

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

## 2018 Annual Report

### Rector's Report Ministry and Committee Reports



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# Rector's Report

Friends in Christ,

The Annual Meeting is a natural time to look back on the past calendar year and take stock of where we are as a community. It's also a time to do some thinking about the future — to dream a little about what the coming year can bring. In general, I'm incredibly pleased with where we find ourselves in 2019. There is always more work to be done welcoming people into our midst and in making sure that we are putting our feet and hands to the mission that we hear preached on Sunday. Are we being Christ in the world? It's a big question, and it's one that every generation has to answer in every church in the world. My hunch as I put together this report is that we are excellent at welcoming and weaving people into this community. In fact, I can't think of a single church off the top of my head that does this work better. It is holy and important work. For many of us, St. Mark's is our family. When I look at our efforts to take the Gospel into the world — either as evangelism or as working for justice in our society — I see places where we could answer God's call more strongly.



This coming year, I want us to look to our community partners in our city to see where we could lend a hand. Does this city need tutors? After school help? Prison ministry? Elder advocacy? I don't know the answer, but I believe we ought to be asking the questions. I want us to revitalize our international partnership in Haiti and perhaps think about some kind of exchange — to visit the school and clinic we support or to have visitors from Haiti come to share stories of what God is doing among them. And I want us to come up with an audacious idea that we could gather around. Maybe we can build a house for a family that doesn't have one? Perhaps we could be wrap-around support for someone seeking asylum? Or maybe we could help address food insecurity among UWM students? I don't know where we are called, but I'm excited to find out.

Below, I've lifted up some topics that I thought could use some fleshing out, in no particular order. They represent things that are on my mind as I look back at 2018 and look forward to 2019.

In Christ,  
Fr. Burch  
(Ian+)

## Attendance

I appreciate that the average number of people in worship on a Sunday morning is not that only metric of vitality of a congregation. Still, it is an awfully important one. People are attracted to a vibrant parish, and if we are watching people come into the doors and stay, I believe it means that we are offering that kind of radical welcome that Scripture teaches. Average Sunday attendance is up about 5% from last year (90 in 2017; 94.2 in 2018). I'll admit that number surprised me a bit, as the church has felt particularly full lately with numbers in the low 100s. Attendance in the summer was mainly in the low 70s, so you can see how we arrived at our average. I think a church positioned like St. Mark's in the city should comfortably have 175-200 people worshipping here each week, so we have our work cut out for us.

## **Campus Ministry**

Matt Phillips, our Director of Campus and Youth Ministry, continues to do a bang up job. See his excellent report. I want to note that our Campus Ministry was initially launched in large part due to grants from The Episcopal Church (national) and the Good Samaritan Foundation (local). Both of those initial grants have expired, and our bishop and diocese have pledged \$40,000 for 2019 to our efforts, which I think is a wonderful vote of confidence for Matt's work.

## **Worship and Music**

There were several times this year when I noticed how long our processional is getting. This is, of course, in large part due to the growth of our choir. See Steve's report for details. I mainly want to reiterate my belief that a strong choir aids in congregational singing and assists in the leadership of a smooth and reverent liturgy. I don't want our worship to be fussy — see the eclectic use of instruments, hymn choices, and preachers — but I do want our worship to be strong. I want a visitor, and indeed a long-time member, to be able to participate in the liturgy knowing that it is clear, easy to follow, reverent, and joyful. I very much appreciate Steve and the choir for their fantastic leadership this year, and I look forward to what will come next. I will note that the chancel is getting pretty crowded, and we might have to get a bit creative about where we put all these singers!

## **The Choristers**



A generous gift from the Lacy family allowed us to bring on a part-time Children's Choirmaster. The program is at the moment modest. Rome was not built in a day, of course, and I expect a robust children's choir program will take some time. I've been absolutely pleased with Danny Koplitz, our new hire, and I've been delighted to have our children leading worship on Sunday mornings once a month and at the December Lessons and Carols. In addition to the Lacy gift, the Diocese has granted us \$5,000, and a private donor has added \$1,000 to the choir. If you'd like to contribute to this effort financially, or if you have a child — friend, niece/nephew, neighbor — who you know would love to sing, let me or Danny know.

## **Stewardship of our resources**

Your vestry has spent the year wisely and strategically finding a balance between addressing years of deferred maintenance and keeping our positive cash flow. I think they have been bold while still making sure that we are solvent. They have increased our endowment while at the same time providing robust funding for staff (including raises!) and programs. Know that when you give a dollar to St. Mark's, that dollar is well tended by a smart and forward-thinking vestry. I've been remarkably impressed with their work and their dedication to our shared life and shared resources.

## **Farmers Market**

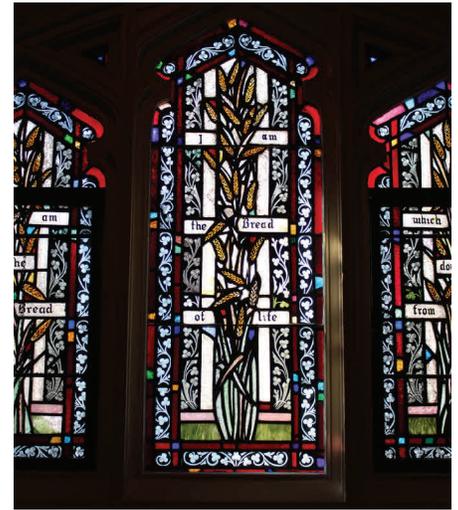
The Farmers Market was a fun use of our green space that brought in several hundred dollars for our school and health clinic in Haiti. On the other hand, it was less well attended than I might have guessed, and we had fewer farmers interested, while several craft merchants filled up the booths. I'm ambivalent about whether this is a great use of parish time and resources in future years.

