

# ANNUAL REPORTS TO VESTRY

February 19, 2017

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## Parish Statistics, 2016

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Households	212	208	209	201	185	189
Average Sunday Attendance	106	97	*99	87	82	89
Total attendance on comparable Sundays		4353	4052			
Christmas	218	186	171	184	171	198
Easter	170	162	181	175	146	153
Baptized	6	4	6	0	2	11
Confirmed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marriages	2	0	5	0	2	0
Deaths	11	12	10	12	13	7

\* The calculation of Average Sunday Attendance for 2013 does not include the six Sundays that summer when services were held at St Michael and All Angels' and at St Richard's. The attendance at these services in previous years is significantly less than those held during other seasons of the year. This calculation does include the three Sunday when the other churches worshipped along with St Mark's, yielding a much higher than normal attendance. The net effect of these irregularities is to make the calculated average higher than it would have been had we not engaged in joint worship. This might mistakenly lead to the impression that attendance increased in 2013, which is not really the case. The total attendance at services on the 42 Sundays in 2012 and 2013 that can be directly compared is provided as another means of representing what happened in 2013.

### Deaths

Judith Yvonne Maragh  
Verla Joan Foster  
Elsie Berneice Wilkins  
George Peter McCaul  
Ruth Evelyn Werbin  
Joan Dorothy Whitham  
Elsie Lila Webster

### Baptized

Madyson Stephanie MacKenzie  
Faith Jessica MacKenzie  
Zoey Lila Joly-Holmes  
Eleanor Joanna Hazel Bordman  
Isabella Maria Whitman Da silva  
Eric Michael Zacour  
Juliet (Joo leng) Lau  
Oliver David Brown  
Abel Christopher Robert Sabourin-Armstrong  
Joshua Christopher Sabourin-Armstrong  
Ellery Mirabel Greer

## Lay Assistants at Communion

Audia Barnett	Sheila Pitt
Joy Bowerman	Georgia Roberts
Les Cundell	Robert Stocks
Jenny Morphey	Sharon Walter
Janis Perkin	Keith Wilkins
Michael Perkin	Brenda Zanin

## Rector's Report

On September 1 2016, I became Interim Priest-In-Charge at St. Mark's. I have enjoyed getting to re-connect with some people whom I remember from my days here as a postulant (student) in 1988 and getting to meet some new people. I want to thank the members of St. Mark's for a warm welcome.

Certainly the wardens in particular and members in general are to be commended for their hard work in 2016 dealing with a potential deficit and emerging with a surplus. Being a warden has not been easy at St. Mark's in its recent past and certainly thanks are due to Sharon Walter, Suzanne Wilkins, Penny Miller and Cynthia Greer for their dedication, hard work, patience and resilience.

I gather the finances are in pretty good shape for 2017 although it will require ongoing work by many generous people to maintain and solidify the fiscal position of St. Mark's. Being somewhat budget-driven is a phenomenon that is, of course, not unique to St. Marks.

A challenge for St. Marks, as it is for most Anglican parishes, is to be resolutely vision-led as it moves into the future. One indication that the parish is moving quickly beyond the 2016 "survival" concerns is conversation at both the corporation and at the parish council indicating that the parish may well begin to look at the current and coming crisis in elder-care as a possible focal point for its mission (its *raison d'être*) in the wider community. As Jesus said "Focus on the stuff of the Kingdom and things will work out" (Rev. Jim Robert's paraphrase of Matthew 6:33-34)

My time, thus far, here as Interim priest-in-charge has been good for me personally and for that I thank everyone at St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted

The Rev. Canon Jim Roberts

## Warden's Report

Your two Wardens and the Rector, who make up the Corporation, as well as the Deputy Wardens and Treasurer, met regularly to discuss operations and concerns falling under the responsibility of the Corporation.

Following the last Vestry, four initiatives were actively pursued:

1. *Stewardship Campaign*: New members were added to PAR, giving's were increased from both existing PAR members and other parishioners; it was a very successful campaign. (See report on page 6)
2. *Fundraising*: Father Brian asked about realistic expectations in the type of monies that could be raised and it was suggested from the group that it could aim for \$5,000 for

the year's planned activities. Final amount was \$8000.00. (Details can be found in the report from Vitality, page 17)

3. *User Fees and Marketing:* The group worked on a comparative chart showing what rentals are like for both the urban and suburban church. This helped in setting rental rates and identifying the areas of the church that could be available for renting. Additions were made to the website to advertise our facilities. (See report on page 7).
4. *New Ministry Exploration:* In the spring of 2016 Bishop John Chapman met with Corporation and members of Parish Council. The Bishop observed that while St. Mark's had done a very good job of being a suburban family church, this was no longer a viable way for us to continue. He suggested that as a congregation we should decide our future role together while we have the vitality to be creative in coming up with a solution. A small group met between April and June and began to explore and ask questions about the needs of the surrounding community and how St. Marks could contribute towards those needs. (See report on page 8).

May 22 saw the end of an era for St. Mark's – the Parish Nursing Ministry (2004 – 2016). We said goodbye to Janet Helmer and welcomed back Patti Robillard - as we celebrated their ministry with us.

On Sunday, July 24, at a reception following the 9:00 am Eucharist, parishioners of St. Mark's said goodbye to Father Brian and Brenda and wished him good luck as he starts his new ministry at St. James, in Carleton Place.

Over the summer, the office area has been transformed: The holes in the walls have been filled and the walls painted, in both the inner and outer offices, thanks to Joy. The furniture and office equipment in the outer office was moved, to create enough space around the big table so that a meeting of 6 can now take place in there. Files have been sorted and old, out of date material discarded. Anything of possible value was scanned onto the Cloud, or placed in an archive file cabinet, in what was the nurse's office, off the Hall. Many thanks, to Joy and our office volunteers.

St. Marks and St Monica's have emptied the old kitchen downstairs and a walk through was done to make sure they had picked up all their "stuff". That space is now available for our storage and part of it is being used to store scout equipment. We will be looking at ways to clear and clean up everywhere to present a tidier version of ourselves.

At the beginning of September, we welcomed the Rev. Canon Jim Roberts as our interim, full time priest. Fr. Jim transferred from Smith Falls and was a former postulant at St. Mark's. We have benefited from his caring, pastoral ministry, his jokes and positive attitude.

In September, Gillian Martin asked to be relieved of her duties by the end of the year. Thank you, Gillian, for the all work that you did, while juggling new responsibilities at work. Bookkeeping duties, including dealing with ongoing bills etc. are now handled by the office administrator, Joy Bowerman. Joy has also offered guidance with monthly financial statements and projecting the budget. In the meantime the Wardens were tasked with finding a new Treasurer; someone who was comfortable dealing with the Canada Revenue Agency and who also understood how NGOs (non-government organizations) handle their monies. A couple of people were approached and Corporation is pleased that Georgia Roberts has now accepted that position.

The facilities at St. Mark's again continue to be busy with rentals, on a weekly basis; Guides, NROC play group, slim and trim, and a new venture, a martial arts school. The St. Mesrob and Mar Toma congregations rent the church and hall, approximately once a month. The scouts use the basement for storage and hold occasional meetings in the building. Carleton Memorial Day Care rented the hall and kitchen for their summer day camp, which ran during July and August.

There have been many successful opportunities for the congregation to gather together, from Parish Breakfasts with occasional key speakers to senior's lunches and celebration dinners. There was a catered dinner and music event to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 23<sup>rd</sup> a card party in May, a music and storytelling concert presented by Tales and Tunes in June, a pasta dinner in October and the Stairwell Carollers joined us in December, which was a huge success, just to mention a few.

In December, Sharon Walters advised that she was withdrawing from the position of Rector's Warden due to personal and professional reasons and we thank her for her ministry while she was on Corporation. There are still two years remaining to complete this position, and it is hoped to find someone to complete this term.

Although we started the year in a deficit position, we are pleased to report that because of the work of many people and the support of the congregation we ended the year in a much healthier position. Thank you one and all, let's keep up the great work!

Respectfully submitted  
Penny Miller, People's Warden  
Suzanne Wilkins, Outgoing Rector's Warden

## Synod Report

This year's theme for Synod is, "Walking in your way towards Justice and Wholeness" with particular emphasis on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

Synod opens with a Eucharist and reception on Thursday evening at Christ Church Cathedral. Bishop John opened Synod by recognizing that as we gathered we were celebrating on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation".

In his charge he reminded us that the ministry of the cross is a ministry of repentance, reconciliation and mission. He requested us to return to our parishes and invite one person to come and hear the story of Jesus.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Norm Wesley the Incumbent of St. Thomas, Moose Factory; Diocese of Moosonee. Rev Norm is a James Bay Cree who came to the ministry later in life but served as a lay reader for 30 years. He heard the spirit calling him to ordained ministry during a Sacred Circle Gathering of Aboriginal Anglicans. He has actually only been ordained for 2 ½ years, but in fact his whole life has been spent serving God among his people, as a teacher, college dean, and First Nations' policy advisor.

In telling his story we got a mini history of the indigenous peoples of the James Bay area and their interaction with the Anglican Church. Although members of his family were affected by both residential and day schools, he pointed out that many had stayed within the church in spite of abuse.

Rev. Norm asks: "Walk with us. Journey with us," as we work towards reconciliation and healing. Remember who you are; not what you do but how you do it.

***Some highlights from Synod.***

*The Priority 1 Working* group has spent time looking at many aspects of parish life, discussing potential models of team ministry. There is a need to focus on what we are called to do as a parish, and then look at our buildings. There is no 'one size fits all'. We each in our deaneries need to see how things could work better, and how to do it. Given the shrinkage in our congregations, it is necessary to reduce costs.

***Homelessness and Affordable Housing.***

The goal of 125 housing units by 2021 is well on its way. A letter was sent from the Bishop's office to Parliament, outlining needs, and priorities.

***Refugee Ministry working group.***

Due to sudden increased needs by both sponsors and refugees, Joyce Couvrette has accepted the new position in refugee ministry.

***Budget for the Diocese 2017-2019***

( after the 1 year budget passed for 2016, we are returning to the 3 year norm).

The new Director of Financial Ministry, Sanjay Grover, was introduced and gave an overview of the past years statistics, and noted the sale of All Saints Sandy Hill, and Temple Pastures.

Bishop John requested that Parish Fair Share be reduced by \$200,000.00. Many but not all Parishes will see a decrease, based on Parish statistics.

Areas of the budget will be reviewed or revamped over the next 3 years in an effort to trim the operations budget.

It was pointed out that the Diocese now has 67 Parishes, but each has fewer members to support the same structure.

The GIFT Campaign is coming to an end, and much thought was given to replacing it effectively. Therefore a motion was passed to adopt a new annual giving appeal called Giving Hope. This would also replace the Annual Community Ministries Appeal.

Starting in 2017 funds from Giving Hope will support curacies for newly ordained priests, extra support for the Community Ministries and other projects and extended hours for the Children, Youth and Adult Learning Facilitator. There will be more money available for helping refugees, and for what is termed Mission Internship Engagement Programmes for new graduates. These will be community involvement ministries.

The Appeal will take place annually, and be purely voluntary. Individuals will receive a mailing to their home and there would be an appeal envelope in Crosstalk as well.

