contrato y remuneración, mi familia y yo hemos estado viviendo en la casa parroquial. Este espacio nos ha servido mucho para sentirnos parte de esta comunidad local y de estar en contacto con muchos de ustedes. Les quiero compartir que desde febrero de este año ya no continuaremos viviendo en esta casa, sino que nos mudaremos a un condominio que adquirimos en Chicago.

Son de verdad tiempos de cambios. Les aseguero que no mejor a un esta por venir en San Marcos y esto es gracias a muchos de ustedes que están asumiendo responsabilidades y que están presentes para responder, desde lo que se puede, a los retos que se presentan. Quiero de verdad agradecerles a todos y todas por todo lo que hacen y que quisiera mencionar algunos de ustedes que han marcado una diferencia. Algunas de estas personas son George Smith, Delllana Mote, Robin Curie, Marsha Webster, Kim Reed, Julián Mendoza, Miguel Briones, y Kristin Margaglione; nuestras profesoras Sandra Barrera, Lucía Conrado, María Fernandez, Rafael García, Michelle Román-García, Lupita Cano and Evelyn López, Cynthia Mote. Quisiera también los grandes esfuerzos que se hacen en ser una parroquia intercultural y bilingüe Ashley Santillán, Alejandra Montes and Mauro Hernández, Peter and Virginia Vagt, Inocencio and Norma Nolasco, Rodolfo López and Itzel Carmona, Rafael and Tomasa Casas, Laura López, Alejandra Rubio, Adolfo and Gabriela González, Juanita Jiménez, Alva de Casas, Lorenza Jiménez, Julio Reyes and Ángeles Reyes-Perdomo, Linda Bergstrom, Francisco and Belén Barrera, Daughters of the King, Beremundo Damián, Edna Heatherington y nuestro representante de jóvenes Julio Reyes. Estas personas nos ayudan a entender que no es fácil vivir respetando y amando a otras personas pero que esto no es imposible. Este es uno de los signos más importantes que le presentamos a la iglesia y al mundo.

Enraizamos en el Bautismo – Nuevamente les invito a que nos enraicemos en la fuerza del bautismo que nos hace a todos y todas lo mismo delante de Dios. Gracias a Dios, muchas personas se acercan a San Marcos por que quieren reanudar su vida sacramental y quieren que sus hijos e hijas tengan esta experiencia. El año pasado celebramos 9 bautizos, 23 niños y 18 jóvenes tuvieron su primera comunión, 15 jóvenes y un adulto celebraron su confirmación, y celebramos 14 quinceañeras. Estos números nos importan por que marcan la diferencia en la vida de San Marcos. Muchos de nosotros queremos y apreciamos la formación que recibimos. Necesitamos mas constancia y perseverancia en quedarnos a ser parte de esta comunidad parroquial. Hemos reconfigurado el tiempo de formación en la tarde. Comenzamos ahora a las 12pm con una dinámica y oración grupal y luego todos y todas con invitados a dirigirse a sus respectivos salones. Este año seguiremos impulsando e invitando a muchos a que se acerquen a San Marcos. Esto nos permitirá celebrar más vida abundante en esta comunidad de fe.

Creciendo en la Fe – Gracias al reconocernos todos y todas como hijos e hijas de Dios por el bautismo, seguimos creciendo en la fe y en la forma como nos entendemos como iglesia. La formación de adultos los domingos y los diferentes temas relacionados a inmigración, familia, biblia, oración, etc. ayudan a recrearnos y entendernos. Algunos de ustedes están tomando clases de inglés y se les a aplaude porque no es fácil aprender otra lengua, pero no imposible. Queremos seguir formando líderes que nos muestren el camino a seguir y nos ayuden a formar las próximas generaciones de episcopales en San Marcos. Uno de los retos que nos encontramos en la caminada es la tendencia por quedarnos con la idea de que somos cristianos de cultura. Te invito a que te formes y aprendamos más de nuestras raíces y lo que somos para la comunidad y el mundo. Otro reto que hemos encontrado este año ha sido en nuestro entendimiento de tiempo-tesorotalentos. Hemos tenido algunos retos por que no tenemos profesoras de catequesis, no hemos contribuido a la iglesia como hemos prometido, no damos tiempo a la iglesia en tiempos en que han necesitado nuestra ayuda. Te invito a que demos mas de lo que podemos dar. Así nos enriquecemos todos y todas.

Proyectándonos al Mundo – Nuestro crecimiento en la fe nos lleva a no quedarnos en el mismo sitio. Nuestro bautismo nos invita a ser discípulos. Este año pasado hemos salido y nos hemos proyectado al mundo visitando a nuestras hermanas y hermanos en México y en los Apalaches, en el banco de comida y en la caminata hasta Chicago. Hemos sentido que como hispanos/latinos de San Marcos hemos tenido parte en estas actividades. Una forma muy particular de proyectarnos al mundo ha sido y seguirá siendo en la forma en que somos una propuesta nueva y muy real de vivir en comunidad en medio de la diversidad: somos una comunidad intercultural y
bilingüe. Cada vez nos damos cuenta de que esta forma de ser parroquia no es fácil, pero no imposible. Este año se fortaleció más nuestra proyección cultural a la comunidad con la creación del comité cultural de San Marcos. Este comité nos ha ayudado a mantener una presencia no únicamente en San Marcos, sino en toda la diócesis, de lo que podemos ofrecer como congregación intercultural y bilingüe.

Hay retos si los hay y gracias a Dios por estos retos y la mejor forma de responder a ellos es participando y enterándonos de lo que pasa en nuestra familia, parroquia y comunidad. Te invito a que este año te envuelvas más en la vida de la parroquia y que te conectes con todo lo que nos afecta como comunidad hispana/latina en San Marcos.

Quiero dar gracias a Dios por mi esposa Lucia y mis hijos David y Daniel. En este tiempo de muchos cambios y transiciones me han ayudado a mantener mi fe y me han ayudado a hacer frente a los diferentes retos que se han presentado. Doy gracias a Dios por su presencia en mi vida.

Respetuosamente,

Victor+

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**A Vision for St. Mark’s**

*Adopted by the Vestry in 2009.*

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

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

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

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

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

We worship, learn, and serve, proclaiming our commitment to understand and follow Christ’s challenging Gospel.
Report of the Pastor Associate

The Pastor Associate supports a variety of ministries and programs. I appreciate the opportunities St. Mark's has offered.

Worship
Preach, Preside as scheduled, support and assist all AM and PM services
Midweek Eucharist, special services as scheduled
Pastoral care, weddings, funerals, baptisms as requested
Children's Good Friday worship (2 services)
Children's Christmas Eve message (2 services)
Support acolytes in worship
Preach at area congregations as requested (Calvary in Lombard)

Education
6 Communion classes for grades 2-5 (AM and PM)
4 Confirmation classes for AM
2 classes for PM grades 6-12
Developed yearlong curriculum for Communion Classes (grade 2)
Developed classes on Bible overview and use for grades 2-8
Adult Ed programs on Greek refugees and Reformation
JAM for Easter services, Sunday School openings as scheduled
Youth Bridge Group specials

(NEW) Preschool/PDO chaplain
Coordinated weekly preschool chapel
Biweekly stories for PDO
Quarterly notices of church activities of interest to preschoolers

Organization
Assembled annual planning meeting and calendar
Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas worship and activities
Seder meal, Ashes to Go, Maundy Thursday logistics
Communion Celebration

Other
Volunteered in refugee camp in Greece
Responsible for St. Mark's when other clergy away
Assembled and produced monthly newsletter PostMark Jan-May

To Bob, my support and sounding board, love and gratitude.