## **Women in Preaching and Presiding**

I regret that we have few female voices in our pulpit. Our one female lay preacher has taken a position in another state, and we have no female priest on staff. I do not like the idea that our children are receiving the implicit message that presiding at the altar is a male activity. To this end, I'll participate in a pulpit swap, perhaps in Lent, with one of my female colleagues so that we can make sure we're showing our young people the fullness of priestly vocation.

## Images in worship

Another place of improvement I hope to see is in our worship images. The images in our stained glass reflect the people who commissioned it 100 years ago. Our city and community is more ethnically diverse than it once was, and I want our worship space to reflect this. I hope to invest in icons, paintings, statues or other images that who the whole breadth of the divine and the ethnic diversity of the saints of God.



## Capital Campaign

Not quite two years ago, the Vestry, at my request, received a pitch from the Episcopal Church Foundation regarding the possibility of a capital campaign. At that time, the Vestry concluded that we were too early in our redevelopment as a parish to consider a campaign. A year later (i.e., late summer 2018), the Vestry revisited the issue and decided that it was time to talk and dream as a parish about a capital campaign. We have secured the Sarah Townsend Leach of the Episcopal Church Foundation as a consulting partner. She will guide us through the first phase of a capital campaign. This will be a time for the parish to give input about whether the time is ripe to undertake a campaign, what kinds of projects we have an appetite to undertake, and what sort of future we hope for our physical plant and the ministries it houses.

## 125th Anniversary Year Celebration

I want to take this opportunity to thank the amazing efforts of our 125th Anniversary Committee: Kathy and Vince Katter, co-chairs; Judith Miller, Randy Miller, Brooke Frizzell, Georgia Cain, and Meg Edwards for their incredible work helping us celebrate St. Mark's 125th Anniversary year in 2018. We hosted a lecture by John Gurda, had a church-wide homecoming party, produced an amazing history exhibit, remodeled and dedicated the Chapel of the Bread of Life, planned a fun Pentecost T-shirt give away, and buried a time capsule. We celebrated in style, and I'm so grateful that we marked this special anniversary year.

# Ministry Reports

## Formation Ministries

### Adult Formation

Imagine a library filled with books on every imaginable subject. The shelves are a bit untidy – The Holy Ghost mysteries sit right next to a dystopian blockbuster about misplacing paradise. Biographies about some musty fellows called Augustine and Lincoln share space with a self-help section where one can learn how to be a better citizen, choose gifts or let conscience be your guide. But in this library, the librarian doesn't hush you. In fact, you are encouraged to speak, to share your opinions and, yes, to even challenge the accepted wisdom on the shelves. This is what Adult Formation at St. Mark's is like. How fitting that we meet in a library, a library that is open to all and where there is no late fee.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. John Hickey.

### Bible Study

The St. Mark's Bible Study meets on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5 p.m. in the library. We read various books of the Bible as chosen by the members. We read passages and then discuss. No reading needs to be done outside of Bible Study.

No level of Bible knowledge is required. We have beginners and others who are more advanced. A shared tea time of refreshments brought by members as they wish is always a hit.

You can start at any time of the year. We do take a summer vacation every year.

Submitted by the Rev. Michelle Mooney

## Children's, Youth, and Campus Ministry

This last year saw a great deal of excitement and growth among our Children, Youth, and Campus Ministries. From our Church School classrooms to the campuses of Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, St. Mark's has continued to respond to our young members through service and formation.

### *Children's Ministry*

Our Children's Ministry continued strong throughout 2018. Church School was supported by eight volunteer teachers who welcomed 13 children on Sunday mornings. Outside of the classroom, children were included in the life of the church through activities and events that included Vacation Bible Camp, Bible Story Time, our Solemn/First Communion Class, our Advent Wreath-Making, our annual Christmas Pageant, and recruitment of young acolytes.



In the coming year we plan to add to our corps of Church School teachers, increase opportunities for children to engage in the life of the church, and increase our visibility in the broader community.

### *Youth Ministry*

St. Mark's youth ministry had an exciting year as it kicked off a new Youth Group: RESPOND. Youth in grades 7 through 12 meet monthly to learn about God, serve our neighbors, and be in community together. Our Fall semester was highlighted by our group assembling and donating 50 sandwiches to The Guest House of Milwaukee, as well as the group's StoryCorps style recorded interview with Music Director Steve Wolff. It has been added to the oral history of St. Mark's 125 years of ministry in the StoryCorps archive and can be heard via this hyperlink: <https://archive.storycorps.org/interviews/st-marks-youth-group/>

In spring 2019, we plan to continue to learn about God and serve our neighbors. We will begin our year with our youth deciding on and planning a spring service project.

### *Campus Ministry*

St. Mark's young Campus Ministry continued to grow throughout 2018, making connections with eight new students from Marquette and UWM. We have continued to serve our community's college students through opportunities for worship, formation, and fellowship. In the spring of 2018, St. Mark's partnered with The Corner House (UWM's ELCA Campus Ministry) and Better Together (UWM's chapter of the Interfaith Youth Core) to found Dinner Dialogues, an interfaith discussion group for students and young adults in Milwaukee that meets twice a month. In the fall of 2018, St. Mark's began offering a monthly Campus Ministry Eucharist and Dinner as well as weekly Café Hours for students. We have also increased our social media offerings for students, making both Lenten and Advent Reflections available online. Our Director of Campus and Youth Ministries has also begun serving as the Affiliated Minister for Canterbury Fellowship at Marquette University, leading weekly Evening Prayer services on campus.