***CLAY & YIP:***

Canadian Lutheran/ Anglican Youth Conference was held in PEI in August. Ottawa sent one of the largest Anglican delegations ever, 44 out of 250 Anglican youth across Canada. A video was shown of highlights from the conference.

Youth Internship Programme (YIP) initially funded by GIFT continues to grow.

Each year at synod a different Deanery presents its gifts of ministry. This year Carleton Deanery, which is both rural and suburban, outlined its outreach ministries within their community.

The Parish Ministry Committee invited us to register for the Congregational Resource Day on Saturday May 6th, at St. Helen's Orleans.

Throughout Synod we were acutely aware of our commitment to the work of truth and reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters through hymns, prayers, music and the use of the timeline, which covered the evolving relationship between the indigenous peoples and the Anglican Church of Canada.

A motion was proposed asking that \$20,000.00 of the monies returned to the Diocese, (which was an overpayment to the Residential Schools Settlement Fund) be given to the National Church to help defray costs of the Sacred Circle in 2017. The Bishop had decided that all funds returned to our Diocese from the Residential Schools Settlement Fund, would to be used in support of projects that benefit the indigenous community. This is one way of using these funds. This motion was carried unanimously.

*Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God 1 Corinthians 1:31*

Respectfully submitted by,

Cynthia Greer, Gillian Morris and Janis Perkin

## Stewardship Campaign

This report describes the outcomes of the Parish Stewardship 2016 financial campaign, held during the month of April.

The package sent out to all families/individuals on the Parish list included:

- a blank commitment form,
- a work-sheet (*How to make your commitment*),
- a revised PAR sign-up sheet, and
- a return envelope.

On the back of the commitment form, parishioners were invited to check off all the talents which were currently part of their commitment to St Mark's. As well, some indication of any other talents which they felt could be of assistance to the ministries of St Mark's, together with the amount of time that could be devoted to parish activities.

The completed commitment form was then to be placed in the confidential envelope provided and returned to St. Mark's no later than April 24, either on the offering plate, to the church office or by mail, by the same date. All sealed envelopes were forwarded to the Envelope Secretary, who provided the following summary:

The total number of completed received forms was 55.

The total amount pledged for 2016 was an increase of \$33,950 over 2015 general envelope (including PAR) givings.

In addition, 8 parishioners signed up for PAR.



The talent commitment data unfortunately was never fully collated, since the information provided was treated as sensitive. This clearly was an oversight in document development for the campaign and can easily be addressed next time by creating a separate form for talent identification.

Sharon Walter/Bruce Lodge  
Co-Chairs

## **User Fees and Marketing**

Subsequent to last February's vestry, Penny and Kate were tasked with investigating possibilities for increased or improved use of our spaces at St Mark's, with an eye to both community use and finances. David Young had expressed some interest in marketing and rentals at Vestry so he joined our committee. James Kelly and Steve Close helped with measurements and descriptions. Margaret Lodge was instrumental in photographing and putting our rental information on St Mark's web site.

To get started, we looked at other neighbouring and/or Anglican churches' websites for rental fees, practices and marketing. We also looked at comparable rental spaces. Rev. Brian Kauk arranged a church visit (tour) with a member of the diocesan real estate working group, Jim Lynes. Additionally, we considered the current users of the various church spaces.

The first discovery was that other churches were doing a much better job marketing their space - using photos and descriptions that encouraged you to see how their space could work for you.

Our rental rates appeared to be comparable to other churches and even commercial spaces (e.g. basement). One question is the cost of insurance and whether that cost, on top of the rental cost, discourages potential users.

Jim Lynes told us clearly that we should not spend significantly to draw new users. He found we had lots of space but some was inefficiently used and other spaces needed de-cluttering to be more appealing and useful. He mentioned the possibility of an overall building report for about \$4000 (vs a full building condition report for \$17000). This edited version is something the diocese appears to be able to arrange that would identify areas to watch out for along a timeline (e.g. the side roof leaks of which we are already aware).

We considered the possibility of erecting walls to form 4 storage units along the North wall of the basement (8'X9'X10' for \$100/month each). The basement space also seemed ideal for martial arts and in fact, we now have just such a tenant.

We have a variety of users, some who pay and some who receive the space as part of our outreach. Our regular, short-term and one-time users in 2016 paid a total of \$12,000. If we consider the other users as (unpaid) outreach, they amount to between \$8000 and \$12,000 per year (considering Hall use and considerable storage).

### **Action:**

With Margaret Lodge's help, we updated our church website to include rental information with dimensions, descriptions and photos. We did subsequently receive some calls and in fact, new contracts.

With Vitality, we organized some successful concerts in our beautiful sanctuary. This brought many new people in for a first visit to our church. We hope to continue to encourage musical events in our sanctuary.

**Further action:**

With an eye to church use/rentals, we also began investigating the purchase of a portable sound system, possibly using GIFT funds. We are also investigating a more reliable internet service with better wifi coverage throughout the building. We initiated some preliminary investigation of improved signage (LED sign) for outside. All of these ideas should be pursued.

There are certainly more organisations that could be approached about using our facilities (e.g. music teachers of Ottawa, St Rita after school programming, OPL Bookmobile, Blood Donor clinics, etc.) Word of mouth is very effective - so we need to remember to mention to our contacts when they are searching for a space... look no further!

Respectfully submitted by Penny Miller and Kate Greer-Close

**New Ministry Exploration***Background*

In the spring of 2016 Bishop John Chapman met with Corporation and members of Parish Council. The Bishop observed that while St. Mark's had done a very good job of being a suburban family church, this was no longer a viable way for us to continue. He suggested that as a congregation we should decide our future role together while we have the vitality to be creative in coming up with a solution.

Following this, Father Brian met with a group comprised of Laurie Slaughter, Jan Oswald, Georgia Roberts and Keith and Suzanne Wilkins between April and June to survey the resources that could be applied to the Bishop's recommendation. In doing so, some demographic reports based on the 2011 census were considered that provided information about the community surrounding the Parish as well as the other segments of the Ottawa Region.

The group began to explore and ask questions about the needs of the surrounding community and how St. Marks could contribute towards those needs. Considerations included collaboration that would engage other resources and energies, rather than just involve our church or one of our organizations. As a guide, the group referred to the parish workbook called "Serving God's World": Focusing Ministry Outward" by Andrew Stephen-Rennie and published by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa in 2011.

Members of the committee met and interviewed, using a structured interview tool: two municipal Councillors, a representative from a nearby Christian church, as well as representatives of a community regional organization; a social service agency; and one large commercial undertaking that engages in some social activism.

*Considerations*

Not surprisingly, there was no unanimous direction for what each interviewee saw as an unmet need in the greater community around St Mark's. However, a consistent theme reinforced the idea of collaboration and seeking partnership with a non-sectarian organization that could reach into the broader student/immigration and senior communities.

Some Committee members looked further and read the 2010 book "Twelve Keys to an Effective Church: Strong Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God" – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Kennon L. Callahan found in the St Mark's library. The chapter on "One Mission Outreach" begins by observing that we have invited Christ into our lives. Now, Christ has invited us out into His life – to live and serve in mission. The book then proposes that a strong healthy church:

- Shares one major mission outreach in the community;
- Helps directly with one of these: a life stage, a human hurt and hope, a common interest or a community concern;
- Delivers concrete, effective help with persons and groupings in the community; and
- Is well known and well respected as legend in the community for that mission.

“The church that tries to help everybody with everything ends up helping nobody with nothing... Strong healthy congregations focus on what they do well.”

In late October, Laurie Slaughter, Georgia Roberts and Keith and Suzanne Wilkins met to discuss several options, drawing information from the interviews, demographics and academic literature. St. Mark's is a significant asset in this community and maximizing the value of this asset in partnership with others could include:

1. Diocesan Community Ministries Satellite – a possible counselling site for the Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Center for example.
2. Hospice Satellite for bereavement counselling and groups and possibly a day hospice in conjunction with Hospice Care Ottawa as it is overseen by government affiliated organizations (LHINN).
3. Refugee Administration Centre Satellite (perhaps for the diocese)
4. Food Community Centre for: Newcomers; the Disadvantaged; Seniors (who are cooking for one) – affiliation with Meals on Wheels? --- A better kitchen would certainly be required.
5. Music Hub – for Teaching and Performing (new seats would be needed)

Father Jim, at the January parish council meeting, suggested another possible option to consider. He has perceptively noted that St. Mark's has demonstrated a real commitment to caring for one another and a reaching out to our own seniors and elders. This he felt could develop into a commitment to an eldercare centre and possible partnership to serve the whole area or community would suit us. There seems to be a void that needs to be filled with respect to eldercare. Other parishes in our diocese have developed partnerships that, for example, are providing kitchen outreach to needy people (St. Luke's Table), or crisis or interim housing/shelter for women, (Cornerstone), but no group in the diocese is addressing the specific need for eldercare in all its forms – which could include phone buddies, friendly visits, drives to appointments, help with accessing health care, food in the form of communal kitchen cooking or meals brought to the home or seniors' lunches beyond those for our own members, or day programs. Could this be a ministry that God is calling St Mark's to explore and develop with others?

Historically Saint Mark's has supported a number of separate projects of short and medium term. In response to Bishop John's invitation and as a caring Christian community is there a renewed or revised Mission for St Mark's that will engage our parish community with the larger Ottawa West community?

Respectfully submitted  
Suzanne Wilkins

## St Marks Wellness Committee (Health Committee)

We began 2016 as the Health Committee in support of our parish nurse, Janet Helmer. The Health Committee met monthly to consider support for the defibrillator and planning for the spring seniors' luncheon. By March we knew that Janet's term of employment was concluding at the end of April so two meetings were spent reviewing the wind up of the Parish Nursing ministry – what happens with the records, (they remain the property of the nurse), development of a resource list to leave with the parish, and the renewal of a first aid kit.

In April, we planned a celebration of St Mark's parish nursing ministry and a farewell to Janet. In May, Patti Robillard, our first nurse, joined us in the celebration of the ministry following the 10 AM service. The parish offered thanks to both nurses for their care and caring over the previous many years. Gifts were presented to Janet and Brenda Zanin created and presented a memory of parish nursing.

Through 2015 and 2016 the Health Committee struggled, without much success, to create a group of friendly visitors to keep in touch with shut in parishioners. As an alternative, a card ministry was developed and Janet made arrangements with Connie Bowerman to take on this ministry when she departed.

In early June the spring seniors' Eucharist and lunch were held. In addition to the worship a cold plate was served and then the St Rita's children's choir entertained our guests.

When we convened in September our first task was to determine what our role would be now that a Health Committee was no longer needed. After consideration we decided to continue meeting monthly. We renamed ourselves St Mark's Wellness Committee. Monthly we review the parish membership and develop a list of those needing either a visit or a card. Father Jim has met with us and shared his knowledge of those in need. We also reviewed testing of the AED. In November we hosted the seniors' Eucharist and luncheon. We were treated to a concert by Garth Hampson.

Now as we plan for 2017 we will continue to listen to the needs of our community.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Darling, chair, Georgia Roberts, Jane Delroy, Gillian Morris, Margaret Lodge, Jackie Sorfleet, Carol Dicks, Father Jim Roberts.