Let us bless the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor Robin
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 supervises our nursery and has been with us for 20 years. She relies on a rotation of adult and teen volunteers who keep our nursery running smoothly during the 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 10:30 am and 1:00 pm services, as well as the 12:00 pm Sunday School. This fall, we changed the opening time for the nursery from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Jocelyn Briones also comes in to assist from 12:00 pm-2:30 pm. Thank you to volunteers Stephanie Rivera, Libby Wassef, Christina Guare, Stephanie Ott, Petra Peterson, Claire Margaglione, Carrie Gowans, Ellen Dickey, Liz Valdivia, Jennifer Vincent, Nancy Gier, Jeff Hill, Jill Laughter, Mia Grant-Funck, Virginia Curtis, Tina Gugleimo, Casey Hill and substitutes: Kristine Becker, Cindy Glavin, Julia Delack, Maeve Brannegan, we are able to have a safe and fun environment in the nursery. We average 10 children in the nursery each Sunday morning and 5-6 Sunday each afternoon.

Sunday School
At 10:15, Sunday school classes are offered for children age three through fifth grade. This Sunday school group is using the 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 10 this year and will go through May 20. We are having a special focus on Jesus this year. Almost all of our lessons follow the life of Jesus. We have a three-four year old class, kindergarten-first grade class, second grade class, third grade class and a fourth-fifth grade class. We have on average 6-7 children each Sunday in the morning.

At 10:15 am there is a class geared for children with special needs, called Allies. This class currently serves one child with various needs. They use both Godly Play materials and “Weaving God’s Promises” to enhance their instruction. Also there are two students integrated with the Sunday school classes who have aides to help their instruction. Darcie Lambert and Kate Tebrugge lead the allies and Isabel Grant-Funck, Alexis Lincoln, Laura McGovern and Stephanie Ott assist.

We have two classes at 12:00 pm. We now have one afternoon SLS Sunday School class for preschool-first grade and one for second-fifth grade, both using Godly Play in Spanish. Attendance has been 2-6 in each class.

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

Preschool 3s and 4s: Nancy Lanham, Megan McGuire, Kim Warren, Alison Roberts, Claire Margaglione, Samantha Campen, Liam Dunch.

Kindergarten-First grade: Kim Lloyd-Eichenauer, Lesley Arlasky, Erin Wolaver, Gayle Todd, Niki Battels, Josie Rothwell, Debora Felsenthal.


At 12:00 pm, we have the following dedicated volunteers: Angeles Reyes and Sandra Barrera.

There are multiple Group Sunday Schools for kindergartners-fifth graders held periodically throughout the year at the 10:15 am Sunday school. In January 2017, we had actors from The Message Bible retell bible stories on stage. Magician Todd Jabaay entertained the children with magic with a Biblical message in February. The children learned about labyrinths and explored ours in March. On Mother’s Day, the children learned about mothers in the Bible. In October, storyteller Beth Galbreath engaged the children in interactive stories about Jesus. There were two Group Sunday Schools in November. Cecilia Smith did a presentation about the life of Jesus through art and we also had a special lesson on Christ the King Sunday.

Jesus and Me (JAM) This class offers the Godly Play approach on Sunday mornings during the 9:15 am service for our youngest members, ages 4-8 years old. We average 7-8 children per Sunday. Many thanks to Melody Mordini who organizes and assembles the story baskets and figures each week.


Greeters: Melody Mordini, Maureen Isphording, Mary Lane, Lindsey Strom, Julia Delack, Sarah Borden-Sharkey, Alice Plutko.

Vacation Bible School
Kristine Osmond and I directed Vacation Bible school this year. The VBS theme this year was Maker Fun Factory. The VBS camp was held July 17-21 and we were filled to capacity again this year with 63 children age 4 through fifth grade. We again 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 to station leaders Lina Benich, Deirdre Churchill, Sarah Adler, Megan McGuire, Rebecca Boskovic and Joselyn Briones. There were many wonderful assistants who helped the week run smoothly: Carmen Chavez, Macy Langtry, Heidi Ruskusky, Doreen Corrigan, Ellen Dickey, Stephanie Stephen, Rachel Grider, Jennifer Collander, Sheri Fiala, Becky Markham, Kim Rothwell, Max Garner, Sarah Shulte, Marilyn Boskovic, Claire Margaglione, Gracie McCurdy, Molly Daniel, Sydney Copora, Isabel Barrea, Jennifer Placencia, Dan Lobraco, Will Fry, Christy Backer, Josie Rothwell, Litzy Reyes, Melanie Andrews, Lela Waterman, Raul Barrea, Sue Mylander, Kristi Kovich, Paul Gillespie, Delany Gross, Henry Curtis, Virginia Curtis. Other volunteers helped with set up, clean up and snacks: Lindsey Bigham, Heather Dalskov, Gayle Todd, Alice Plutko, Erin Ksiazek, Heather Cavada, Jennifer Greenwalt, Lindsey McKibben, Sarah Pluth, Karen Javier, Michelle Cain, Erin Kzisak, Melanie Anderew, Wendy Valuzzi, Lauren Taglia, Samantha Campen, Amy Van Hausen, Melanie Cook, Molly Painter, Amy Drew. Ryan Valdivia did a wonderful job creating a slide show to share with parents at the end.
Other Educational Opportunities & Family Events at St. Mark’s

St. Mark’s Superstars Drama Camps
There were two Drama Camps held in 2017. One was a one day drama camp held Jan 16th. The morning group of 4-6 year olds had 15 excited participants and there were 28 in the afternoon group of 7 year olds and older. St. Mark’s also hosted 23 children (first grade through eighth grade) for a five 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.

Advent Wreath Making
This event is offered on the first Sunday of Advent at 11:45 am 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, fishing line, wire and ribbon. Each wreath was unique and special to its maker. We had a very large turn out this year!

Christmas Pageant
Our congregation enjoyed a new pageant written by our very own Robin Currie. Amber Lemar directed this delightful pageant to a full house. “The Sounds of Christmas” was presented on December 17 during the 10:30 am service. 42 children were cast in the production and did a wonderful job. We had a wonderful core team of volunteers: Amber Lemar—Director, Ellen Dickey—Angel Mom, Kate Marsh—Angel/Lovebird Mom, Patty Hafer—Sheep Mom, Jen Vincent—Sheep Mom, Liam Dunch—Shepherd Dad, Alice Plutko—Shepherd Mom, Ellen Brannegan—Costumes, Jessica Commo—Costume Assistant, Claire Margaglione and Maeve Brannegan—Baby assistant

Outreach

Birthday Boxes
This was our third year of collecting toys for the People’s Resource Center. Children earned 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
From September 2016-May 2017, the Sunday school classes took turns bringing in donations for the food pantry. Our class with the most donations (Preschool again!) had an ice cream party. We started a new contest in September 2017 and will end it in May 2018. This has increased enthusiasm and giving for the food pantry.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF
An annual outreach activity, children and their families are encouraged to trick or treat for UNICEF which supplies food and medicine to children in need around the world. The Sunday school classes participated in our sixth annual pumpkin decorating contest during the 11:45 am coffee hour during late October. We collected $473.17 for UNICEF which we were able to increase to $1,119.51 since we donated on Giving Tuesday.