In the coming year, we plan to continue our worship and prayer services, as well as our formation and discussion opportunities for students. We will offer a six-week Living Compass Wellness Circle for college students during the spring of 2019. We also plan to bring a group of students to the Province V Campus Ministry retreat, and we will continue listening for more ways we can better serve our students.

This past year was a time of great celebration, excitement, and growth in our congregation. Together let us punctuate 2019 with our continued service to God and our neighbors here in the City of Milwaukee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matt Phillips, Director of Campus and Youth Ministries

## Youth Confirmation

In April 2018, we were delighted to confirm four St. Mark's youth. Andrew Arndorfer, Cat Lacy, Isabella Mortara and Daniel O'Hear completed a two-year confirmation program. In a beautiful ceremony held at All Saints' Cathedral, each of them, in the words of the *Book of Common Prayer*, "made a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism." In the second year of the program, Andrew, Cat, Isabella and Daniel has been joined by youth from All Saints' Cathedral; together they performed service projects that included preparing a garden bed, making prayer blankets, and filling bags for The Gathering. The students learned about church history, the sacraments, and the rhythm of the Church year. They respectfully debated current events through the lens of faith lived out in the world. Throughout the two years, each of the confirmands wrote sermon notes — their impressions of the messages and meaning contained in sermons they heard at church. Committed and deep thinking, Cat, Andrew, Isabella and Daniel represented St. Mark's in the world well.

Submitted by Jayne Heffron



## Liturgical Ministries

### Acolytes

Let me come to God's altar — let me come to God, my joy, my delight — then I will give you thanks...!  
(Psalm 43:4, *Common English Bible*)

Joining Christ in offering our prayers and praise at God's altar is both a mental and physical action. Acolytes minister to God and God's people by giving theatrical expression to the assembly's act of worship. Acolytes carry the cross in procession, waft incense through the church on special occasions, and assist the deacon in setting the altar for Communion.

This year we've given thanks for our members who have shifted their energies to other work in the parish, as well as new ones who have begun training and shadowing us in this work. If you're curious about this ministry, write me for details.

Kyle Potter  
kyle.potter@gmail.com

## **Altar Guild**

Altar Guild is a ministry which, under the guidance of the rector, prepares for our weekly Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services as well as Advent, Lent, and special occasions such as baptisms, weddings, funerals, and Bishop Miller's visits. We prepare the sanctuary according to the liturgical season and maintain the vestments, linens, vessels, and candles as well as the supply of wine and wafers.

We have two teams with two to three people on each team, and we have the flexibility to meet everyone's needs. We spend about a half an hour each Sunday on preparation and clean up, less for the Wednesday evening service. We work with the Flower Guild to prepare for the seasonal needs and special occasions.

We have been fortunate to have two people join us and I want to express my appreciation for Nikki Domenget, Marian Byers, Jane Shero and Jayne Heffron for their dedication, and for Peter Batchelder, who takes care of the candles.

If you would like to learn more about our ministry or how you can become involved with Altar Guild, please see me at church, email me or give me a call.

Submitted by Meg Edwards



## **Chalice Bearers**

We currently have five chalice bearers who assist the deacon with the Gospel book during the Gospel procession and who administer the chalice during the Eucharist. All five are duly licensed by Bishop Miller. We added Sue Rohde to our rotation in 2018, in addition to long-standing members John Cain, Vince Katter, Nikki Domenget, and Ellie Moseley. With our growing parish, it would be good to add one or two new members for 2019 and to select a chalice bearer coordinator. If interested in becoming a chalice bearer or in coordinating this ministry, contact Fr. Burch, [ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org](mailto:ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org).

Submitted by Fr. Ian Burch

## **Eucharistic Visitors**

Eucharistic Visitors take communion to those who are shut in or temporarily unable to attend Sunday services. We have a schedule that is made out quarterly. Generally you will not have to serve more than once every other month. Please see Deacon Michelle Mooney if you are interested in taking communion on Sundays from our community to shut-ins.

Members who are currently serving are Nikki and Todd Domenget, Joe and Kelly Glostott, Vince Katter, Stephanie Dudek, and Jane and Tom Lacy (alternates). You may contact Michelle Mooney if interested in participating in this ministry.

Submitted by Michelle Mooney

## **Flower Guild**

St. Mark's Flower Guild members purchase and arrange flowers, plants and greens for our services with funds donated by members of the parish who wish to honor or to remember persons or occasions, or to give thanks for persons. Our current members are Jackie Adams, Georgia Cain, Helen Chou, Nikki Domenget, Kathy Katter, Travis Trott, Marie Wolff, Judy Young, and Jamie Zingler.

Members are assigned individually on a rotating basis for a specific weekend. They are responsible for the two arrangements we have on Sundays. At Easter and Christmas, all available members work together to decorate St. Mark's.

The Flower Guild is grateful to the people of St. Mark's for their continued support of their efforts.

Submitted by Judy Young

### Lay Readers

At Sunday Eucharist and other special occasions, lay readers bring "the Word of the Lord" to us by reading the day's designated Old and New Testament lessons. Our ministry is to present these texts to the congregation clearly and articulately. By virtue of these readings, the laity joins the ordained clergy in bringing the liturgy to life.