## Prayer Ministries

### St Mark's E-prayer

St Mark's Prayer by E-mail started in 2007, with a few requests for prayers for parishioners. In 2016 I sent out 56 E-prayers over the 12 months. The E-prayer group has fluctuated over the years and in 2016 it was made up of 56 members, praying via e-mail for people who had requested prayers.

Our prayers were not only for the church family, but for our own families and friends, and not just in Canada. Some people we only knew by name. Some prayers were with simple information and some with a lot; some with follow-up and some with none. We rejoiced and we grieved.

The majority of our prayers were for the sick. We prayed for 57 people or families, for health, surgery and recovery, and we gave thanks for seven who were 'healed'. We were saddened by the loss of 15 parishioners, family or friends. We gave thanks for their life, and prayed for comfort for their families. We prayed for those affected by disasters and war. We prayed for their safety and for peace.

We also gave prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of three babies and for eleven baptisms. Our prayers included ministry: for the many years of our Parish Nurse ministry and our nurses Patti and Janet; for Fr Brian and for Fr Jim. We prayed for various stages of spiritual and daily life, including special anniversaries and the Queen on her 90th birthday.

Over the years the E-prayer circle has worked as a conduit between pray-ers and those being prayed for. It has helped provide an instant prayer link of support and comfort when it was needed. Another aspect of the E-prayer circle is that those we pray for can use it to give updates on their situation and also give their thanks.

As in past years we thank those who have put their trust in us, by using the E-prayer for their own prayer requests, and we give thanks to our pray-ers who receive the E-prayer requests, and have added all these people to their own prayers.

If you want to join the E-prayer list of pray-ers, or have prayers said for you, St Mark's E-prayer can be reached via [drblodge@sympatico.ca](mailto:drblodge@sympatico.ca) ... or just let me know.

If only one extra person offers their prayers for another it will be worth while. Please join us.

Margaret Lodge  
E-prayer Coordinator

### **Prayer and Praise**

The P&P Group meets in the Choir Room each Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. except for one month in the summer. Our membership this past year was four people with an average attendance of three. The program for the evening consists of times of sung worship, Bible study, meditation, prayer for those on our weekly Prayer Cycle and others known to us needing prayers for healing.

On the third Tuesday of the month we meet in the Peace Chapel for special prayers for healing using a Celtic form of service.

All are welcome to join at any time.

Carol Dicks

### **Prayer Cycle Phone Ministry**

Each week one member of a team of three callers contacts those members whose names are on the Parish Prayer Cycle in the church bulletin for that week, inquiring about how they are and if they have any special requests for prayer for themselves, family members or friends for whom they would like us to pray. These requests are shared with each other and our priest but are kept confidential by the members of the Prayer Group, who then offer these requests to God at our prayer meetings and in our own private devotions.

Carol Dicks

### **Perley-Rideau Ministry**

A group of about 10 dedicated people volunteer at the Perley Rideau Health Centre to bring patients down to a Communion Service, every Friday between 9:30 and noon. We are fortunate to have the Reverend Jim Roberts with us. We meet for coffee and friendly chat before leaving for home.

Respectfully submitted  
Jacqueline Sorfleet

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We continue to make prayer shawls, baptismal shawls and pocket prayer shawls. Each one is knitted or crocheted with love and prayer. New shawls are blessed on the first Sunday of the month, during the 10am service.

The shawls are given to those in need of comfort and solace as well as in joy and celebration and represent the love and prayers of our church community.

Since the start of the ministry in 2010 over 200 shawls have been dedicated and distributed.

Many parishioners and visitors prefer pocket prayer shawls. Over 300 have been given.

I would like to thank knitters, past and present and especially Betty, Ada and Diane for their help in making this ministry possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gillian Morris.

## St Mark's Ladies' Guild

### Financial Statement

RECEIPTS	Bank Balance Jan 28, 2017	\$4,231.96
	Circle 2	2,000
	Card Party	1,000
	Donations	659.00
	Calendars 2016	67.90
		<hr/>
		\$7,940.86
EXPENSES	Diocesan ACW	500
	St Mark's	2,000
	St Mark's (Fundraising)	1,000
	Bank Service Charges	26.50
	Bank Balance	\$4,414.36
		<hr/>
		\$7,960.86

Respectfully submitted

Jacqueline Sorfleet  
Treasurer  
St Mark's ACW Umbrella Group

## Circle 2

Our group spent a busy year. On April 9, we held our 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show and Sale with the Exhibition and sale of paintings by local Artists. Forty-one artists had boards to show off their talents. . Many painting were sold. During the year, we collect and send to Debra Dynes Family House, baby clothing, blankets and diapers, or whatever they may be in need of. We had tables at the Bazaar with knitted and sewing items. We also participated at the Mini Bazaar and had a table at the Stairwell Carollers concert. In all, each was most profitable. By late November, eleven shoe boxes of used postage stamps were mailed to The Leprosy Mission of Canada in Markham, Ontario. This is an ongoing Outreach Program of St Mark's. We are also involved in the making and selling of Christmas Puddings and also selling Church Calendars.

Respectfully submitted.

Doreen Matweow

## Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a world-wide sisterhood within the Anglican Church, with 4 million members in 83 countries. The aims are:

- ❖ to share Christ's love and teaching by supporting and nurturing marriage and family life,
- ❖ to maintain a word-wide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer worship and service,
- ❖ to seek justice for all,
- ❖ to support individuals and families in troubled circumstances.

St Mark's branch was re-established in 1983. We wear many hats, and provide many services, generally connected to our Aims and mandate. One of those hats is the church Membership Committee, and through that the Vitality Group. We help with the parish Seniors' lunches, and members of the MU also help at the Church Army's (Threshold Ministries) fall meeting in Ottawa, by serving the potluck and cleaning up. We also support the Church School and Nursery whenever possible. As a group, or individually, we are very involved in the life of St. Mark's.

**2016:** Our year started with an Epiphany Dinner in January. Our monthly meetings are open to the parish, and are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the conference room, starting at 1:00pm. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. We presently have 10 active members and 2 supporting members, plus Bruce, Paul and Steve, who are acting auxiliary members and chief BBQ-ers.

**Outreach:** Mothers' Union is not a fundraising organization, but everything that we are involved in on a social or community level, requires funds or donations in kind. We have been very fortunate at St Mark's to have the support of a very giving parish. Without this help our programs would not be as successful as they are. Some of our outreach is within the parish, with annual and even weekly events, and some reaches around the world.

❖ **ACW Bales for the North:** an annual project of Anglican women for over a hundred years. Parishioners provide items for the bales. MU (Jenny Morphew and Gillian Morris) helps sort and pack them. Circle 2 also makes a generous annual donation to the Bales to help with mailing costs, as each 40lb bale costs over \$125 to send.

- ❖ ***Advent Giving Tree:*** a great success again this year. We collected more gifts than ever before! We collected hats, mitts, scarves, socks, and underwear, toiletries, special seasonal foods, and small gifts. These were shared out among Hope Outreach, the Mission, Centre 454, The Well, Cornerstone, Operation Come Home and St Luke's Table.
- ❖ ***Bazaar:*** an afghan, made by Diane McCaul was raffled, and we ran the candle table, making \$82 for outreach, and to provide flowers for the women in our parish on Mothering Sunday. We also ran the boutique for the bazaar.
- ❖ ***'Buck a book' table:*** this weekly table raised \$700, including \$100 to Akany Famonjena orphanage and a day teaching centre for teens in Madagascar, \$150 to PWRDF, \$50 to Fort McMurray, \$100 to the Canadian MU travel fund, \$150 to the branch travel fund, and \$150 to our special outreach, the Northern Clergy Families Fund. This project has raised \$13,800 since 2000, and all for outreach. Jenny Morphey takes care of the table every Sunday. Many thanks Jenny.
- ❖ ***Calendars 2017:*** MU took over the Anglican calendar project from the Diocesan ACW in 2015. This was our second year, and should've been easy as all it required was new data input. The calendars were a joint venture with the Lutheran Church this year, with the focus on mission rather than church buildings. MU did the normal work, advertised, phoned and emailed, received 84 orders, ordered 3240 calendars. A big job, but it had been set up electronically in 2015, so it was easier in 2016, BUT ... on the production side there were major problems and delays. I expended a lot of nervous energy, and worry. What had been a wonderful experience for outreach the previous year - getting to know all the churches and deaneries in the Diocese, and who's who in each church, and they getting to know St Mark's MU too - became one of anxiety and upset in 2016. Thanks to the eventual hard work in Toronto, the calendars were finally delivered to Synod, already counted and packed by deanery, where MU was able to distribute them very efficiently, thanks to much help from our MU members, and husbands. Unfortunately that was not the last, as there has been widespread dislike for the new calendars with content and lack of colour for our Altar Guilds. Calendars did not sell as expected and some were even sent back. This endeavor has not been a financial success for outreach as in the past, but I have heard from a lot of parishes, a different form of outreach.
- ❖ ***Card Party:*** Organized by Jackie Sorfleet, based on the card parties from the past, about 80 ladies came to play bridge and eat fancy sandwiches. It was a lot of work, especially for MU members preparing the exotic sandwiches, but fun was had by all.
- ❖ ***Mothering Sunday:*** the 4th Sunday of Lent, and as we have for many years MU served Simnel cake and coffee and gave carnations to the ladies of the church.
- ❖ ***Picnic June 26 & BBQ September 25:*** Each year a new charity is chosen for each event. Some charities are local, others far reaching. This year the picnic raised \$400 for food for the Iqaluit Soup Kitchen, and small goods for children and schools. The items were taken to Iqaluit by Thomas Pilson (camp counsellor) and other members of the annual Iqaluit Music day-camp run by Frances Macdonnell. The fall BBQ raised \$350 for Cornerstone housing for women. We had Sue Garvey, director of Cornerstone at our service that day. Over \$6650 has been raised through these fun events, for outreach.
- ❖ ***Tea at Billings:*** MU ladies like teas, and 19 gathered at Billings Estate on a lovely sunny day.
- ❖ ***Welcoming and Sharing Sunday:*** MU had a table at this event. It was organized as part of parish outreach, but also to let parishioners know a little more about what we had to offer.



I would like to take this opportunity, which I know I repeat every year, to thank you our parishioners who support all our endeavours. It is your generosity, your concern and your support that allow us to be God's hands in the neighbourhood, our city, and around the world.

May God bless you for your love and caring.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Greer, Mothers' Union Branch Leader

## Membership Committee

The aim of the Membership committee is to work with and for the people of the parish, and to encourage participation in parish life. Technically, Membership covers all aspects of parish life. It has a specific position on Parish Council, representing parish members. However, for example, it does not represent groups like the choir or altar guild as such, but is there to support and work with the members and their activities, in more of an unstructured, unspecific way.

Membership works with the church office, in relation to the official church membership list, and was instrumental in what we now have for all participating members, the smaller Church Directory. It helps printing the church newsletter, folding and preparing for distribution. In the past few years it has produced information leaflets for the pews, including the main 'welcome' one for visitors and 'get involved' with more specific information and contact names. In 2016 the former Parish Nursing leaflet became "*St Mark's Pastoral Care, Prayer & Seniors Ministry*". Also the New Members blue card was revamped in 2016 to provide more information. The end of 2016 we started trying new leaflet holders on the pews.