St. Nicholas Luncheon
This annual luncheon was held on December 10 and Mahon Hall was full again this year. Participants raised hundreds of dollars worth of toys for the Peoples Resource Center’s Share the Spirit Program. Brynn Wulf organized the decorating and Joanne Eorgoff organized a lovely warm meal. Tim Frawley played St. Nicholas this year and he brought great stories and treats to the children. Thank you to Steve Gross and Lou and Alex
Margaglione for managing the registration table. Thank you also to Katherine Littlefield, Jean Tschampa entertaining the crowd by offering live music for the luncheon. Other important helpers for the luncheon were Susan and Bradley Bjerning, Samantha Campen, Owen and Grace Ellison, Carrie Gowans, Denise Joyce, Heather Luttenton, Dellana and Cynthia Mote, Kim Stellmack, Susan Sallas, Gayle Todd, and Chris Carter.

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 among the groups. Our Preschool was offered 5 days this year, with one offering as a studio arts program. There was also a Kindergarten enrichment program offered twice a week. PDO was full again this year and operates 5 days a week with two summer sessions.

Kristin Margaglione

Youth Ministry Report
Please be sure to check out the list of names at the end and see how many are involved in Youth Ministries! Also, be sure to check us out on Facebook!

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will, with God’s help.

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

Rooted in Baptism
Middle School marks the beginning of preparation for confirmation, a reaffirming of the Baptismal Covenant, those promises made for us at Baptism. The Baptismal Covenant is a question and answer version of the Apostle's Creed, a statement of faith, and how we are called to live out that faith.

Confirmation takes place at the end of 8th grade, when those youth who choose to be confirmed renew their baptismal vows during a service, which includes a laying on of hands by the Bishop.

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

Growing in Faith
Attending and Serving in Worship: Once a month we take a break from Sunday school to encourage our youth to go to church with their families and serve in the worship services. One of the most important messages we want to impart is that worship holds us together as a community in Christ. Attending worship is a commitment, one that we hope sticks. In addition to attending services, we ask each incoming 6th grader to commit to a role in worship, serving as an usher, acolyte, reader, and/or instrumentalist. We hope that serving in these roles will help youth realize their importance as part of St. Mark’s.

Sunday School: There are many educational opportunities for youth at St. Mark’s. Sunday School classes are offered at 10:15 am and at noon:

- 6th & 7th Grade (10:15 am) in Room 103
- 8th Grade (10:15 am) in Room 101 (includes preparation for confirmation)
- 6th, 7th, 8th Grade (Noon) in Room 103 (includes preparation for confirmation)
- High School Grades 9th to 12th (10:15 am and Noon) in Lehman Parlor
Youth Bridge Group 1st Sunday of the Month: A once a month learning/serving opportunity for all 6th through 12th graders (11:45 am).

Confirmation/Mentor Relationship: 8th Graders meet regularly with adult mentors, one on one, to discuss their faith and what it means to be confirmed.

Confirmation Lunches and Retreats: These are opportunities for 8th graders to get additional preparation for confirmation. Parents and mentors are included in some of these events.

Wednesday Night Youth Groups, Cookouts, and Fellowship: Fellowship provides time for middle schoolers and high schoolers to learn about themselves and God-and have fun while doing it!

Helping out with Parish Activities and Events:

These include service and fellowship opportunities such as: making PADS lunches, serving at the St. Nicholas Brunch, working in the Pumpkin Patch, assisting in the Nursery, interning in the office, and helping with art exhibits, Mexico Mission Trip and ASP Trip fundraisers, the Annual Meeting, the Parish Picnic, VBS, and more!

Internship Opportunities: Every summer, we accept 3 or 4 high school or college youth to work at St. Mark’s for a stipend. Applications are available in early spring.

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

St. Mark’s provides the following opportunities:
• Mexico Mission Trip
• Appalachia Service Project Trip
• Middle School Mission Camp
• Offsite Retreats and Activities (with the Diocese of Chicago and other local churches)
• PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)
• PRC (People’s Resource Center)
• CROP Walk
• And more!

All of this could not be possible without amazing volunteers, both youth and adults help make all we do possible. We are extremely grateful for these people and all they do for St. Mark’s:

• Teachers for youth classes: Leo Lanzillo Nancy Purcell, Dan Kelly, Steve Webster, George Churchill, Lela Waterman (College Intern), Michelle Roman, Robin Currie, and Sue Mylander.
• College Intern: Lela Waterman.
• Youth Group Leaders: Jess and Myles VanCamp, with help from Jocelyn Briones.
• Leaders and Contributors to Youth Bridge Group: Cynthia Mote, Michelle Roman, Pastor Robin, Cecilia Smith & Beth Treleven (Art), and Kelly & Steve Gross (Social Art).
• College Access Programs: Eden Shadis.
• Youth Vestry Representatives for 2017: Anthony Lanzillo and Julio Reyes.
• ASP Trip Organizer: Cindy Glavin.
• Middle School Mission Camp Leaders: Jocelyn Briones.
• Cathedral Youth Day Leader: Jocelyn Briones.
• Hispanic Youth Event Organizers: Jocelyn Briones, Miguel Briones, Cynthia Mote.
• Summer Interns: Lela Waterman, Lauren Glavin.
• Parent Meeting Hosts: Cecilia and George Smith.
• Sleep Out Saturday: Boy Scout Troop 44, Cynthia Mote, David Dornblaser, Ginnie Judd, Jeanne Kreymer, and Fiona Miller.

Cynthia Mote,  
Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Boy Scout Troop 44**

Troop 44 Mission Statement 2018

Boy Scout Troop 44 is affiliated with St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. As a Boy Scout Troop, our goal is to teach the Boys to become confident leaders and productive members in society. This goal is achieved through a variety of activities which include weekly meetings, camp outs, merit badges, community service activities, and fundraising activities.

Our Troop meets on most Monday nights from 7:00 until 8:30, unless there is a holiday. We currently have 12 boys in our Troop that range from 6th grade through sophomore in high school. We are broken down into 2 groups, known as patrols. One patrol consists of the older scouts and the other patrol has the younger scouts. Each patrol has a scout that is in charge of leading his patrol for a 6 month period. We also have a scout who is in charge of leading the entire Troop. The younger patrol will often work on learning life skills: cooking, outdoor survival, outdoor ethics, knots and lashings, first aid, fitness, citizenship, and leadership. Our older patrol will often teach the younger scouts. They also work on merit badges. About once a month, we try to have a meeting with friendly competition. This year we had a race to see which pair of scouts can set up a tent faster than the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster, who could build the best paper airplane, entered a cardboard boat regatta, and played popcorn games for our popcorn kickoff. When the boys work in groups, sometimes they are with scouts similar in age and skills and sometimes the groups are diversified. We want all the scouts to get along with each other and see that everyone has their own strengths and contributes to the group as a whole.

The campouts we schedule are monthly, however sometimes it is cancelled due to scouts being unable to attend. We usually have 5 to 8 scouts attend the camp outs. These range from a simple overnight to 1 week. Usually our campouts are for 1 weekend and the scouts sleep in the tents that they pitch. They are responsible for meal planning, preparation and clean up. We will usually focus on an activity for the weekend. This past year we went to the Harley Davidson Museum, learned about different cooking methods, attended Stem-O-Rama, and learned about nature for our weekend trips. Overnight trips included a lock-in for planning the next year’s adventures and the Museum of Science and Industry. Our week long summer camp was at Camp Tesomas in Rhinelander. This is the first year we did not go with another Troop because we had enough participation at both the scout and adult level. We were also fortunate to have another Troop invite our older scouts on a high adventure trip to Sea Base in Florida for scuba diving for 1 week. 2 of our scouts were able to attend.