The following parishioners participated as lay readers in 2018:

Virginia Chappell  
Jayne Heffron  
Cat Lacy  
Kyle Potter  
Richard Runkel  
Frank West

Tom Davies  
Kathy Katter  
Judith Miller  
Susan Rohde  
Bill Stotts  
Jamie Zingler

John Dudek  
Vince Katter  
Michael O'Hear  
Steve Rohde  
Travis Trott

Submitted by Kathy Katter



### Music

In 2018 the ministry of music at St. Mark's continued to be exciting, extremely active, and varied.

I. The Choir. Three new members joined our group this fall: Heather Barker, Hayley Gray-Hoehn, and Wayne Palubecki. They have been much appreciated and their presence much enjoyed.

The establishment of the Section Leader program in 2016 was the beginning of a renewal of the choir, and much good work has been done since then. The beautiful tonal foundation of in-tune and blended singing (the

most difficult component of all choral singing to achieve and maintain) is now well-established. It allows for further musical development in other areas such as growth in subtlety of performance and in expressivity (growth in the communication of meaning). It allows as exploration of other types of Anglican/Episcopal music — say, the polyphonic repertory, the body of cathedral anthems; the libraries of psalm settings and Anglican chants; the music of modern Anglican/Episcopal composers; and the music of other lands, churches, and languages. Also, our section leaders, who have lent stability and surety to our choir, have continued to provide beautiful cantoring and solo and duet music of the highest quality.

In early fall, St. Mark's hosted its second choir clinic, this year led by J. Mark Baker of the Milwaukee Chamber Choir. J. Mark introduced us to a number of new pieces that we have already used in services.

At this time the choir has fifteen regular singers, and we are always eager to welcome new members. If you are concerned that you don't have the skills to sing in a choir, be not afraid. I can teach you whatever you need to know. Joining the choir at St. Mark's has always included some free voice lessons from me. I invite you to consider joining us soon. The choir is, in fact, a smaller community within the larger St. Mark's community. Although we are associated by our service through music and liturgy, our true foundation is our shared worship and prayer, our weekly coming together on Wednesday evening in the joy of Christian fellowship and amity, in the joy of creating through music the beauty of holiness. Please consider becoming a part of our group. (We spend a lot of time laughing—it's one of the most important things we do!)

II. The Organ. The organ console (repaired summer of 2016) has been a joy to play now for more than two years. (I still remember the terrors on Sunday morning before Ian got here, of not knowing what might go wrong!) Just to remind us of the importance of the repair: the new console allows for the necessary rapid combination changes (making complicated changes of sound easily) that are required in the playing of a liturgical service (such as the Episcopal service). The organ is being kept in good tune and in good repair.

III. The Artist in Residence Program (currently in its fifteenth year) at this time has five artists (AIRs) who play at Sunday Eucharists and other services. If they agree to become AIRs and to play at St. Mark's, I agree to accompany them, practice with them and play their repertory and help them perfect it in concerts outside of St. Mark's. This is mutually advantageous for them and us: they get a competent accompanist and play concerts around the city and we are edified by the music that they have worked very hard to bring to excellence. AIRs now under agreement are Mike Keegan, french horn (he has taken some time off recently but will be back soon); Evan Taucher, who began residency in fall of 2016 and who was AIR Classical Guitar until fall of 2018; Steve Rohde, a double Artist in Residence — composer and organist; Bob Estlund, flute; and finally, Todd Domenget, bass. These musicians have all wonderfully enriched the liturgies of St. Mark's during their tenures. We have been enormously blessed with such great talent and in such quantity.

Three other musicians who have played at St. Mark's recently are Matt Ernst, Principle Trumpet with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; oboist and English hornist with the MSO, Margaret Butler (who played for us on Christmas Eve at 11 p.m.); and Rick Aaron, jazz and classical flutist.

VI. Finally, let me thank sincerely all those who have contributed to the liturgy and music program at St. Mark's. Thanks go to all my much-loved choir singers, to the section leaders, soloists, Artists in Residence, and accompanists — Steve Rohde and Kelly Glostott; to our annual Passion Sunday percussionist, Terry Smirl; to our trumpeter, Matt Ernst; to oboist and English hornist, Margaret Butler; and thanks to all who made comments, suggestions, and helpful criticisms. Lastly, thanks to Ian for his vision, his boundless energy, and his enormous talent.

Submitted by Steve Wolff  
Director of Music

### *The Choristers*

This August, I spearheaded the formation of St. Mark's children and youth choir, The Choristers. Currently, the six members in the organization range from age 8 to 16. They first performed in November and have since performed twice more for services, including Lessons and Carols as well as the Christmas pageant. The

Choristers have been received with elation and excitement from the congregation, and the program appears to have a positive impact on worship as well as the children's growth not only as musicians but also as virtuous human beings.

I'm hoping to be able to do a stand-alone concert by next fall. We are always looking for more children to join. All it takes to join is a commitment to grow and a desire to sing.

Submitted by Daniel Koplitz  
Children's Choirmaster

## Ushers

Ushers are often the first persons newcomers meet as they come through our beautiful red doors. They are also the welcoming greeters to those who have been part of St. Mark's for decades. Our service is a privilege. Five teams rotate to serve weekly and for special services, always present in the nave to welcome all, hand out bulletins, guide newcomers to their seats, collect offerings, call Sunday school children to join their families, help all to the communion rail, and clean up the nave as people leave for coffee. It is a noble calling that will continue to welcome new members into its ranks. To that end, I am pleased to welcome Hyla and Wayne Palubecki to the ushering team this year.