The role of the Membership committee has been spread very widely the past few years, functioning more out of specific needs rather than a set structure. One need was the formation of a sub-group of Membership - the **Parish Vitality Working Group**. This was a new initiative in 2014 that became very active in 2015, and more so in 2016 when it took on a very successful FUN(d)raising role. (see *Parish Vitality Group Report, page 17*)

An obvious aim of Membership is to try and know personally as many parishioners as possible, by sight and name. As a group, we try and notice who is present and absent, to make sure they are not sick, or moved away. We also extend this to speaking with everyone whose face we do not recognize. That way we can welcome them and encourage them to at least join us for coffee hour.

As happens in any group situation, membership fluctuates. Presently we have 189 family units, ranging from singles to couples and families with children. Our new-comers in 2016 represented 13 family units, and 12 people were removed from our parish list through moving away, death, or by no means of contact.

The parish demographics are changing. Our parish was founded by returning vets in the late 40s and many early parishioners have moved away or now live in retirement homes. These changes of location often affect the worshipping pattern of our members. It does, however, open the opportunity of younger families coming back into the community. This is now showing in our membership. At the Parish Picnic in June, we officially welcomed seven of our 13 new families, including 8 children.

Young families were a very positive part of Membership in 2016. It was not just on paper, as was shown by the gradual increase of children in our Church School. Future new-comers with young families can now see a younger and active community for their children, one where the children

actually take part in the worship. Not only is our church school growing, but so is our junior choir, and both bring great joy to our 'older' members.

Presently, Membership committee is made up of Mothers' Union members (MU), since Cynthia Greer, the MU leader, took over the vacant position of Membership in 2007/8, and MU agreed to be the working committee. Cynthia moved to the deputy Peoples Warden's position last year, and I became Membership Chair at Vestry 2016.

Although MU is the core of the Membership committee, it is open to anyone who would like to serve. To reassure you, Membership is not just a women's group, however parish life is more or less covered, as MU members wear many hats: Altar Guild, choir, communications (newsletter, advertising, web, blog, facebook), prayer, pastoral care to name a few, and in 2016 six members were on Parish Council, including two in Corporation positions, which envelopes all parish activities. Your interests are well represented!

As in past years, one of the unofficial roles of Membership was to feed parishioners. Food is a very important part of our fellowship here. Anything that involves gatherings involves food. Not all food gatherings are Membership/MU events, but the chances are you'll find us there.

In 2016 we added a few new ones to some regular gatherings.

- ❖ **Coffee Hour:** the most frequent and noticeable gathering is after the Sunday services. Helen McGill (8am) and Georgia Roberts (10am) coordinate the coffee hour rosters.
- ❖ **Parish Breakfasts:** these take place 4 times a year, and are organized by Brian Harrison.
- ❖ **Queen's birthday dinner in April:** part of the Membership/Vitality group program.
- ❖ **Card Party in May:** ladies bridge organized by Jackie Sorfleet. The fanciest sandwiches ever! catered by MU/Membership.
- ❖ **Tales & Tunes in June,** and the **Stairwell Carollers in December,** both part of the Membership/Vitality group program with receptions.
- ❖ **Seniors' Lunches: in June and November,** organized by the Health/Wellness group, it honours our 'senior' members, and the 'younger' members of the parish give some of our active elders a well-earned rest from the kitchen, by being served instead of serving.
- ❖ **Church Picnic in June:** we welcomed and introduced seven families as newcomers, and
- ❖ **Church BBQ in September:** both of these events are directly sponsored by MU/Membership.
- ❖ **Welcoming and Sharing Sunday October 16:** Membership and Vitality took part in this special Sunday event that was proposed and spearheaded by outreach coordinator, Laurie Slaughter. As Membership I encouraged people to get active within the parish, and to sign-up to help. Vitality, with Brian Harrison and Maria Padin, showed what had been done to revitalize the spirit of community within the parish. This type of Sunday was a very positive move forward.
- ❖ **Pasta Supper in October:** part of the Membership/Vitality group program for the parish.
- ❖ **Advent Carol service on November 27:** was followed by a soup/chili supper, organized by Georgia Roberts and Penny Miller, both MU members, and was very much appreciated.
- ❖ **Greet the Christ Child reception on Christmas Eve:** this is another direct contribution from the MU/Membership group, even with an earlier 'late' service in 2016, it was still held and about 50 people stayed and enjoy food and fellowship.

As a parish, St Mark's has a group of very active and hard working core members who make sure things keep going and get done, but helpers for all parish events are down each year. We are always looking for new 'hands' to share the load. The more helpers we have the less we all have to do. One of the easiest ways of helping out is to join a group: coffee, church school, altar guild, or sides-people or help set-up or clean-up from an activity, supper, bazaar, or rummage sale. The demands are not onerous, but you get to know people better, and it's a good way to get involved. Read the leaflet in the pews 'get involved'. Maybe you will find something to interest you.

Thank you to those who have contributed in some way to the well being of St. Mark's. This is what makes our church a very welcoming place.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Lodge  
Membership Committee Chair 2016

## **St Mark's Parish Vitality Working Group**

The Vitality Working Group was formed at the beginning of 2015. The purpose of the group is *"to enhance parish life, particularly through activities and events that increase the sense of being part of the St Mark's Community"*. The group reports to Parish Council through the Membership Chair. This year it is Margaret Lodge, who, in the capacity of Membership chair, became a member of the group following Vestry 2016.

Members of the group in 2016 were Brian Harrison (Chair), Cynthia Greer, Kate Greer-Close, Maria Padin, Penny Miller, Margaret Lodge and Margaret Williamson, who retired in the summer. An important part of the Vitality Group is team work. Even if there is a leader for a particular project, the whole group is involved in one aspect or another. For 2017 we are looking for new members, who can add a broader outlook on social/community events, with either fun or fund or both in mind.

In the first year, our projects were mainly for the parish with a possible extension to family and friends. In effect relatively low key, mostly in-reach but also with some out-reach.

In 2016, the group was asked to take on an extra initiative, to help raise funds specifically for the church, while still maintaining our original mandate. We undertook this challenge with some trepidation as the goal was \$5000. Thanks to your generous support we far exceeded our goal and raised just over \$8000. A big THANK YOU to every one.

Due to the expanded mandate we had to look at ways of reaching out and advertising our events. We wanted to keep the FUN in FUN(d)raising, and this was our main approach in whatever we did. As in the previous year we had a mixture of meals and entertainment, but also things that were just fun with no real dollar gain in sight.

To facilitate the FUND-raising aspect of our FUN-raising we had to advertise further afield and produce more graphics for on-line use and general distribution. This has been an on-going work-in-progress and requires early planning of events, but by planning ahead we were able to take advantage of each event to advertise future events.

In 2016, Vitality worked with some old activities, but also several new parish initiatives, trying to form a balance between fun & fund and parish & community:

- ❖ **April 23 - Dinner to Celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday:** A sold-out crowd of 120 attended. There was a catered roast beef dinner, and music performed by Garth Hampson who kept the audience entertained and laughing. It was organized by Brian Harrison, with Terry Frederick as Master of Ceremonies. Although mainly a parish event, we did advertise in the greater community, and so this was our lead-in to the fund-raising challenge. The total profit from the evening was \$2,000, from ticket sales, a silent auction organized by Sharon Walter, and a book raffle courtesy of Maria Padin. We had lots of feedback from people from the St. Mark's community who had a great time. People from outside our church community experienced the warmth and hospitality of our parish.
- ❖ **May 15 - Songs for the Soul:** This afternoon of songs and spirituality was run jointly between the Choir and Vitality, organized by Lindsay Setzer and Kate Greer-Close. The leader was Roxanne Goodman, and about 40 parishioners attended, 20 from the congregation and the rest from the junior and senior choirs. A fun afternoon was had by all. This event was purely a community builder for the parish.
- ❖ **May 18 - Card Party:** Although not organized through Vitality, this event was part of our overall fund-raising initiatives. Organized by Jackie Sorfleet, it brought together 80 ladies from all over Ottawa for an afternoon of bridge. It raised \$1000.
- ❖ **June 4 - The Big Give:** Another event for community outreach - no fund-raising - was the Big Give, a city-wide project involving many churches and groups who provide items at no cost. Kate Greer-Close took leadership for this project. It was a great opportunity to get parishioners together and serve food and beverages to those passing by on Fisher. In 2016 we added free books, music and a bouncy castle! Parishioners had an opportunity both to serve our neighbours and to enjoy the fellowship of others in the parish.
- ❖ **June 5 - Tales and Tunes:** This event, organized by Margaret Williamson, was a concert of stories by Stephen Leacock, presented by the Ottawa Story Tellers, with music by the North Winds Brass Quintet. This was our first real FUND-raising effort, with intentional advertising outside the parish. It was a learning curve for the future. We had 75 attendees, had a reception between acts, and raised \$700.
- ❖ **September 17 - Garage Sale:** A revival of a past parish activity. It was a lot of work at short notice, but a big success – raising \$1100 - thanks to Cynthia Greer and workers.
- ❖ **October 29 - Pasta Supper:** Another great parish dinner – thanks again to Cynthia Greer, with many workers of every age, including a few Italians, and Scouts from St Mark's 72<sup>nd</sup> troop. Over 100 people attended the lasagna dinner from Mr Bs. Musical entertainment was by Gillian Kirkland, and singing of a few Italian choruses was led by our choir. The profit was \$1264.
- ❖ **December 9 - Stairwell Carollers:** This was our second FUND-raiser of the year. There had been some unnecessary concern about adding a Christmas concert among our own very busy services. What an amazing concert and turn out. Nearly 150, including children, attended. There was extensive advertising outside the church and it paid off. The profit was \$1950! Plus it was another sales outlet for our mini-bazaar, Christmas puddings and church calendars.
- ❖ **Christmas Cards:** All parishioners received Christmas cards in 2016, thanks to a generous parishioner, cards by Joy Bowerman, and the signing hands of a few Vitality members.

This has been a year of major challenges for Vitality. We took on five large events and attempted to raise \$5000. The fact we raised over \$8000 is truly amazing – but we had amazing support from you, our church family, our own families and friends, and also the greater community through the two non-parish concerts. All these events have drawn in not just our own parishioners but friends and outsiders too. Together, we reached out to nearly 800 people.

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We are grateful to all parishioners who participate in church events and help to make St Mark's a vibrant, vital community. We look forward to sharing this vitality with you in 2017.

Margaret Lodge  
on behalf of

**St Mark's Vitality Working Group 2016**

Brian, Cynthia, Kate, Margaret 1 & 2, Maria and Penny

## **Altar Guild**

This past year has been a year of goodbyes and hellos for our group. Goodbye, thank you and good luck to Pat Longworth and Joan Grayer, two of our members who have relocated to BC to be closer to family and thank you for your cheerful service to Ada Henwood, a long-time member who has retired from altar guild while continuing as a member of the congregation. We were also pleased to welcome two new members to our teams and would love to talk to anyone else who thinks they might be interested to join this "behind the scenes" group.