Part of the scouting program is completing merit badges. This is more in depth learning on a particular subject. It ranges from simple interests like coin collecting and basket weaving to life skills like first aid, cooking, physical fitness, emergency preparedness, and personal management. The scouts can complete as few or as many as they desire. However in order to attain the rank of Eagle, they must complete 13 required merit badges and 8 merit badges of their choosing. This is usually accomplished during the scout’s own time. Sometimes merit badges will be worked on with the Troop. All of our scouts have completed at least 2 this year.

It is important for scouts to realize that they must give back to the community. We therefore provide the opportunity to perform community service activities. This past year the scouts have helped at PADS, Lenten
Supper, campsite improvements at summer camp, the Food Pantry, Polar Express, and St. Mark’s pumpkin unloading and clean up. The scouts also built a ladder rack for the outside ladders so that they are no longer resting on the fence.

Lastly, the scouts have to realize that almost everything they do requires expenses. The Troop therefore has an annual Pancake Breakfast in spring and Spaghetti Dinner in fall. The scouts are asked to sell tickets to the events and ask businesses to buy advertisement on our placemat. In addition, Three Fires Council also requires that popcorn be sold. We are still in the learning process with our Breakfast and Dinner. This year we learned how to use the dishwasher, so now we no longer use disposable products. We also added a carving station to our pancake breakfast. Our dinner this year we learned that we need more hot water and a lot of pasta ready at the beginning. Each year we improve.

Our goal for this year continues to be to recruit more boys and active adults. I believe our program is strong and financially we are in good shape. This year a survey was disseminated to see how we are performing. Sadly not many were returned, even though it was anonymous. But on a positive note, this means that we are not doing anything drastically wrong!

As a side note, the Boy Scouts of America have decided that girls will benefit from the program. This coming year, girls will be able to join Cub Scouts. I am not sure when they will be able to join Boy Scouts. We will cross that bridge when we come to it.

Debora L. Felsenthal  
Troop 44 Committee Chairman

**Adult Formation**

Adult Formation is a gathering held on Sunday mornings for discussion, fellowship and learning. It is typically held on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10am in the library. It continues to evolve, and has taken the shape of lectures, presentations and TED-style video talks. Topics range from spiritual to secular and have been led by both church members and individuals from the larger community.

The purpose of the forum is to have a place for open and honest discussion and everyone is welcome and encouraged to share their perspective.

In the spirit of building connections and branching out into the community, the 2017 adult forum was highlighted by a four month series on Protestantism and learning about the faith experiences of our fellow Christians. We were also blessed to welcome Ariane Hiriat from Le Pelican school in Afghanistan in May.

In 2018 we are continuing to explore matters of our faith and the world around us. We will be addressing challenging questions such as “what happens when you die?” Other upcoming topics include the Rosary, Mary, and Episcopal church history. We also look to expand our “lunch & learn” sessions which have been so successful in the past. All are welcome to join us as we learn and grow together in knowledge and faith.

Dan Lambert

**Music**

Since I was appointed Director of Music on November 1st of 2016, I have been overwhelmed with the support and welcome from the staff, clergy, and congregation of St. Mark’s. Every day as a member of this community
brings positivity, encouragement, and a desire to live out our motto of being “rooted in baptism, growing in faith, and branching out into the world.”

The music program in 2017 has gone through good and positive changes. From the revitalization of Choral Evensongs, the new direction and formation of the Youth Choir, to a huge choral performance with choir and orchestra highlighting the outstanding Walker organ, our congregation teems with passion, hard work, and dedication to highly elevated music in the church.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have made the transition into this new musical chapter in the life of St. Mark’s possible. First, Tanya and Jerry Carey continue to offer invaluable gifts to the congregation and have been patient advisors and colleagues. Second, the members of our Adult Choir, who work exceptionally hard to produce terrific music each and every week; their enthusiasm in engaging with new repertoire and approaching familiar pieces with renewed vigor is of great value. Our congregation is blessed with an abundance of musicians, especially our youth, who offer their gifts as they are able. Finally, I want to thank Marsha Webster. Over the past year, Marsha has been my most valued colleague and confidant. Not only is she an amazing organist and advocate for youth music, she is also an incredibly resourceful person constantly looking for ways to improve and enhance the opportunities for our congregation. In addition to all of her work preparing the choir room and organ loft for the arrival of a new Director of Music, she spent the summer with me carefully and meticulously overhauling our music library and updating our catalogue...an extremely difficult task! From her work with the youth, to her relentless support of the church and the music program, Marsha approaches all of her duties with care and love. I am deeply honored to work with such a unique and passionate person.

Below, please find a summary of the work of the music program for 2017. We look forward to what 2018 will bring us.

**Adult Choir**
Alongside our Music Associate Marsha Webster, the Adult continues to be the primary ensemble of St. Mark’s. The weekly rehearsals on Thursday nights have moved from 8:00-9:30pm (January-August) to 7:30-9:00pm (August-current). In addition, the choir has taken important steps towards a more unified sound through intentional, focused rehearsals and repertoire better suited for musical advancement.

**Youth Choir**
The fall of 2017 meant the beginning of a new direction for our youth music program. Utilizing the renowned training program Voices for Life (VfL), our youth are undergoing an immersive music education focused on their growth as musicians. As part of the VfL program, St. Mark’s has renewed its membership as an affiliated organization of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). This affiliation gives our church, and more importantly, our youth, a network of organizations designed to bring congregations and communities outstanding music. With this network comes opportunities both nationally and internationally for our musical community to perform, earn awards, and become strong musical leaders for the next generation of church music. Currently, any youth involved with this choir are all members of the choir. However, to aide in learning and the opportunity for more individualized attention, the rehearsals are split into age groups. The kindergarteners rehearse with Marsha from 4:00-4:30pm, the 1st-3rd graders rehearse with Daniel from 4:00-4:45pm, and the 4th-graders and up rehearse from 4:30-5:15pm. The rehearsals are held on Wednesdays in the choir room.

**Other Offerings and Services**
- Choral Evensong is a new regular service at St. Mark’s led by the Adult Choir. The service is held on the last Sunday of the month January through May and September through November. Combined with unique music and quiet contemplation, Choral Evensong is our fastest growing service.
• The Choral Masterworks Series celebrated its first performance in May featuring the Adult Choir, orchestra members, guest singers, and soloists. The Series continues in 2018 with a performance on May 6th.
• The Youth led a Taize service in March.
• Canto Zenzero (a trio of sopranos accompanied by renowned pianist Riko Higuma) performed 2 unique programs.

Daniel Segner
Director of Music

**Usher Ministry**

During services, the ushers are the persons parishioners meet when they come in the door. Not only do they pass out to each attendee that Sunday’s bulletin, but they also pass any other information they are directed by the ministry to do. In addition thereto, they make records of the attendance, take the collection, and are instrumental in getting the communal offerings to the rector and the associate rectors. At the end of each service, they make sure that everything is restored to its pre-service location. In addition, they are available for anyone, especially first-time people, to guide them as to how the service will be run and where to sit.

There were approximately 32 people working as ushers during the calendar year 2017 and many times, when an Usher would be sick or unable to join the other ushers during service, other members of the congregation simply stepped-up and filled-in for the missing person. The availability of the ushers to fulfil their duties is both essential and greatly appreciated.

Andy Carter

**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 if you would like more information. And please let the readers know how much you appreciate their hard work.

George Smith

**Daughters of the King**

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate. The Order was founded over 130 years ago. Because Daughters of the King
accept a Rule of Life, we define ourselves as an order, not an organization. Our community is found primarily in our local chapters, but it extends around the world. Membership in the Order is open to women at every stage of life who desire a closer walk with the Lord. After a three-month period of study and discernment, each new member takes vows to uphold the two Rules of the Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.