St. Mark's parishioners who serve are Sandy Boltz, Steve Butcher, Georgia Cain, John Cain, Virginia Chappell, Barbara Costanzo, Mark Heffron, Bill Hunt, Steve Martinie, David Miyama, Ellie Mixer-Keller, Harry Moseley, Andrew Muriuki, Hyla Palubecki, Mary Ross, Ron and Jamie Zingler. Recently, two ushers resigned to sing in the choir – Alex Cain and Wayne Palubecki. I encourage all those who may be interested to contact me about the work of the ushers. Service involves becoming part of a four-person team assigned to a five-week rotation. Become part of a key part of St. Mark's hospitality to new and long-standing parishioners. Contact me at 414-967-0736 or hmoseley39@gmail.com.

Submitted by Harry Moseley  
Head of the Ushers

## Living Beyond These Walls

### Common Ground

Common Ground is an organization of churches, colleges, and some small businesses who are committed to bringing greater justice in concrete ways in the public life of our community. There are several issues that are currently being worked on such as racial profiling, mental health needs, guns safety (called Do Not Stand Idly By), water conservation, and housing development and organizing in Sherman Park.

Core Team members include Carolyn Davies, Janet and Andy Martin, Marilyn McNight, Ellie and Harry Moseley, Jennifer O'Hear, Nathan Self, Virginia Chappell, and Michelle Mooney

Anyone who is interested should contact Jennifer O'Hear, Harry Moseley, or Michelle Mooney.

Submitted by Michelle Mooney

## **Outreach Committee**

Your Outreach Committee continues its commitment of providing funds to those agencies where St. Mark's parishioners volunteer in service and leadership roles.

We supported the following agencies this year:

- The Gathering of Southeastern Wisconsin: This agency provides over 90,000 meals and other services for the less fortunate in the Milwaukee area at four sites including downtown, southside, westside and far westside.
- Eastside Senior Services: From offices in St. Mark's this agency coordinates transportation and other services for elderly and disabled persons in our neighborhood so that they may remain independent and in their homes.
- Common Ground: This community-based organization works to improve housing, healthcare, education and a seat at the table when important decisions are made that affect us all. Common Ground is comprised of faith communities, small businesses and individuals who know that together good things can be made to happen in our community.
- Diocese of Milwaukee Haiti Project: We are providing two scholarships for students at St. Marc's School in Jeannette, Haiti.

As in prior years, donated funds are raised in community activities including the Corn Roast and Pumpkin Sales. This year, for example, over 50 parishioners volunteered to help raise funds by unloading and selling pumpkins. Nearly 30 parishioners helped with the Corn Roast.

Outreach Committee members include Carolyn Davies, Alex Cain, Steve Butcher, Andy Martin, Ellie Mixter-Keller, Michelle Mooney, Ron Zingler, Harry Moseley.

If you have an interest in the work of the Outreach Committee, please contact Harry Moseley or Carolyn Davies. We are keen on engaging others in the parish who see the importance of our work outside the parish.

Submitted by Harry Moseley

## **Thrift Shop**

The Thrift Shop earnings have rebounded in the last two years from the fall in earnings that started in 2007 with the economic downturn. New and regular customers still come in to shop, and we have met our monthly pledge of \$300 to St. Mark's every month. The treasurer's report by Jan Rhodes below will give the details.

In July 2018, some hardworking people spent a whole day culling through Thrift Shop items and packing them up for donation to Goodwill, or carting them to the dump if they were deemed unsellable. The result was a clean, spruced-up, and organized two rooms that house the Thrift Shop.

Many thanks are due to the treasurer, Jan Rhodes, and our other shop volunteers who gave their time and efforts in 2018 to staff the shop: Marion Byers, Georgia Cain, Charles Camilli, Molly Canary, Nancy Goble, Linda Hoffman, Leslie McCormick, Michelle Mooney, Ellie Mixter-Keller, Ellie Moseley, Isabel St. Arnold, Ivon Steffen, and Ron and Jamie Zingler.

We've lost two volunteers who have moved out of Milwaukee, Nancy Goble and Isabel St. Arnold, and Ellie Moseley is no longer able to help us. We gained a new volunteer in Linda Hoffman, a friend of mine. Therefore, we have a dozen current volunteers. We always welcome new volunteers to help in the shop. The only requirements are the ability to make change, unpack donations, put clothing on hangers, and place items on shelves. You would participate in a real ministry, as many of our customers' incomes limit them to shopping at thrift shops or Goodwill stores. For some of our lonely elderly customers, the shop staffers are an important part of their social system.

Submitted by Sue Rohde, Thrift Shop Manager

## *Thrift Shop Treasurer's Report*

We are pleased with the Thrift Shop's financial performance in 2018. The Thrift Shop earned about as much money in 2018 as in 2017. We are proud to match the earnings of 2017 because 2017 was itself a very high revenue year for the Thrift Shop.

Here are the details: the Thrift Shop earned \$4300 in 2018 and contributed \$3700 to St. Mark's and to church programs — \$3600 as pledged and \$100 for the fall backpack drive. As of December 31, 2018, the Thrift Shop had \$3860 in its checking account. This amount represents an increase of nearly \$600 in cash on hand compared to a year ago.