One highlight of the year was the addition of two new banners, a purchased one intended to celebrate baptism which has also seemed appropriate to be hung at a couple of funerals. This was donated by Ruth Werbin. A Christmas banner was designed by Margaret Lodge and created by Joy Bowerman with Penny Miller. It is our hope is that next year, it will be hung during Advent as a "waiting" stable and inserts will be added as we travel to epiphany.

Penny Miller

## **Flowers**

We continued with our practice of only placing flowers in the sanctuary when there is a request and donation. Flowers can be ordered by completing a form from the flower noticeboard, in the link and including this with your donation then ensuring this gets to the office, either via the collection plate or personal drop off.

Penny Miller

## **Choir Report**

St Mark's has three choirs: the regular senior choir, the junior choir and the Requiem choir. The Senior Choir sings on Sunday mornings, as well as for any additional services, including those during Lent, Holy Week and Christmas. Choir practice is on Thursday evenings, with a break for the summer months. In summer we have a pick-up choir that meets before the Sunday morning service to practice the service music and an anthem chosen as a function of the forces available to sing.

Our first special activity of the year was a baby shower for choir member Michelle Zacour on January 17 after the morning service. Eric, born in February, is the first choir baby since the Close twins arrived in September 2007.

The following week was the week for Christian unity which culminated in a joint service on January 24 with our neighbours at Madonna della Risurrezione which included the Greek Orthodox Dormition of the Virgin Mary congregation this year. Members of St Mark's congregation attended the service, and several choir members participated, singing both the Anglican hymns and the Italian songs. I am grateful to Larisa Lysenko, organist at Madonna church, who accompanied the Anglican hymns for the service as I was unable to be there because of a funeral.

Our first big project of the year was an Evensong on February 28. The Anglican church commemorates George Herbert, theologian, priest, and poet on February 27, and so Fr. Brian decided our evensong would focus on him. Herbert, who died March 1, 1633, wrote a number of hymns which are in our Common Praise hymn book, including 569 “Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life”. We sang a modern anthem based on his text “Blest be the God of Love”, and a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Thomas Tomkins, an English Renaissance composer whose music Herbert might well have known. Thanks to the three singers who joined us: Signi Damus, Elizabeth Caswell and Heather Fogo. They had all previously sung the Tomkins Fifth Service on tour with the Anglican Chorale of Ottawa, and were of great help to us.

On Ash Wednesday, February 10 we sang our first evening Eucharist of the year to mark the beginning of Lent, which culminated in the Holy Week choral services including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and the Easter morning service.

Pentecost Sunday, May 15, was a big day for the choir. Baby Eric Zacour was baptized, and four junior choir members received their surplices. The senior choir had also invited singer, conductor and motivational speaker Roxanne Goodman to give a “Songs for the Soul” workshop for anyone interested on after the service (after a very substantial coffee time/light lunch, that is). Roxanne inspired us to sing with our whole hearts, to engage with the music and the message. There was a good turn-out of congregation members, and everyone seemed to enjoy this session.

May 22 marked the farewell to our parish nurses, and choir member Brenda Zanin penned a song of gratitude to Patti and Janet which the choir sang for the occasion.

On the evening of June 10, Ray Davidson welcomed us into his home and garden for a potluck in the gentle summer evening light. It was a lovely evening, and also an opportunity to get to know baby Eric!

July 24 marked Fr Brian’s last Sunday at St Mark’s, and during the reception which followed the service, choir members sang a song written by Brenda Zanin in honour of Brian.

Choir member Thomas Pilson went to Iqaluit in August to be an assistant at a choir camp organized by Frances Macdonnell, and St Mark’s choir gave him a gift from the choir fund to help subsidize his trip. The trip proved to be a wonderful experience for Thomas.

After the summer break, Thursday choir practices resumed as usual after Labour Day. The vitality committee organized a Pasta Supper on October 29, and after the meal choir members led the singing of favourite Italian songs in English and Italian (made easier thanks to years of experience singing Italian songs for the services for Christian Unity!).

We sang the Remembrance Day morning service on November 13, and this year we are grateful to former parishioner and choir member Scott Kirby who practiced and found his trumpet chops (or should I say his lip?) again to play the trumpet for the Last Call, Reveille and some of the hymns.

A small group of choristers assisted by Paul Greer visited two of our seniors living in retirement homes to sing Christmas carols.

The Advent Carol Service was on the afternoon of November 27, and was followed by a soup supper in Bishop Reed Hall. Three weeks later, on December 18 we sang the Nine Lessons and Carols Service during the morning Eucharist service, with the liturgy carefully adapted by Fr Jim. The senior choir sang the 9pm Christmas Eve service using the Merbecke ordinary, and led the half hour of carol singing before the service.

Thanks to Thomas Pilson and James Zacour, husband of choir member Michelle Zacour who joined us for some of these services. On Christmas morning our skeleton choir crew was once again augmented by harpist Susan Palmer.

We have two new choir members this year, both are altos: Julia Fogg joined in the spring, and Maria Padin in the fall. Thomas Pilson is on an extended leave of absence since September. As a member of the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, Thomas was offered a year-long choral scholarship offered through St. John's Elgin St.. This provides vocal training and requires singing at that church.. We are so pleased that Thomas has this opportunity.

The St Mark's Requiem choir, which includes former adult choir members, present members and other musically-inclined parishioners, gathers to sing for funerals, occasional weddings and other events. This choir is sometimes led by our organist parishioner Carol Dicks, as I am often unavailable to play for these services.

Our Junior Choir is flourishing. By the end of 2016 we had seven members: Jeremy, Madeline and Penelope Close, and Patrick Findlay, who are now full members, having received their surplices on Pentecost Sunday, and Anabella Martinez-Ball, Hiyab and Fish Yehdego. Patrick's little sister Caitlyn is learning many of the songs and will likely be joining the choir when she learns to read. The junior choir members continue to sing the first verse of the communion hymns on their own during the Sunday services, and often contribute an anthem as well. They have begun to sing some anthems for two voices. They were responsible for music at the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist service, leading the hymns and singing an anthem, as well as leading the singing in the children's pageant. This year again, they had the help of former junior choristers Sarah and Alex Dee, who also sang a duet on their own while the children got ready for the pageant. Alex kept me on track for the tricky rhythms of "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" by playing the derbouka (Middle Eastern drum). Thank you to Kate Greer-Close, who is the highly skilled co-director of this choir, and to Carolyn Findlay, who helps out every Thursday and Sunday as well.

The junior choir welcomes new members; the only requirement for junior choir members is the ability to read English.

My thanks go to Carol Dicks, Don Marjerrison, Frances Macdonnell, and David Huddleson, who have substituted for me this year.

Thank you to all choir members, who faithfully and diligently gather to practice and sing for the services every week. Special thanks to Gillian Martin, our choir president; to Joy Bowerman for leading some choir rehearsals in my stead, for help with sectionals and for occasional accompanying; to Jenny Morphew for taking care of our substantial music library, for posting the hymn numbers on the hymn board, and for keeping our choir robes organized; to Ray Davidson who represents the choir at Parish Council; to our convenor Cynthia Greer for making all those phone calls and taking care of cards when necessary; to Coralie Sheehan for keeping track of our finances; Janis Perkin for restoring books that need it; Brenda Zanin for straightening our choir robes when they don't look right on us and for her song-writing; to page-turners Bruce Lodge and John Hancock. Bruce also leads sectionals on occasion.

Thank you also to Fr. Brian for his support and now to Fr. Jim for his appreciation of and interest in choral music, and to Joy Bowerman who is such a well-informed, efficient and caring presence in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ariane Dind

## Nursery and Sunday School

Kate Greer-Close has been the main teacher supported by many helpers. We were very lucky to several returning helpers, including Isabelle Boutros, Carolyn Findlay, Katie Hartai, James Kelly and Maria Padin. Katie Hartai finished her university studies in Ottawa and moved out East in early summer. Julia Fogg has recently joined as another helper. Paul Greer and Stephen Close help with setup, cleanup and step in whenever help is needed. Cynthia Greer helps with the pageant and replaces Kate on occasion. Big thanks to all of our helpers as we could not offer our program without you.

We continue to refer to several on-line sites for our lesson planning, including a Virtual Church program originally designed for the diocese of Keewatin <http://churchschool.info/>, the Episcopal Church <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/> and Sermons4kids <http://www.sermons4kids.com/>. In general, we follow the lectionary and church calendar and teach on the lessons read in church that week.

We begin each week in the church, for the opening hymn and prayers followed by the children's story (Janis Perkin). Janis' story is always a great start to our lesson! Thank you Janis.

Then we exit to the Hall where the nursery and school-aged children remain together for a prayer and song. The youngest children can go into the nursery (and be supervised) at any time but usually all of the children stay in our circle to listen to the story and then do an activity. Activities commonly include crafts, discussion, dramatic representations, songs and prayers.

We may need to modify our program as we add younger children (babies) and as the oldest children could benefit from greater discussion.

Sunday school finishes in time (we try!) for the children to join the congregation for Communion. Father Brian/Father Jim welcomes the children, and the children enter singing (e.g. Halle Halle, Give me oil in my lamp). The children approach the altar and pray the Lord's Prayer from there, with the whole congregation. They then rejoin their families for communion. The children in the Junior choir go up to choir at this time and remain in the church until the dismissal. Some of the younger children go back to the nursery after communion (when supervision is available - most of our helpers are in the Senior choir and so are not available after communion).

As it is very difficult to listen to the service (over the speakers) while teaching in the Hall, we rely on the sidespeople to let us know when it is time for us to prepare to rejoin the service - thank you!

Kate regularly plans and leads Sunday school with that week's helper as hands-on support. Cynthia fills in when Kate is away. Sunday school is planned for each Sunday (10AM service) and must be flexible as we can have from 2-26 children. On average there are 10 children, ranging in ages from 1 to 13. Overall, there have been more children attending regularly and more joining us occasionally. YAY! Sunday school roughly follows the school schedule (e.g. no organised classes during school breaks).

We were very lucky to be able to produce a video about our Sunday school in the spring. Katie Hartai ably filmed, interviewed and produced the video, which can be found on our church web site [Youtube link to Sunday school video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BW-52WC7JkE) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BW-52WC7JkE>).

In terms of our outreach, we continued our Sunday school card ministry - colouring and sending cards to our seniors and shut-ins at Valentine's, Easter and Christmas. We decorated cookies (baked by parishioners) and took them to Cornerstone as our part of St Mark's Lenten outreach. The



children also had PWRDF collection boxes that they put money in when they were helpers at home. We sent that \$120 to PWRDF to help across the world, especially in places where we have family, including Syria, Cuba, Sudan and Burundi.

The children were also represented at the Tulipathon last June, where we walked to raise money for the MultiFaith Housing Initiative (over \$175 was raised by the children)!

We decorated even more cookies in Advent and delivered them to The Mission, St Luke's and the Salvation Army. We sold Advent wreaths (to our parishioners and beyond!) again this year and raised \$225 which we donated to World Vision (\$65 for a family fish farm, \$80 for 2 hens, a rooster and 5 fruit trees) and to Plan (\$15 for play equipment, \$65 to help refugee children).