As Daughters of the King, our mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. We are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life, and supported through the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey – some have just begun, and some have been on this path for a long time. But no matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

St. Anne Chapter of Daughters of the King at St. Mark’s has served the clergy and parish for over 85 years. The primary service was the responsibility of altar duty. Moving forward, Altar Ministry is being established as a standalone ministry open to all members (male and female) of the congregation. Altar ministry remains an important service for many (but not all) of the daughters. DOK coordinates the use of the church for all weddings, guiding and supporting the wedding party and representing the church in its use and care. In addition, following funeral services, we offer a lovely reception for family and friends. Other ways DOK is present include supporting the decorating of the church for Christmas and Easter. We are engaged in active prayer as part of our ministry keeping the church prayer list in mind along with our own prayer requests.

We meet once a month to pray, work and learn together. If you are interested in being a part of a community within the larger community of St. Mark's with whom to share your spiritual journey, we invite all women of St. Mark’s to join. If you have questions please contact President, Susie Meehan, 630-480-0639, sjfmeehan@yahoo.com.

Susan Meehan

**Altar Ministry**

Those of us who serve on altar duty consider it a holy ministry, preparing the Table for every Eucharist service in the church. We wash, iron and lay out the linens, pour the wine into vessels that we have polished, fill the candles with oil, put out the bells and books, order supplies, oversee the flowers and uncover the piano. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, for over 85 years we have been a central part of the life of St. Marks. Just as you prepare for cherished visitors in your home, we set our Lord’s Table so that all may gather, eat and drink of his body and blood and be refreshed and comforted.

We touch your lives not only each time you take communion on Sunday. We prepare for baptisms, first communions, weddings, healings, and reverently, and in great hope and faith we set the table for funeral, laying out the pall and comforting the bereaved. It is a privilege to serve our Lord and our congregation in this way.

We invite all who would like to learn more about this beautiful ministry to join us. You will learn about the history and meaning of our liturgy and the work necessary for what most people take for granted. It requires only a couple of hours training, and a willingness to commit to two hours of work each month. If interested in learning more about the Altar Ministry, please contact Karen Evans either by phone (708) 642-2601 or by email kkevans46@gmail.com.

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. These ministries are: music, lay readers, ushers, acolytes, sub-deacons 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:
- Coordinator - Paula Zwiebel
- Lay Readers - at this time there is no single leader. If anyone is interested in joining this ministry, please contact Father George
- Music Director - Daniel Senger
- Music Associate Director - Marsha Webster
- Ushers - Andrew Carter
- Acolytes Trainer - Robin Currie
- Ministry Scheduler - Ginnie Judd
- Daughters of the King - Karen Evans and Gretchen Kenower
- Visual Arts - Edna Heatherington
- Clergy - George Smith and Victor Conrado

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

Paula Zwiebel

**Pastoral Care**

**Pastoral Care Prayer Ministry/Providers:** Rebecca Sandrok coordinates parish prayer request list. The Prayer Providers Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am and attends the Wednesday noon Eucharist. The intention of the prayer ministry is to hold in daily prayer the individuals and families on the St. Mark’s prayer list. This is a group led by members of the group taking turns overseeing 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. Prayer requests are submitted on cards that are located in the church pews, 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’. The Prayer Group welcomes anyone who would like to join the group and their ministry of prayer.

**Clergy visits:** George, Robin, and now Bob Wyatt make the majority of clergy visits to those in hospitals or in need of a home visits. Bruce Clements, a member of St. Mark’s and ordained Congregational minister also assists at Beacon Hill.

**Lay chaplain and Eucharistic minister visits:** Trained lay members of St. Mark’s assist the clergy by visiting and bringing the Eucharist to parishioners as needed.

**Meal ministry Fiona White and Pam Rojc:** During the past year, the Meals Ministry provided approximately 5 families with meals, averaging 2-3 meals per family. We welcome additional meal makers to our list of volunteers as we have had some volunteers move away in the course of the last year.

**Spiritual direction:** Catharine Phillips continues to offer spiritual direction to members and nonmembers of St. Mark’s. Her office located on the first floor in room 121.

**Baby baskets:** Elizabeth Lewis creates a care 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.
Altar flower deliveries: Dianne Dinse serves our congregation as she has done for a number of years taking 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.

Social Service Agency Support: St. Mark’s contributed $1200 each to Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service (GEYFC) and Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (CDPPC).

George Smith

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, Karen Evans, Bob Judd, Gretchen Kenower, Brenda Laws and Bob Meehan, Susie Meehan, and Dan Pradt. Thank you to all.

Dick Anstee

St. Mark’s Outreach Committee

In 2017 St Mark’s parishioners continued to branch out into the world to help those in need due to the generosity of our congregation. There are projects and opportunities for you to reach out and help the hungry, homeless, and the poor, and the needy, not only in the local area, but well beyond; regionally, nationally, and worldwide. The summary of activities listed here is not intended to be all inclusive of the outreach St. Marks is in engaged in, but hopefully it helps to illustrate some of the ways we are trying to make a difference and have helped those who struggle.

During the past year, approximately $20,000, was allocated to the various programs as part of St. Mark’s effort towards supporting those in need. St. Mark’s continued its work with Bridge Communities organization. The goal of this program is to mentor that family from homelessness to self-sufficiency, moving from hand out to hand up. We continued our support for the Walk-In-Ministry, which provides support to the needy in Glen Ellyn area. St. Mark’s along with approximately 17 other churches in our community work together aiding in a variety of ways to the less fortunate (food certificates, gas vouchers, rental assistance, transportation, utility support, etc.). Other organizations which we have supported during the past year include Faith in Place program, Family Shelter Service which provides temporary housing for parents and children where physical abuse has occurred, and the Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Service (GEYFCS). Finally, St. Mark’s donated approximately $1250 to Doctors Without Borders through the free will offering at our Lessons and Carols service during the Advent Season.

Our building has continued to be an activity venue for AA, Al-anon, CODA, Boy Scouts, Recitals, Concerts, Folkloric Dancers, art exhibits and ESL. We are sincerely grateful to all who have shared time, talent and treasure by helping others. If you are interested in joining in on the activities, please contact me at rmeehan334@gmail.com.

Bob Meehan
Walk-In Ministry (WIM) Report 2017

The Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry was initiated in 1984 by the Glen Ellyn Ministerial Association. It represents a coordinated effort by 18 local churches to provide a source of compassionate assistance to individuals and families in need of emergency aid within our community. Examples of aid being provided include food certificates, gas vouchers, rental assistance, and transportation vouchers. It relies on donations from individuals and member churches. Located in the library of the First United Methodist Church this program provides opportunity for individuals to volunteer in covering the hours of operation and to serve on its governing board. The table included in this report summarizes the number of people served by this ministry during the last few years; 2017 data is not included.

Bob Meehan

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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 2017 we hosted the following exhibits:

- **St. Mark’s Collection**: During the weeks between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, we exhibited the pieces of art that are normally displayed throughout the church building. Descriptive text accompanied each work, stating history and acquisition, if known.
- **Stations of the Cross by Richard Rush**: These pieces are owned by St. Mark’s and are displayed annually during Lent. Dick Rush, a commercial artist of note, was a parishioner at St. Mark’s who worked from the 1950s through the 1990s.
- **Remember You Are Dust**: An exhibit of photographs by Lydia Smith, portraying cemeteries from around the world. This exhibited in Lent in conjunction with the Stations of the Cross.
• The Queen Bee’s Labor: An exhibit of embroidery by prolific needle artist and parishioner Tricia Benich. Primarily concentrated on birds, bees, and other natural themes, most of the work was counted cross stitch on fine linen.