Submitted by Jan Rohdes, Thrift Shop Treasurer

## **Community Life**

### **Coffee Hour**

St. Mark's Coffee Hour saw another successful year with new people participating in hosting. We also saw an update to the kitchen with a new tile floor, new paint, a bit of redesign, and the highlight for most, a NEW Hobart dishwasher. The old one was quite antiquated and had a lengthy start-up and shut-down processes. The new one has a one button start, very exciting to those who use it.



The weekly Coffee Hour is a great way to stay connected with friends and welcome newcomers. We have consistently had eight full tables each week. A big thank you to the Coffee Hour hosts. Your dedication to this ministry is greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all!

Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall (next to the Library doors) and online ([signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com)). We ask all members of St. Mark's to consider hosting, or helping to host, a coffee hour in 2019. You don't have to do it alone; help is just a phone call or email away.

Thanks for joining in. See you at Coffee Hour!

Submitted by Jamie Zingler

### **Community Garden**

The community gardens serve members of the parish as well as the neighborhood who want to do organic gardening. All the plots are filled right now, but usually one or two open up every spring. Members of St. Mark's are given priority in signing up.

Contact Michelle Mooney if you are interested. There will be an announcement in *The Lion* in spring time.

Submitted by Michelle Mooney

### **Garden Guild**

We had another great year in St. Mark's gardens. The faithful volunteers of the Garden Guild — Michelle Mooney, Barbara Costanzo, Meg Edwards, Jayne and Mark Heffron, Ginny Schrag and Jamie Zingler — made

sure the courtyard memorial garden as well as the beds and pots around the outside of the church were looking good all through the summer. We missed Judy Young this past season and wish her a speedy recovery!

We gave special attention to the courtyard plantings which are being renovated slowly to replace dying shrubs and plants that have grown too large. In Spring, 2019 we will replace the last two dying Viburnums.

The plants in the bio-swale (installed in 2017) are filling in nicely and doing their job of absorbing rainwater runoff.

The small garden under the church sign (corner of Hackett and Belleview) is due for renovation, so we will work on that bed this coming summer.

If any of the above sounds interesting, we would welcome you to join our group. We meet on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., June through August, with a few extra days for spring prep and fall chores. And we end every work session with some refreshments and a chance to chat.

Please call or email me if you are interested or have any questions. See you in the church gardens!

Submitted by Jane Shero

### **Men's Fellowship Group**

The St. Mark's Men's Fellowship Group meets on the third Saturday of each month at St. Mark's for breakfast and conversation. We start the coffee and food prep about 8 a.m. and eat about 9 a.m. We catch up with each other for about an hour, and then clean up. If there are seasonal building and grounds tasks, we help get those accomplished.

An incomplete list of the folks that you might encounter at a breakfast, looks something like this — Mark Heffron, Ron and Jamie Zingler, Nick Katter, John Cain, Steve and Sue Rohde, Michelle Mooney, John Hickey, Michael O'Hear, Jyoti, Steve Wolff, Daniel O'Hear, Alex Cain, Andrew Muriuki, Harry Moseley, Bill Hunt, Kyle Potter, Skrauss, Mark Lane, Owen O'Hear, and yours truly.



If you're looking to have a bite to eat and to connect with folks at church — stop on by!

If you'd like to get on the mailing list for the group — drop me a line at [vkatter@gmail.com](mailto:vkatter@gmail.com) or give me a call at 414-403-4596.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vince Katter

### **Pastoral Concerns**

This ministry offers special support to those in the parish who are shut-ins or, for some other reason, need a little help. The members of this ministry are chosen by the rector and the deacon to serve.

Members of this ministry are Charles Camilli, Joe and Kelly Glostott, Mark Heffron, Janet Martin, Ellie Moseley, and Sue Rhode.

Submitted by Michelle Mooney

## Prayer Team

The following people have been members of the Prayer Team during 2018: Virginia Chappell, Todd Domenget, Barbara Franczyk, Mary Beth Alvarez, Janet Martin, Ellie Moseley, David Platcow, Lynda Read, Steve Rohde, Mary Ross, Virginia Schrag, Skrauss, Sandi Tunis, Genevieve Vassell, Frank West, Mary Bellis Williams, Steve Rohde, Steve Wolff, and I, Sue Rohde. Our only task is to serve your prayer needs.

The team members pray intercessory prayers on a daily basis for anyone who wishes prayer, which includes those who are ill, either temporarily or chronically, having medical tests, facing surgery, in the hospital, or in the process of dying. These people are generally members of St. Mark's and their friends, co-workers, and relatives; but no request is turned away.

We also like to pray for joyful occasions such as weddings, anniversaries, and births, but those requests, alas, come less often. As St. Paul reminded us to give thanks in all circumstances, please let us know about the happy events as well as the ones that cause serious concern.

I'm always looking for new members for the Prayer Team. The only requirement is a willingness to pray daily. You will be informed of requests for prayer in a basic format, and you may then pray as simply or as elaborately as you wish. Please remember, "we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26).

Submitted by Sue Rohde, Prayer Team Head

## Quilting Circle



The Quilting Circle makes quilts for all the children who are baptized in the parish. The quilts are machine made, and anyone with interest can participate. No past knowledge or experience are required. We meet on the third Saturday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Parish Hall.

Current members include Judith Miller, Jane Shero, Jamie Zingler, and Michelle Mooney.

Contact any of these members if you want further information. We'd love to have you.