We enjoy offering our gifts to our parish as well. Again this Epiphany we participated in the creche Sunday by building and displaying our (impressive!) playdough and duplo creches. We now sing every week as we re-enter and we offer our songs in church or at church meals (e.g. pancake supper, picnic) whenever possible. We seek out the older youth to help at church events (e.g. pancake supper, bazaar and rummage sale) and at Sunday school.

Our Christmas preparations culminated with our pageant on Christmas Eve (4:30pm) with 18 children. The Junior choir also led the early (4:30pm) service on Christmas Eve with both regular and guest choristers. An impressive feat as many of them had never participated in a service from start to finish! Many thanks to Father Jim for his encouragement, as we, once again, developed a pageant, based on the Christmas Eve readings and songs, and flexible enough to include all children present.

Many thanks to Ariane, who accompanies, and accommodates, the children in their singing.

Technically, our Christmas party was in 2017, but I should say that the children received special Christmas gifts, thanks to a donation from one of our parishioners. Their gift is a prayer cube (a wooden die with a prayer on each side) which offers prayers either for mealtime or for bedtime.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to work with this wonderful group of young children who are growing together in their life in Christ, so lovingly supported by our whole St Mark's family. It is amazing how much I learn, in teaching them.

respectfully submitted by Kate Greer-Close

## **Property report**

For the last couple of years there has been a small group who as individuals or together have tackled concerns as they have arisen. There has been a notebook hanging in the Link for people to list any problems that they have noticed.

The on-going work of clearing snow from the flat roof to endeavor to control the occasional leaks has been done by Paul Greer and James Kelly, thanks to both of them.

In the kitchen, one of the stoves had to be repaired and also the dishwasher, both of which failed at very inappropriate and inconvenient times, our thanks to Gary Miller for fixing these.

Helen McGill and Connie Bowerman have long been our gardeners, a great big thank you to them both, they are now looking for some help with this, so if you have any interest please let us know.

As noted in the Warden's report, Joy did a wonderful job of decorating the office space and with the office volunteers cleared and reorganized the space to make it more useful and welcoming, many thanks for all this work done during a hot, sticky summer.

Work on the hedges and trees, was done by Russell Wilkins and Georgia Roberts. Thanks to them for their hard work trimming and clearing.

We had been having problems with the outside light and needed to increase the lighting in the parking lot, Cynthia Greer researched options and Paul Greer replaced the existing fixture, this has made a huge difference so a big thank you for this work. We also have to thank the individual in our congregation who donated the money for this upgrade.

There is an investigation continuing to find a suitable lighting for the outside of the church, particularly the pathway leading out from the Link.

Penny Miller

## Pancake Supper

There were 92 tickets sold; 71 were redeemed; 54 paid at the door for a total of 125 adults.

Wow! It was so busy it was hard to keep count. There were children everywhere and we are guessing close to 40 kids, for a total of at least 165 attendees.

We made a profit of about \$1210.91 for St Mark's, directed to St Mark's Capital Reserves in honour of Lorne Bowerman. Last year we made \$850. We increased the price by 50 cents and there were significant donations also, amounting to \$208. We went to \$8 per adult from \$7.50. The "kids free, 12 and under" is still working well.

It was a party!

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Greer-Close

## Parish Breakfasts

We had four parish breakfasts in 2016. Rather than have a speaker at our first breakfast, in January, we used the time for conversation and fellowship among parishioners. This was a good way to get to know our fellow parishioners better. At our second breakfast, in March, Sahado Alolo from the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) joined us to talk about the work of MHI and the Tulipathon planned for May. At our third breakfast, in September, we were pleased to welcome Father Jim Roberts, who spoke about the challenges he dealt after receiving a cancer diagnosis and about how our plans for the future are sometimes interrupted by God's plan for us. Fr. Jim also entertained the audience with his humorous anecdotes and parishioners gave him a warm and enthusiastic welcome. At our last breakfast of 2016, held on Remembrance Day Sunday in November, parishioners shared stories relating to relatives who had experienced the Second World War. The main purpose of the breakfast is to bring parishioners together and enjoy fellowship, but we did have a profit of \$630 at the end of the year, which was donated to the church. I want to thank the special people whose contributions are essential to the success of our breakfasts—Jane Delroy, Sheila Pitt, and Leanne Harrison.

Brian Harrison, Parish Breakfast Coordinator

## Sunday “Coffee Times”

Helen McGill coordinated refreshments after the 8 a.m. service from September to June. She has 6 to 8 faithful volunteers who prepare a tempting spread at that time.

Georgia Roberts organized the roster for after the 10 o'clock Eucharist. In 2016 there continued to be 10 regular teams and occasionally a special group.

Serving refreshments is an excellent way to get to know your fellow parishioners – both those you are working with and those you are serving. And new members would be very welcome at either time slot. If you would like to join a team or create a new one, just speak to one of us or leave a message at the office.

Our thanks go to those who are so faithful and willing to be involved in this ministry to the parish.

Respectfully submitted

Helen McGill and Georgia Roberts

## Bazaar 2016

A highly successful bazaar was held on November 5, 2016, followed by a mini-bazaar on November 27 and a table at the Stairwell Carollers concert on December 9. The net revenue from all of these events was \$6,887. The new venture for the bazaar this year was a table of Christmas cards. There were hand crafted Christmas cards and Christmas cards produced from original photographs, including one which used a photograph of our Nativity window. This card was also used as a Christmas card to the parish. Many people tell me they look forward to our bazaar and this year, there were a number of calls that came into the office checking on the date for bazaar to make sure they didn't miss it.

We were joined for the eighth year by CanHave, a local charity making a difference in Africa

The success of the bazaar depends on the commitment and participation of the people within the parish, both in helping to prepare for the event and in coming out to support it. The bazaar would simply not be possible without the knitters, sewers, crafters, bakers, preservers, soup makers, pie makers and sorters of second hand treasures. Also required are greeters, servers, pricers, sellers and setters up and takers down. To run a successful bazaar, almost one hundred people are involved - truly a community event and one whose revenue is necessary to help balance the books. A sincere thank you to all of those involved.

Special thanks to all of the area convenors: Attic Treasures - Janis Perkin; Baking- Penny Miller; Books – Bruce Lodge, Café - Georgia Roberts; Circle 2 – Doreen Matweow; Crafts – Edna Duke; Jewellery – Kate Greer-Close & Pam Rogers; Knitting - Coralie Sheehan; Lion's Needleworks -Joy Bowerman; Preserves – Margaret Pirnat; Rummage – Paul Greer; Toys - Margaret Blakney and Vintage Linens – Jane Delroy. As well, the ACW sold puddings and calendars.

Submitted on behalf of the Bazaar staff by Joy Bowerman, Bazaar Convenor 2016

## Screening in Faith

What is screening? Screening involves assessing the risks involved in a particular position or ministry; finding an appropriate match between task and volunteer (or candidate for a job); providing sensitization and training, and sometimes altering the setting and arrangement of ministry delivery to minimize risks and maximize the ministry's success.

(<http://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/SIF.html>)

The Screening in Faith Committee is comprised of Les Cundell, Georgia Roberts and Michael Perkin. It continues to work on the screening process and procedures at St. Mark's.

Our records show that 2 application was made for a Police Records Check (PRC) for the year 2016. We will have to carry out 4 Police Records Checks and approximately 12 renewals including myself in 2017.

The Ministries and positions designated as High-risk are:

-Rector (Diocesan responsibility) -Pastoral Care (Perley Visitors not included) -Church School (Head and Teachers) -Rector's Wardens, Rector's Deputy Warden -Nursery (Head and Helpers) - People's Warden, People's Deputy Warden -Friendly Visitors -Instructor of Servers -Junior Choir (Leader) -Home Communion Visitors -Screening in Faith Committee (4) -Parish Administrator (not a volunteer) -Parish Nurse (not a volunteer)

Plans for 2017 include: 1) Continuing work on the Screening program – with new Police Records Checks applications/Reference Checks etc. for volunteers in High-risk ministries; 2) Notifying volunteers who need to have their records updated. 3) Updating Job Descriptions files (from 2002) 4) Contacting Heads of Groups for up-to-date lists of group members for inclusion in St. Mark's Volunteer list.

I would like to thank Michael Perkin, Georgia Roberts for their help and guidance.

Respectfully submitted, Les Cundell

## Outreach

In the past year, St. Mark's has both continued and initiated outreach activities that link our church community to the greater one.

Debra Dynes Family House: This is our major local outreach. In the past year, we have continued to provide food for their food bank, the largest in the Ottawa region, as well as September school supplies, items for the baby cupboard, Mother's Day gifts for the children to give and Christmas items. At the second "Soupalicious" fundraising event for D.D. F. H. one St. Mark's member was on the organizing committee and three St. Mark's members representing the church, decorated and worked in order to support this very successful and fun event.

This year we found ourselves approached several times by the Carlington Chaplaincy with requests for needed items, which when advertised to our membership, were given generously.

As always, the Diocesan "Bales for the North" initiative was advertised and again, St. Mark's members provided the much needed items that were "baled" at St. Columba's and shipped north to three communities.

For a second year and this time with great presence, St. Mark's supported the Multifaith Housing Initiative on May 1, in its "Tulipathon" walk to raise funds for their new housing projects, which

have now started in Barrhaven (The Haven) and on the old Rockcliffe base (Veterans House). We were 19 walkers in number and with our new vinyl banner (which withstood the rain that day beautifully) were acknowledged by winning first prize, as chosen by the Mayor, for best banner of any group and there were many! At the National Housing Day reception at City Hall this past fall, we again were recognized and awarded a framed certificate for group with the best banner. Our walkers donated over \$700.00 pledged by our members and others. We should be proud of our support for the cause of safe and affordable housing in Ottawa. Next year we hope to have even more St. Mark's people walking with our magnificent banner.

On October 16, we held our first "Welcoming and Sharing Sunday" at St. Mark's. This initiative was to welcome others to our church and to share with each other and guests, all the work that many groups in our church do for our own members and for the community. Each group created a display in Bishop Reed Hall and during our special sharing mini-lunch reception people were able to see each group's work and talk with the leaders of these activities. The food for the reception was prepared and served by Parish Council and was delicious.

Over the past spring and fall, I worked with five other representatives of our church to investigate how we might better serve God in our community. One key mission in partnership with one or more community agencies is the goal. Thus various community leaders and groups were consulted to identify needs. Please read the detailed report on this initiative in the Vestry report.

As Outreach coordinator, I would like to thank Lawrence Peever for his faithful delivery of all the items that we collect and distribute to Debra Dynes and other organizations to which we have given so generously. Also, I want to thank Georgia Roberts and Penny Miller for their continued active support with Debra Dynes and other projects. Thank you to Brian Harrison and all the group convenors/chairs of our various activity groups and to Parish Council for their enthusiastic support of the first Welcoming and Sharing Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Slaughter, Outreach Coordinator

## **Lenten Outreach 2017**

As part of our Lenten program since 1999, we have provided almsgiving envelopes to support outreach initiatives. This has allowed us to broaden our outreach in a way which our church budget will not allow. We are planning to continue this program for the year 2017. Please prayerfully consider the projects listed below. This year at parish council, there were 2 projects brought up for consideration

Offering envelopes are available at the back of the church during Lent. These should be used in addition to your regular offering envelopes. All money received in these envelopes will be divided evenly between the outreach projects chosen at vestry. If you wish your offering to be directed specifically to one of the projects or to a different project, please write the name of your choice on the blank line at the bottom of the label on your lenten offering envelopes. If nothing is filled in on this line, it will be assumed that the money should be split evenly between the two projects chosen. Don't forget to write your name or envelope number on the envelope to receive tax credit for your donation!