• Borrowing from Japan: Calligraphy and drawings by Matthew Wright included interpretations of Japanese death poems, detailed charcoal drawings, and traditional and non-traditional texts on a large scale.

• Wounaan Art Baskets: An exhibit of Indigenous Columbian Woven Art. Brought to us by Karen Torres of Tulia’s Gallery, these baskets and vases are examples of plant-based traditional workmanship done by refugees from native tribes. This exhibit also inspired events at St. Mark’s centered around Fair Trade practices. We are grateful to Virginia Vagt for discovering and coordinating the show of Karen Torres’s work with the Wounaan artisans.

• Advent Twig wreaths: The committee supplied new twig wreaths to display annually during Advent. The new wreaths are more rustic in appearance and slightly contrast the decorated wreaths for Christmas.

• Christmas wreaths: Twig wreaths decorated with red bows and berries to enhance twig wreaths in celebration of Christmas.

The group hosted a reception and artist’s talk for each exhibitor, drawing attendees from within and outside the St. Mark’s congregation. Beth Trel even designed several professional posters for publicity, and often there were St. Mark’s parishioners providing music at the receptions.

Art Group members Ellie Dunham, Edna Heatherington, Gretchen Kenower, Mary Elizabeth Lane, Cecilia Smith, Pat Sullivan, Beth Trel even, Peter Vagt, and Virginia Vagt have been active in 2017 meeting with artists and reviewing their portfolios, selecting works to be exhibited and installing them. Tom Agler is joining the group as well.

The meeting to select the coming year’s exhibits will be this month. The group always 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.

St. Mark’s Green Team 2017 Report

The Green Team is learning together how to make St. Mark’s a greener, more sustainable community. We welcome all who would like to learn with us. The team is: Christy Becker, Edna Heatherington, Ginnie Judd, and Jan Langford.

Meatless Dinner: the first annual meatless dinner was held last February, and we had a great turnout. We’re going to do it again this year on Wednesday, January 31; no reservations needed, just come and enjoy some great food (vegetarian, vegan, and/or gluten-free) and a chance for some awesome eco-friendly door prizes.

Indoor Winter Farmers Market: we hosted our first Winter Farmers Market in January 2017, an initiative through Faith in Place, which works with host sites at faith communities throughout the Chicago area to give local farmers and vendors within a 250 mile radius of St. Mark’s a place to connect with consumers. We were very pleased to learn that of the 16 Chicago area Faith in Place markets last season, St. Mark’s had the highest turnout and highest vendor sales. We will do it again this year on Sunday, February 25, from 9 am to 2 pm in Mahon Hall, and we hope a lot of you will turn out again this year to support local vendors.

Pollinator Garden: The Green Team took responsibility for the large garden at the northeast corner of the church property, at Main & Hillside. The garden was overgrown with lots of undesirables that were choking out the plants that provide food for butterflies, bees, birds, and other creatures, so the goal in 2017 was to identify what was growing there and remove anything that was hindering the beneficial plants. It was rewarding to see how many lovely perennials emerged once the turf grass and thistles were removed. We are looking for help to
create an overall design to perhaps add paths, seating, and additional pollinator-friendly plantings – let us know if you are interested in participating in planning or weeding.

**SCARCE’s Pumpkin Smash program:** For the third year, 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.

**Green Team Tips:** we now offer a different tip most weeks in the Sunday bulletin, on a variety of topics. Is there something you want to know about? Please let us know, and we’ll research to find the answer for you.

Please contact a Green Team member if you would like to learn more or become involved. Or send an email to GreenTeam@stmarksglenellyn.org with your question. Thank you!

**Mexico Mission Trip and Companion Parish Relationship 2017**

Every June since 2006, St. Mark’s has sent a group of parishioners, high school & college youth and adults, to Mexico. Over the years, while many have gone on the trip, all of us at St. Mark’s have shared in this companion relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante, participating in fundraisers, attending informational presentations, listening to stories, and meeting with Bishop Benito and Angelica from the Diocese of Southeast Mexico when they visit. St. Mark’s is actively involved in the Diocesan Subcommittee for Southeast Mexico. Our relationship with San Marcos is part of a Diocesan companion relationship and is shared with others participating in this broader community.

This past year, St. Mark’s sent a group of eight to San Marcos: Olivia Vanderlei, Isabel Grant-Funk, Ayleen Delara, Karen Jimenez, Frida Lopez, Patricia Spencer, Kim Reed, and George Smith. It’s almost 2 days of traveling, each way, which includes flying 2 legs, changing planes in Mexico City, and then driving from the city of Veracruz to Nigromante, near the border of the state of Oaxaca. As we get closer to Nigromante, the roads get hillier and rougher until we turn down the dirt road that takes us into Nigromante. This year when we arrived, there were fireworks, a band playing, dancers, and a meal waiting. It was the eve of the Feast of San Antonio de Padua, and we were welcomed to the celebration of one of the most important days in the life of San Marcos and the town of Nigromante. We had made plans for our visit, but every year, there’s the unexpected and the necessary adjustments that remind us that we aren’t always in control, that we need to be open to new experiences, new plans, put away our schedules, our watches, our phones, and just be present. Yet, as we do every year, we ran Vacation Bible School for the children of Nigromante, and then, with the help of the women and men of the church, we provided a community dinner, right in front of the church, in the heart of the pueblo.

At the end of each trip, usually while we are at the Mexico City Airport waiting for our flight to Chicago, we do “a Rose and a Thorn.” Each person goes around and talks about what she or he liked best about the visit and what the biggest challenge was. One rose this time was that everyone was engaged in all the activities, the fiesta, the misa/service, VBS, the community dinner, meeting new people, and playing and getting to know the children of the town as well as the host families. We stayed in homes for two of the nights, something we have done since our first visit, and something that everyone has agreed is one of the most important parts of the trip. A thorn, on almost every visit, is that there wasn’t enough time. We needed one more day. On our last morning in Nigromante, when we were getting ready to leave, we embraced the women we have known for so many years, Modesta, Catalina, Karla, and others, kissed the babies who had arrived since our last visit, hugged the kids who had skipped school to see us off, shook hands with the older men who no longer worked the nearby ranches. They now know we will return.
We are blessed by the relationship with our friends at San Marcos. We are also extremely grateful for your participation, support, and contributions, which have helped make this trip and companion parish relationship possible. In 2017, we raised over $6,700 from our Cake Auction and Bake Sale, Mother’s Day Rose Sale, the Cinco de Mayo Dinner and Silent Auction. Additionally, we also received some very generous donations from St. Mark’s parishioners, one who was able to get a matching grant from his company. These funds not only helped send St. Markers to Nigromante, but allowed us to pay for half of Padre Senobio’s $6,000 salary (his 3 parishes will never be able to support him financially). Your contributions provided $2,500 in scholarships to help keep kids in school, grades 3 and up. They helped us pay for the building project adjacent to the church – a place where Padre Senobio now works and the parish holds meetings and where small groups of visiting doctors can stay. Your contributions also help support the church bakery/panaderia, which provides a skill and income for poor women and for the church. We ask that you continue to pray for the people of San Marcos and the Diocese of Southeast Mexico. Gracias.