Submitted by Michelle Mooney

## Reclaiming Jesus

Reclaiming Jesus is a theology pub that meets monthly on the East Side. Our slogan is "genuine people, spirited conversations." Since we began meeting this summer, we've had spirited discussion about

- Making excuses for God
- Why people leave church
- Christianity and sexuality
- Christianity and capitalism
- How communities shape our personalities

I lead these conversations, and Saint Mark's Church sponsors their development and promotion through a new ministry grant in concert with Jesus + Beer MKE. This season our Reclaiming Jesus talks attracted at least a dozen persons not already connected to the parish. Some are atheists, some are church-goers, and many have disaffiliated from churches. Our regulars tell us that they keep coming back because we host important, honest, and respectful conversations that they can't have anywhere else. Fans of the St. Mark's Theology Pub

(which had been sponsored by a now-completed diocesan grant) will enjoy the same spirit of welcome and free inquiry.

Join us at Von Trier at 8pm on the first Tuesday of each month! Contact me for more details, or visit <http://www.collectivemke.com/jesusandbeer/>. (Jesus and Beer also offers monthly conversations in Wauwatosa and Waukesha, and friends of Saint Mark's are very welcome to join them!)

Kyle Potter  
kyle.potter@gmail.com

### **Shepherds Ministry**

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

We try to exemplify this idea in the Shepherds Committee by welcoming every newcomer to St. Mark's. One can be a stranger at St. Mark's only once. We feel our welcoming approach has become the mission of everyone in the church.

Greetings at church lead to conversations at coffee hour. Regular attendance, membership, and involvement in committees and missions often follow. The growth we see in the congregation often starts with a friendly greeting.

And we continue to see our parish grow, with strangers becoming friends at every worship.

In 2018 we held two newcomer brunches at the home of Michelle Mooney, giving opportunities for longer conversations and better connections. Thank you, Michelle, for your hosting and culinary talents!

We thank Brooke Frizzell for her devoted service to our committee. To Janet Martin, we offer a huge serving of gratitude for her decades-long service on the Shepherds Committee. While no longer officially serving, Janet was overheard greeting a group of newcomers this month at church.

Members in 2018 included Brooke Frizzell, Vince Katter, Janet Martin, Ellie Moseley, Harry Moseley, Andrew Muriuki, Kyle Potter, Jamie Zingler, Ron Zingler, and Mark Heffron. We are always eager to welcome new members.

Submitted by Mark Heffron

### **Spirituality and Aging Group**

The St. Mark's Spirituality and Aging group was founded three years ago to come together to fully understand what it means to grow old in a Christian American context. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month. We read and discuss issues associated with growing older in a society that doesn't largely value the people who are in the latter years of their lives. We also look at how we can change that for ourselves in order to live a richer life.

Our group has about 15 men and women. We read books dealing with aging and discuss them. There are no lectures, just good discussion. We did have Dr. Paul Morton present in two sessions the basics of Mindfulness Practice and how it can benefit folks in their later life. About the group, Stephanie Dudek noted, “For me, our discussions have been extraordinarily rich and inspiring. The group has helped me to become more intentional about how I live my life at this stage, deciding what is important and listening for where God is leading me.”

Anyone is free to join at any time of the year. We have several people from other churches on the East Side as well. Please speak to Michelle Mooney if you might be interested in joining the group.

Submitted by Michelle Mooney

## Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group had another successful year with good discussions and fellowship with one another. The following people participated this year: Carolyn Davies, Ellie Moseley, Janet Martin, Jayne Heffron, Marie Wolff, Marilyn Mc Knight, Stephanie Dudek, Jackie Adams, Judy Young, Kathy Katter, Michelle Mooney, Barbara Costanzo, and Marilyn Batory.

We read the following books:

*Death at La Venice* by Donna Leon  
*Gilead* by Marilyn Robinson  
*H is for Hawk* by Helen MacDonal  
*Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult  
*My Father's Tears* by John Updike

*Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance  
*My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout  
*The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead  
*Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner

Submitted by Ellie Moseley

## Administrative Reports

### Building and Grounds

It costs a lot of money to keep our buildings looking good and in good repair for our use today and for the use of future generations of the St. Mark's congregation. Our "Minor Repairs and Maintenance" budget line for 2018 was set at \$10,000. Expenses totaled slightly over \$14,000 (140%). Our "Capital Improvements" line was set at \$35,000. Expenses there totaled \$77,400 (221%). Drawing on our investment reserves, we were able to end the year without a deficit. As is the case with church buildings of St. Mark's vintage across the country, there is and will be more work to be done. However, seeing the wisdom of our leadership first hand, along with the generosity and solidarity of St. Marks, I have no doubt that our resources will always meet our needs. The Vestry, Wardens and staff are grateful for your generosity! Keep them in your prayers.

#### *New Buildings and Grounds Committee:*

To meet the needs of our growing parish, we have formed a Buildings and Grounds Committee to work under the Junior Warden. This will allow us to manage several projects (big and small) at once. It will also allow us to document all of our work so that with future projects we can draw on what was done in the past. In that spirit, we propose that Junior Wardens spend time serving on this committee before taking office, and then return for a short period after their tenure. The goal here is to make sure we do not lose momentum or acquired wisdom when we transition to new Junior Wardens. As such, for 2019, Bill Hunt, who is standing for election as Junior Warden, will take over the spot from Randy Miller, who will then serve on the new Buildings and Grounds Committee along with Raymond Chou.