**Previous Projects Supported**

- 2009 Grandmothers to Grandmothers, St. Jude's Iqaluit
- 2010 Debra-Dynes Family House, Cornerstone
- 2011 Debra-Dynes Family House, Cornerstone
- 2012 Debra-Dynes Family House, Ancoura
- 2013 Debra-Dynes Family House, St Luke's Table
- 2014 Centre 454, St Jude's Cathedral, Iqaluit
- 2015 Diocese of Jerusalem (Princess Basma Centre), St Luke's Table
- 2016 Cornerstone, Refugees

***The Ottawa Mission Hospice***

At the request of Parish Council to investigate the Ottawa Mission Hospice as a possible recipient of our Lenten Outreach donations, Father Jim and Laurie Slaughter contacted the Director of the Ottawa Mission and visited the site. The visit was a most informative one. The breadth of the services being provided to homeless men was impressive and the need was obvious. The Ottawa Mission itself is 110 years old. The particular reason for visiting and touring with Director, Sean Wong, was to see the work of the Hospice located in the building.

The Ottawa Mission Hospice, serving both homeless men and women, has been in existence since 2001 when it was established to meet the crucial need of terminally ill persons living "rough" on the streets with no one to care for them. Its mission is to give these ill people a caring, clean and safe environment with access to medical supplies and nursing. The Hospice has 21 beds (7 on each of three floors), in private rooms with two bedrooms sharing a bathroom. Doctors visit on a regular basis to provide medical assistance. The average time that one resident lives in the hospice is six months, which is considerably longer than the length of time residents in other community hospices stay. The reason for this is that people who go to other hospices at the end of life generally have family or friends who have assisted them during their illness and been there for them prior to needing medical supervision on a 24 hour basis. The residents of the Ottawa Mission Hospice have no one and no home. The compassionate and very professional environment is most impressive. The need to provide a "home" for people alone on the streets who are terminally ill, is great and the Ottawa Mission's commitment to providing a hospice for these people is most deserving of support. As the fellow who "swabs" the shining floors and maintains the very clean dormitories for the men who come to have a safe, warm place each night to sleep, said, ----" Even as ye do this to the least of these my brethren ----". He truly believes and lives this directive as a man of faith. His dedication was humbling.

Our Lenten Outreach funds would be well directed to this very Christian and loving Hospice mission.

***Ancoura***

Ancoura is a not-for-profit organization that provides housing and support for people living with mental illness. The mentally ill are a marginalized group who are often neglected and have been described as the orphans of our health care system. Ancoura has six houses in the Ottawa area, with each of them providing a home for three people living with a mental illness. Each home has a team of visiting volunteers that provides a "circle of friends" for the residents. These volunteers spend time with the residents on social outings and may also assist them with daily tasks such as shopping or cooking. The friendships that develop between the residents and volunteers are a rich and vital aspect of Ancoura's community. There are more than fifty volunteers working with Ancoura, and

only three paid staff members (one full-time, two part-time). New funding will be used to enhance the lives of residents living with a mental illness or to help Ancoura open new homes and help more people.

## **Slim & Trim 2016**

Slim and Trim had another successful year with numbers slightly up. Attendance is generally good but it varies, sometimes we are over twenty and sometimes just over ten.

We had bad weather with several cancellations before Christmas.

We donated \$400 to the church and \$25 to the Mission.

Thank you Gail for providing carrot cake and coffee on the last day.

Once again we would like to express our thanks to Gail Denton our instructor, and to Rose who keeps the floor clean for us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer M. Morphew.

## **72<sup>nd</sup> St Mark's Scouting Group**

The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers continue to provide fun, skills and leadership training to community youth. Our numbers for this season are as follows:

Beavers: 15

Cubs: 10

Scouts: 14

Venturers: 5

Our group assisted with the Remembrance service on November 13, and with the pancake dinner last spring. Additionally, we have enjoyed the use of the kitchen for cooking, and the basement for projects and storage of our gear.

This year marks our 60th anniversary of the group, and we will have a special celebration on Wednesday February 22nd.

Henry Starzynski  
72nd Ottawa

## Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee consisting of Suzanne Wilkins (Chair), Jane Delroy and Sheila Pitt asked the congregation for input and also approached parishioners whom they thought would be suited for the positions to be filed.

The following positions are available on Parish Council and the names of those people who have accepted are highlighted in bold. Nominations will also be accepted during the Vestry meeting.

Synod Member (2 years)	<b>Jenny Morphew</b>
Alternate Synod Member (1 year)	
Membership (2 years)	<b>Margaret Lodge</b>
Outreach (2 years)	<b>Laurie Slaughter</b>
Member at Large (2 years)	<b>Gillian Morris</b>

The following will make up the balance of Parish Council after February 19:

Rector:	Priest-in-charge The Reverend Jim Roberts
Rector's Warden: *	
Incoming Deputy Rector's Warden *	
People's Warden:	Cynthia Greer
Outgoing Deputy People's Warden:	Penny Miller
Treasurer: *	Georgia Roberts
Synod Member (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 years):	Janis Perkin
Stewardship:	Michael Perkin
Choir Representative: *	Ray Davidson
Member at Large (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 years):	Kate-Greer Close
* Appointed positions	

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Nominations Committee  
Suzanne Wilkins (Chair)

## Dollar for Dollar

What is the Dollar for Dollar program? You may purchase gift cards from us at face value and spend them in all participating grocery stores listed on the card. Independent and Loblaws are the ones closest to us. The balance of the card decreases as you use it. The cards come in a variety of denominations. We usually stock \$250, \$100, \$50 & \$25 cards. They're quick and easy to use and very easy to carry.

So how does that generate profit for the church? Although you give us \$100 and we give you \$100 to spend in the grocery store, we actually paid less than \$100 for the certificate. Depending on the amount we order at the time, we get usually get a discount of 4%. In 2016, \$1,435 was contributed to general revenues through the Dollar for Dollar program. At the end of the year, we had \$6,610 of cards on hand.

The big advantage of this program, in my opinion is that it is "Money for Nothing". You don't have to give a donation; there is no money out of your pocket. The money that you spend on groceries is the same money you would spend on groceries anyway but this way, the church gets a percentage of it! It is an easy and convenient way of paying for groceries. In our house, my husband, daughter or



son will pick up things from the grocery store if I give them the card! You can also use the card in Loblaw's garden centre in the spring to pick up your annuals or at Christmas to buy your tree!

Thanks must be extended to the sales team who have so conscientiously carried out their jobs. The coffee-hour team members, as of the end of 2015, were Georgia Roberts, Coralie Sheehan, Penny Miller, Margaret Pirnat and Ada Henwood. Gillian Morris, Karen Barber and Grace Bryan also sold gift cards in the office during the week. I wish to thank this team for their dedication to their task in this fund-raiser for our parish.

Joy Bowerman  
Dollar for Dollar Coordinator

## Financial Report

St. Mark's financial situation has continued to be top-of-mind for many this year. I am pleased to submit that we are in a very different financial situation now than we were 12 months ago. We began the year expecting to be in such a large deficit situation that we only put forward a 6-month budget to Vestry in February 2016. Thanks to the hard work and prayer of so many in the parish, we have finished 2016 with a surplus that was sufficient to cover the previous year's deficit.

Thank you for helping keep St. Mark's running through increased envelope givings and a number of fundraising initiatives that also brought the community together. Thank you to the numerous organizations who made financial gifts to the church. ACW (Circle 2), The Bazaar, Breakfasts, Slim & Trim and We kicked the Habit contributed to the treasury of the church.

Use of the church property has been looked after by Penny Miller with the assistance of others. This was especially important this year when we saw St. Mark and St. Mary Coptic Church leave our community to worship in their own space. A group worked with Penny to create webpages that would showcase our premises and encourage additional groups to use our space throughout the week.

We were also fortunate that the furnaces installed in 2015 helped to reduce our heating expenses in 2016, and we found cost-savings elsewhere. Joy Bowerman as office administrator and treasurer-guru has also made a significant contribution to keeping the ship afloat throughout the year.

A treasurer is a member of a financial team, all of whom make a valuable contribution to the financial management of the parish. The Corporation, Parish Council and many others in our church community have played an integral role in keeping this church financially secure this year. The books were audited by John Hancock and Steven Coaker. Les Cundell and his teams of counters make sure the income is recorded and deposited and Envelope Secretary Karen Roberts enters the data and double checks for accuracy and manages Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR).

When you look at a church budget, there is always the complicating factor of directed donations. We look like we spent way more than budget on flowers for example, but really that was offset by directed donations for flowers. To remove these complicating factors, the table below shows how close we came to actual budget by subtracting the directed income. It tells us that we were close while we were budgeting. Our expenses were slightly less than budgeted (-4%), and our income was more than budgeted (+8%), thanks in large part to the fundraising efforts and increased givings by members of our church family.

	Actual - Directed	Budget	% Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
Collections	162,386	154,620	5%
Fundraising	8,009	5000	60%
Gain from Assets	25,922	23,500	10%
Organizations	10,652	7,420	44%
Other Income	240		100%
Income from Reserves	6,859	7,459	-8%
Total Income	213,910	197,999	8%
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries	116,792	119,929	-3%
Worship	1,541	2,690	-43%
Parish Nurse	7,652	7,129	7%
Programs	385	1,470	-74%
Fair Share	38,733	38,733	0%
Outreach	0	0	0%
Finance	5,534	5,798	-5%
Church	32,076	35,232	-9%
Miscellaneous	3,138	3,000	5%
Total Expenses	205,851	213,981	-4%

Gillian Martin  
2016 Treasurer

## Auditors' Report

January 29, 2017

To: The Parish of Saint Mark the Evangelist  
Anglican Church of Canada  
1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 1X6

A review of the financial records of St Mark's was performed for the year ending December 31, 2016. Our review was made in accordance with generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to financial information supplies to us by officers of the Parish.

In our opinion, the financial statements fairly present the financial position of St Mark's Church and December 31, 2016 and summarize the financial activities in comparison to the budget plan for the year then ended.