**St. Mark’s returns to San Marcos June 17-20, 2017 for our 13th visit!**

Kim Reed

**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 fourteen youth and adult volunteers (our largest group to date) to Kentucky on the 5th annual ASP trip in July of 2017. They worked hard at two different work sites 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 dates for 2018 are: Saturday, July 14 thru Saturday July 21.** ASP holds two fundraisers, the first, is a flower sale - flowers will be sold February 18 – March 6 for delivery May 5th, the weekend before Mother’s Day. The second fundraiser – “The House that St. Mark’s Built” (April 8-22)

The ASP trip is open to adults and youth who will be entering 9th grade in the fall of 2018. 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 630-956-0530.

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

Cindy Glavin

**Communications Coordinator Report**

St. Mark's accomplished a lot of 'firsts' this year in terms of communications.

In February it was made clear that our current website was not able to function properly based on what we were now asking it to do. It was decided that we would hire a web designer to custom make an entirely new site from the ground up according to our specific needs. Inksplash Designs LLC was hired and the process began over the summer. Prior to that it was decided that if we were getting a custom site, we should refresh our logo to reflect
who St. Mark's is and what St. Mark's represents. Parishioner Beth Treleven custom designed our new logo which was met with delight from staff and members of the church. A rebrand went across all areas and our new logo is now on paperwork, t-shirts, coffee mugs, the PostMark, outside signage, and all social media.

As of January 2018 the site is 95% complete. It has gone through many edits based on conversations on what our visitors would want from our site and what is the easiest way to access that information. We created new pages, removed ones that didn't suit us anymore, re-named some, and re-sorted what went where. The site launch is eagerly anticipated. It will make updates on the backend by Samantha much easier and more efficient, and show a refreshed and user-friendly site for anyone looking for more information from St. Mark's.

Our member directory is now online, and can be accessed from the ChurchLife app. This makes it easier to communicate with members of the church, as well as easy access to online giving.

For visiting guests, we have a text to give option in our weekly bulletins in case they want to contribute to the offering plate but do not have cash.

We started live streaming adult forum presentations on the St. Mark's Facebook page and have seen a very positive response. This is a great tool for those who are unable to attend the 9:15 presentation but are interested in the topic, as well as a great opportunity to share it across Facebook so more eyes see it. We normally have 100-300 views, if not more. This is great for just starting this feature, and it is expected to grow over time.

Paid Facebook ads prove to be beneficial in promoting specific events. We had our highest grossing year yet at the pumpkin patch.

The PostMark is in the process of getting a revamp, which Samantha has now taken over. The frequency of publications, format, and content are all being discussed at staff meetings. It is ongoing.

Samantha continues to help edit documents, create press releases, create ads on Facebook to bring greater attention to specific events, streamline Facebook posts with Twitter and Instagram, and reach out to all the ministry leaders to make sure their areas are represented accurately on the website.

Samantha Campen

**Parish Life**

Parish Life encompasses many things, all centered around the community and fellowship of the church members. The intent of all activities is to bring together the many parts of our congregation in ways that go beyond regular services. Several key events were held in 2017, in addition to weekly coffee hour after the 10:30 service each Sunday.

Parish Annual Meeting, January 22: A chance to celebrate our accomplishments, confirm nominations for the Vestry, and raise funds for the annual Mexico trip via a cake auction.

Lenten activities: An instructed seder meal and the Agape Feast on Maundy Thursday to help us all focus on the importance of the season and the many ways in which it is observed and celebrated.

All-Parish Picnic: June 4: Bringing together all parts of our congregation for fellowship, food, and fun.

Kick-Off Sunday, September 10: A way to celebrate the beginning of the new year of Sunday School, this fun event includes the Glen Ellyn Hot Dog man and other fun activities.

Lynn Dornblaser
Men’s Ministries

The St. Mark's Men's Group promotes fellowship and educational activities for the entire St. Mark's community. We again hosted the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, and 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 a variety of topics and welcome input on new areas to explore. There is a Men’s Group Weekly Breakfast on Tuesdays at 8:00 am at The Glen Oak Restaurant. All are welcome to join us at any of our activities. Contact us at mensgroup@stmarksglenellyn.org.

Leo Lanzillo

Women’s Ministries

Women in Touch/WIT

Our official weekly Women in Touch/WIT program concluded in May 2017. We launched WIT in August 2015 as an effort to bring the women of St. Mark’s together regularly and in new ways. We held monthly meetings in the morning during the school year and several times a year in the evening and summertime for in-town retreats at Blackberry Market, salad suppers, “Come On Over” (informal dinners at parishioners’ homes), and other special events through May 2017. WIT has an online presence with more than 110 members on the Facebook page. Favorite events included in-town retreats at Blackberry Market (with St. Markers including Michelle Roman Garcia, Jen Anstee Chavez, and Mimi Black sharing what they do/do not “know for sure”), book recommendation sessions with Sandy Koropp from Prairie Path Books in Wheaton, and several challenging and thought-provoking speakers including The Reverend Stacy Alan (chaplain at the University of Chicago) and Dr. Carolyn Faivre (St. Mark’s member, intuitive, and therapist) and many others.

Our initial WIT committee agreed to serve through 5/17; we actively looked for others to take over leadership since May, but to date, we’ve not been able to re-staff WIT. However, we are grateful that several women in the parish stepped up to host events for women since May including the annual ornament exchange in December 2017.

If you would like to get involved and invest time in keeping regular WIT events up and running (or would like to plan an in-town or out of town retreat), we’d love to hand over the baton to you officially and can give you the “keys” to the FB page and other resources. The former WIT committee’s long-term goals included growing relationships among women of all ages and backgrounds at St. Mark’s and also continuing to nurture relationships between women who attend different Sunday services.

For now, keep each other in your prayers, share what’s happening in your life or in the life of the parish on the FB page, and know that you attend a church full of smart, caring, and active women.

Jennifer Grant and Susan Shorney

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 (70 children from 61 families), and maintains a substitute list. PDO has had a strong following in our community since it began in 1986.
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 $11,500 to the parish’s general operating fund in 2017 and paid for the television being used for signage in the Rainbow Room, which is the entrance by the playground. PDO is currently working with St. Mark’s Preschool to make improvements to the basement.

Staff: We continue to be blessed by a very dedicated staff—Director Kathy O’Rourke and teachers Melody Mordini, Carrie Pihl, Norma Cid, and Ofelia Bustamente. We sadly said goodbye to long time dedicated teacher Cindy Glavin, who is now working at Glen Crest Middle School. We welcomed parishioner Ofelia Bustamente to the PDO staff this fall. We offer thanks to the following young women who substitute and help out when needed: Jocelyn Briones, 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.

2018-19 Registration: Registration for the 2018 summer and fall programs will begin in early April, with members of the parish receiving priority.

Kim Reed

St. Mark’s Preschool

St. Mark’s Preschool has been a part of the St. Mark’s community for eight years. 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.

The Preschool offers 3-day and 4-day classes, a Studio Arts Program, Kindergarten Enrichment and a Munch and Learn program. We also offer a summer camp program when school is out. We currently have 71 students from 50 families enrolled in our program offerings.

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.

Registration for the 2017-18 school year opens January 22 for church members. Applications are available in the Preschool office or online.

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 - Kristine Osmond (Preschool Director), Jen Bambule, Lori Gapinski, Stephanie Kjellstrand, Georgina Kerstin, Carey Murphy, Cynthia Pence, Leslie Sommers and Marsha Webster.