#### *Repair and Maintenance projects for 2018 included the following:*

1. Apartments: Father Burch has made it clear that he wants the church to be a good landlord to our tenants. To that end, we completed several smaller projects in Skrauss's apartment. After verifying that no mold was present, we located and plugged up the roof leak that damaged the ceiling in his south room. We replaced broken outlets in the kitchen and bedroom, corrected a grounding issue, and repaired the sink disposal. We also replaced a fan above his stove. In Jyoti's place, Bill Hunt is in the process of fixing a sticky faucet and getting a new handle/lock for her front door.



2. Asbestos: We got several of our floors officially tested for asbestos. The tiles in the Thrift Shop, Ethiopian Room, Kitchen, Gathering Room, Eastside Senior Services (ESS) office, and Chapel all tested positive for asbestos. Because of other projects that took place this year, the Kitchen and Chapel are now asbestos free. The asbestos in ESS office is contained under new carpet.

3. ESS Room: We replaced the carpeting in the ESS office. We chose to contain the asbestos that resides in the tiles and mastic instead of taking it out. This was less expensive and disruptive.

4. Waste: We were informed by the city that our dumpster was on its last legs (wheels). We replaced it with a larger one to reflect the needs of a growing parish.

5. Parking Lot Entrance Area: Alex Cain continued working in the northwest entrance area. He refinished the door and the stairway leading into the basement and is in the processes of de-rusting the metal on the stairs and polishing the surrounding terrazzo. He is also repairing and painting the stairway walls.

6. Boiler: We replaced one of our four boiler units and tuned up the remaining three to stabilize our heating. Bill Hunt helped oversee this project and provided research and advice to the team.

7. Lighting: We are in the process of greening our parish with a \$3,000 grant by way of higher efficiency lighting. The library has been completed with donated low energy bulbs with the rest of the church following this coming year.

8. Kitchen: With the help and guidance of Georgia Cain, we redid our kitchen. This included the replacement of our old dishwasher with a high efficiency model, updated plumbing and electrical, and a new grease trap that is now located in the basement away from the food preparation. We thus eliminated the grease trap that was in the northwest corner. Along with the asbestos abatement, we put in a new floor, new lighting fixtures, and repainted the walls. This was completed without interrupting our revenue stream from the UWM cooking class.

9. Chapel/125th Anniversary: The 125th Anniversary Committee, an entity separate from the Vestry, redid the Chapel. This included asbestos abatement, new flooring, plaster and emergency roof repair, new paint, and an incredibly shiny floor polish. This was an immense amount of work completed on time because of the dedication and efficiency of the committee and its leadership.

10. Smoke and Fire Alarms: While we replaced/updated our smoke alarm system, we have one sensor yet to replace in the sanctuary to complete that project

11. Stove: We set up account to service our relatively new stove. This year we had to replace the lines that feed the pilot lights, which were clogging due to pots boiling over.

12. Upstairs West Bathrooms: Fixed hole in pipe in men's bathroom that had previously been patched with tape. Plumbers also fixed clogging issue in women's bathroom.

13. Resource Room Leak: Patched large crack in exterior concrete sill that allowed heavy rains to leak into the room through the wall, causing mold and mildew to build up in the carpet.



### *Large Pending Projects and Concerns*

- The east wall of the sanctuary shows cracks, which, Raymond Chou warns, could be a serious issue considering the large window it holds. Buildings and Grounds will consider this once the new committee begins meeting.
- Carried over from 2017, we need to keep in mind the tuck pointing that needs to be done on the east side of the building. We already have bids on this.
- Possibility of a sinkhole forming at the entrance of the parking lot.
- Roof leak along the north wall of the classrooms. We also experienced leaking this year in the hallway between the office and the bridal walk.
- Revisit boiler in order to determine the reliability of three older units.
- Replacement of smoke alarm sensor in sanctuary to complete project.
- Revisit sanctuary floor terrazzo to determine if there is a safety risk that needs immediate attention. We have decided to start over with bids because the previous companies failed us miserably in color matching.

### *Small Pending Projects and Concerns*

- Need to get ceiling patched in Skrauss' apartment to complete the leak fix started this last year.
- Plaster repair in Jyoti's second bedroom.
- Continue our greening project.
- Consider safety markers on concrete entrance stairs for those whose sight is poor.
- Find source of water damage on ceiling in choir room and re-plaster.
- Find source of water damage on ceiling in Sacristy and re-plaster.

Submitted by Randy Miller, Junior Warden

### **Stewardship Committee**

Establishing a Stewardship goal of \$262,500 for 2019 was ambitious by any measure. Up for the challenge, and full of enthusiasm for the journey we were going to walk, Meg Edwards, Harry and Ellie Moseley, Ashley Luthern, Dan Buckler, Craig Frizzell, Mary Beth Alvarez, Charles Camilli and I jumped aboard the "St. Mark's is Ready For This" train. Seven weeks later, weeks that included a fabulous kickoff brunch, multiple photo booth photos, brainstorming, deep thinking, phone calling and question answering, our ambition paid off as the goal was in sight.

The commitment of the Stewardship Committee was equally matched by the fervent belief shared by parishioner after parishioner that St. Mark's is on a growth trajectory and that the vibrant ministries and Sunday services (along with coffee hour!) show us truly "Making a Home Together." As one, the committee and pledging supporters lifted the community to meet the ambitious goal!

Submitted by Jayne Heffron  
Stewardship Committee Chair