Kim Eichenauer, Preschool Board Chair, January 2018

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 2017 committee was 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
David Dornblaser – Grounds Manager

2017 B & G in Review:
David Dornblaser and his crew of volunteers did a wonderful job of keeping up the appearance of the church grounds, and the Green Team pitched in and took responsibility for the large garden at the northeast corner of the church property. We replaced 2 of the 3 main HVAC units, and had some much needed tuck-pointing done on the chimney of the fireplace in Lehman parlor.

2018 B & G Plans:
We welcome Joanie Somerville as our new Vestry Liaison to The Buildings and Grounds Committee. In 2018 the 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
- 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, and ceiling repairs.
- Remodel narthex.
- Expand the Columbarium.

We are still looking to fill the position of Keeping House 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. If you would like to take this on, 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 2017, especially our managers Gary, Mike, Ginnie and David, and Julian for the lawn care, leaf pick-up, shoveling and other daily grounds care.

Scott Shorney
Parish Register 2017

2017 Average Sunday Attendance: 442

Baptisms
Abigail Mirai Aguinaga Tafoya
Adolfo Gracia Soto
Adrian Gracia Soto
Alexander Noel Mejia
Allyson Victoria Florian
Amber Sofia Fernandez
Anna Lea Lambert
August James Smith
Braily Salgado
Brooke Katherine Glick
Claire Rose Kujawa
Darolyn Nallely Velasquez Lopez
David Balderas
Denisse Reyes
Edward Emiliano-Garcia Soto
Edwin Dynssel Estrada Trujillo
Elizabeth Avery Klieves
Emma Georgina Briggs
Everet Sean Dineen
Giovanni Gael Gonzalez
Hannah Maria Hafner
Hazel Ann Dickey
Hazel Masiel Florian
Henry Ryan Statis
Iker Jared Gonzalez
Jessica Manyi Liang
Joelthon Guadalupe Rodriguez
Julian Jared Reynoso
Kaleanah Andres
Kassandra Gonzalez
Liam Joseph Lemar
Lucina Grace Lopez

Confirmations
Luke Joseph Barber
Isabel Grace Bergmann
Nicholas Anthony Bilotti
Jenna Mae Brennan
Julian Cook Churchill
William Mogford Fry
Jeremiah Thomas Lanzillo
Courtney Paige Lennon
Alexis Nicole Lincoln
Emily Grace Littlefield
Parker Addison Somerville
Elisarely Arredondo
Jimmy Bautista
Briseida Chavez
Alondra DeCasas
Melanie Diaz

Funerals
Jean E. Haut
Lois Jacobson
Jerry Jenkins
Margaret H. Kidd
Rebecca D. Martin

Marriages
Janet Sutherland & Kevin Madden
Lynn Wollstadt & Roger Matson
Teresa Norris & Daniel Conaway
Mallory Treleaven & Kerry Kenny
Suzann Holding & Robert Doak
Minutes from January 22, 2017 Annual Meeting

St Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2017

This was the 120th annual meeting of the church. It was preceded by a serving of a buffet lunch. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm with approximately 125 people in attendance. Robert Olsen was appointed clerk for the meeting.

Those in attendance were provided with a packet containing appropriate annual reports and financial summaries. Last year's minutes were reviewed and approved without change.

A slate of new vestry members was presented to the attendees. This slate was approved by voice acclamation, and these people who were present accepted their appointment. These were:

Joyce Fletcher as Senior Warden
Leo Lanzillo as Junior Warden
Anthony Lanzillo, Youth Representative
Julio Reyes, Youth Representative
Jared Friebel
Steven Sedall
Virginia Vagt
Bill Kelly
Angela Perdomo Reyes

Also approved by voice acclamation were our delegates for the next diocese convention. They are:

Flor-Itzel Camona
Will Dunlop
Beremundo Damian

There was recognition from our rector George Smith for the services and efforts of several people who will be leaving positions. This includes the following:

Mauro Hernandez, Vestry
Carolyn Faiivre, Vestry
Hunter Walor, Vestry
Kathy Kelly, Vestry
Paige Hardy, Youth Representative
Abraham Jimenez, Youth Representative
Tim Sullivan, Vestry Clerk
David McCaraher, Fund Manager

Harvey Dunham provided a report as church treasurer. While calling our attention to the financial section of the package, he provided several highlights on the fiscal year 2016. Total revenue came in $11,000 below goal. However, expenses also came at $13,000 below goal. The total net of expenses vs. revenues was a shortfall of $13,000. In all, expense control in 2016 was deemed to have been very good.
Given the assumption that interest rates could increase in the near term, our finance team decided to refinance our mortgage last year. Those negotiations with our lender resulted in a seven year fixed rate of 4.5%. Harvey complimented the effort of Dave McCaraher for his many years of service as the fund manager. George added comments. He thanked Harvey for his time and effort. He also reminded us that the PDO and Preschool were operating in a financial net surplus. Additionally, those two entities also make positive investments in our building.

Next came the Warden report from outgoing Senior Warden Peter Vagt. He reflected on his experience as both Junior and later Senior Warden. Peter acknowledged the help he had received and commented on the highlights of the last year. He noted the positive nature of so many people bringing forth their own leadership abilities and talents. He gave a particular salute to the work of the finance committee this past year. George Smith provided his thanks to Peter and provided him with a gift of appreciation.

As the meeting moved to conclusion George Smith called attention to the rector's report in the meeting package. As his sermon at today's services covered this report, he did not work though it again. However, he did ask for any questions. No questions were provided. Cecelia Smith gave thanks to the church for its support to their family.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 1:05 pm

As a postscript, the meeting was paused four times for the traditional cake auction. These cakes are homemade by congregation members and are baked with great care and creativity. This auction is a fund raiser for the Mexico Mission trip planned this summer. Several cakes were also sold via a silent auction.

Robert Olsen
Vestry Clerk
February 21, 2017
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Bishop of Chicago

the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop

Clergy

the Rev. George D. Smith, Rector
the Rev. Dr. Robin Currie, Pastor Associate
the Rev. Victor H. Conrado, Priest Associate
the Rev. Dr. Walter M. Dunnett, Priest Associate
the Rev. Catharine Phillips, Priest Associate
the Rev. Dr. Robert O. Wyatt, Priest Associate
the Rev. Dr. Clint Moore III, Priest Associate
the Rev. Canon Suzann Holding, Priest Associate
the Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler, Priest Associate
the Rev. Miguel Briones, Deacon

Program Staff and Office Staff

Mr. Daniel Segner, Director of Music
Ms. Marsha Webster, Music Associate
Ms. Kristin Margaglione, Director of Children’s Ministries
Ms. Cynthia Mote, Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator
Mr. Jaime Briceño, Ministry Associate
Ms. Norma Cid, Nursery Supervisor
Ms. Kathy O’Rourke, PDO Director
Ms. Kristine Osmond, Preschool Director
Ms. Della Mote, Office Manager
Ms. Ginnie Judd, Office Administrator
Ms. Chris Ponstein, Bookkeeper
Ms. Samantha Campen, Communications Coordinator
Mr. Julian Mendoza, Sexton

Senior Warden
Joyce Fletcher

Junior Warden
Leo Lanzillo

Clerk of the Vestry
Bob Olsen

Treasurer
Tom Agler

Chancellor
Elizabeth Lewis

Vestry
Lynn Dornblaser, Jared Friebel, Jim Grotelueschen, Bill Kelly, Dan Lambert, Anthony Lanzillo, Kim Lloyd-Eichenauer, Megan McGuire, Angeles Perdomo-Reyes, Julio Reyes, Steve Sedall, Scott Shorney, Ricardo Soto, Virginia Vagt