Reviewed by:

Stephen Coaker



John Hancock



## Balance Sheet

7:45 AM  
2017-01-22  
Accrual BasisSt Mark's Church  
Balance Sheet  
As of 31 December 2016

	31 Dec 16
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Chequing/Savings TD BANK	58,081.90
<b>Total Chequing/Savings</b>	58,081.90
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Dollar for Dollar	5,028.50
HST Receivable	3,992.58
PST Receivable	8,452.47
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	17,473.55
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	75,555.45
<b>Other Assets</b>	
<b>Investments</b>	
Gladys O'Ray CTF 2654	29,000.00
Judy Corbishley CTF	6,000.00
Memorials CTF 2534	5,804.37
Rectory Trust CTF 4053	327,787.49
<b>Total Investments</b>	368,591.86
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	368,591.86
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>444,147.31</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>RESERVE ACCOUNT</b>	
Capital Projects	7,874.75
Choir Fund	1,916.29
Choir Gowns	810.07
GIFT Funds	27,726.27
Joan Knight - Kitchen	19,644.00
Key Deposits	455.69
Memorials	7,404.36
Ministry	8,603.35
Pastoral Care Support Fund	875.00
Rector's Discretionary	120.77
Sunday School	90.00
Tree Care	900.00
<b>Total RESERVE ACCOUNT</b>	76,420.55
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	76,420.55
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	76,420.55
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
Gladys O'Ray Bequest	29,000.00
Judy Corbishley Bequest	6,000.00
Rectory Trust	327,787.49
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	362,787.49
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	439,208.04
<b>Equity</b>	
Internal Loan	-3,120.83
Net Income	8,060.10
<b>Total Equity</b>	4,939.27
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>444,147.31</b>

## Reserve Account Activity

Please note, any reserve accounts which are not in this table showed no activity in 2016.

	Credit	Debit	Balance
<b>Capital Projects</b>			\$6,261.75
Memorial Lorne Bowerman	390.00		6,651.75
Pancake Supper - Memory of Lorne Bowerman	1,223.00		\$7,874.75
<b>Choir Fund</b>			\$2,087.63
Donations	513.00		2,600.63
Choral Workshop		175.00	2,425.63
Promote Music		500.00	1,925.63
Plaque for Ode to Brian Kauk		9.34	\$1,916.29
<b>GIFT Funds</b>			\$31,340.15
GIFT Income	6,005.50		37,345.65
Parish Nurse		6,118.89	31,226.76
Debra-Dynes Family House		3,000.00	28,226.76
Community Outreach - Journey to Iqaluit		500.00	\$27,726.76
<b>Memorials</b>			\$6,339.36
Memorial Donations	1,065.00		\$7,404.36
<b>Priest's Purse</b>			\$0.00
Donations	1,315.00		1,315.00
Gifts		1,315.00	\$0.00
<b>Rector's Discretionary</b>			\$954.06
Congregational Resource Day	196.51	210.00	940.57
Pause Table	757.23	752.05	945.75
Deposits	90.00		1,035.75
Expenses		764.98	270.77
Disbursements		150.00	\$120.77
<b>Sunday School</b>			\$70.00
Donations	20.00		\$90.00

## Budget 2017

	<u>Actual 2016</u>	<u>Budget 2016</u>	<u>Budget 2017</u>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>GENERAL</b>			
<b>Collections</b>			
Advent 2015	140		
Envelope	148,789	145,370	148,000
Identifiable Open	8,284	6,500	6,500
Open	2,315		
Special Collection	2,840	2,750	3,000
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>162,368</b>	<b>154,620</b>	<b>157,500</b>
Fundraising	8,009	5,000	5,000 a)
<b>Gain from Assets</b>			
CTF Interest	1,227	900	900
Dollar for Dollar	1,435	1,500	1,500
Investment Income	1,668	1,200	1,200
Solar Income	10,646	11,000	11,000
User fees	10,945	8,900	8,000 b)
<b>Total Gain from Assets</b>	<b>25,922</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>22,600</b>
<b>Organizations</b>			
ACW (Circle 2)	2,000		
Bazaar	6,887	6,000	6,000
Breakfasts	630	300	300
Pancake Supper			750 c)
Slim & Trim	400	400	400
We Kicked the Habit	735	720	720
<b>Total Organizations</b>	<b>10,652</b>	<b>7,420</b>	<b>8,170</b>
Other General Income	100		
<b>Total GENERAL</b>	<b>207,052</b>	<b>190,540</b>	<b>193,270</b>
<b>DIRECTED</b>			
Altar Guild	191		
Church School	115		
Flowers	2,025		
Forward Day by Day	81		
<b>Lenten Outreach</b>			
Cornerstone	100		
Not specified	1,293		d)
Refugees	25		
<b>Total Lenten Outreach</b>	<b>1,418</b>		
Music	100		
Other Directed Income	200		

	<u>Actual 2016</u>	<u>Budget 2016</u>	<u>Budget 2017</u>
Prayer Shawl Ministry	110		
PWR Fund	1,760		
<b>Total DIRECTED</b>	<b>6,000</b>		
<b>INCOME FROM RESERVES</b>			
Capital Projects	0	500	500
GIFT Funds	6,120	6,120	
Parish Nurse	739	839	
<b>Total INCOME FROM RESERVES</b>	<b>6,859</b>	<b>7,459</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>219,910</b>	<b>197,999</b>	<b>193,770</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>SALARIES</b>			
Clergy Fill-in	1,611	1,500	1,260
Organist Fill-in	290	600	600
Staff	114,891	117,829	119,661 e)
<b>Total SALARIES</b>	<b>116,792</b>	<b>119,929</b>	<b>121,521</b>
<b>WORSHIP</b>			
Flowers	1,112		
Hymn & Service Books	0	40	
Music	225	150	150
Piano/Organ	914	1,500	1,000
Service & Altar Supplies	1,606	1,000	1,000
<b>Total WORSHIP</b>	<b>3,856</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>2,150</b>
<b>FAIR SHARE</b>	<b>38,733</b>	<b>38,733</b>	<b>31,808 f)</b>
<b>OUTREACH</b>			
Cornerstone	747		
Other Outreach	200		g)
PWR Fund	1,760		
Refugees	672		
<b>Total OUTREACH</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PARISH NURSING MINISTRY</b>			
Parish Nurse Services	6,859	6,859	h)
Program Expenses	793	270	
Program Income			
<b>Total PARISH NURSING MINISTRY</b>	<b>7,652</b>	<b>7,129</b>	
<b>PROGRAMS</b>			
Christian Education	31	250	250
Church School		100	100
Conferences & Memberships	100	450	500
Membership	16	150	150

**Church of St Mark the Evangelist  
Annual Reports to Vestry February 19, 2017**

	<u>Actual 2016</u>	<u>Budget 2016</u>	<u>Budget 2017</u>
<b>Other Projects</b>			
<b>Outreach</b>			200
<b>Pastoral Care</b>			
<b>Prayer Shawl</b>			
<b>Publicity</b>	70	70	70
<b>Synod</b>	393	450	450
<b>Wellness Committee</b>			720 i)
<b>Total PROGRAMS</b>	610	1,470	2,440
<b>CHURCH</b>			
<b>Cleaning Service</b>	15,453	15,200	15,200
<b>Electricity</b>	5,209	6,500	6,000
<b>Heating</b>	3,257	5,000	4,000
<b>Operating Supplies</b>	669	1,200	1,000
<b>Repair &amp; Upgrade</b>	3,057	1,500	2,500
<b>Security</b>	224	250	250
<b>Snow Removal</b>	2,159	2,400	2,401
<b>Special Projects</b>		500	500 j)
<b>Telephone</b>	1,215	1,300	1,300
<b>Waste Collection</b>	82	82	90
<b>Water</b>	752	1,300	1,100
<b>Total CHURCH</b>	32,076	35,232	34,341
<b>FINANCE</b>			
<b>Bank Charges</b>	368	400	350
<b>Insurance</b>	5,048	5,048	5,048
<b>Supplies</b>	118	350	300
<b>Total FINANCE</b>	5,534	5,798	5,698
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
<b>Computer &amp; Internet</b>	789	700	700
<b>Forward Day by Day</b>	82		
<b>Office Supplies</b>	543	500	200 k)
<b>Other Miscellaneous</b>			
<b>Photocopier</b>	1,061	1,200	1,200
<b>Postage</b>	565	300	400
<b>Rector's Hospitality</b>	118	200	100
<b>Wardens' Hospitality</b>	61	100	200
<b>Total MISCELLANEOUS</b>	3,219	3,000	2,800
<b>Total Expense</b>	211,850	213,981	200,758
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>8,060</b>	<b>-15,982</b>	<b>-6,988</b>

a) The \$8009 in 2016 were profits from the Card Party, QE90 dinner, Tales & Tunes, Fall Yard/Rummage Sale, Pasta Dinner, Stairwell Carollers



- b) A smaller amount is budgeted in 2017 since St Mark and St Mary of Egypt no longer rent the facility.
- c) The profits from 2016 were directed to the Capital Reserve Fund in memory of Lorne Bowerman.
- d) This was split equally between Cornerstone and Refugees. The refugee money was given to Trinity Anglican Church for their program.
- e) The staff salaries include the clergy, organist and parish administrator. The 2016 figures are lower than budgeted due to the change in clergy. The 2017 figure would be for full time clergy all year. Income from the rectory trust of \$10,973 is subtracted from the staff salaries figure.
- f) The Fair Share from the diocese is lower for 2017, mostly due to the amount of capital expenses in 2015.
- g) This was directed to Fort MacMurray and is offset by Other Directed Income.
- h) The \$6859 expense in 2016 was covered by \$6120 from GIFT fund reserve fund and \$739 from Parish Nurse reserve fund. The Parish Nursing Ministry concluded in April 2016.
- i) This amount is budgeted to repair the chimney. It is a carry over from 2016.
- j) The Wellness Committee budget consists of \$350 for Seniors' Luncheons, \$250 to subsidize AED training and \$120 for AED maintenance.
- k) The larger than budgeted expenditure for office supplies in 2016 was due to the purchase of printed mailing envelopes. This expenditure is not anticipated in 2017.

## **2017 Budget Report**

The budget proposed for 2017 can be seen on page 36, in the same table as the actual and budgeted quantities for 2016. Some explanations related to 2017 budget items are included among the footnotes for that table. Further comments are provided below.

The budget, while the responsibility of the wardens, is developed from the input from many sources, including reports on income and expenses from recent years, known quantities for 2017, and amounts requested from various people and organizations who contribute or spend money for the church.

### **Income:**

- Collections income is the main source of income for the parish, and the main component of this is envelope (which includes PAR) giving. Because of the very positive response to both the Advent Gift Appeal in late 2015 and the stewardship campaign in 2016, \$148,000 is proposed for envelope giving in 2017.
- Since open collections – both identifiable and unidentifiable – vary so much from year to year, a conservative estimate (compared to the 2016 actual amount) is being proposed for 2017.
- Fundraising was a welcome source of income in 2016 and is budgeted to contribute significantly again in 2017.
- Our gain from assets is predicted to be a little lower than in 2016 since we do not presently have new renters that wish to use our facilities as much as did St Mark and St Mary Coptic Church.

- With the windup of the Parish Nursing ministry in 2016, little income is budgeted to be taken from Reserve Funds in 2017.
- As is always the case, no directed income is included in the budget for 2017.

**Expenses:**

- Our biggest expense category for the 2017 budget, called staff salaries, is \$119,661. This includes the salaries for full-time clergy all year, organist, and office administrator, plus the clergy housing allowance, less the income of \$10,973 that will come from the Rectory Trust Fund.
- Our Parish Fair Share of diocesan expenses is \$31,808 for 2017, which is lower by approximately \$7000 from our 2016 commitment. Our assessment for 2017 is affected by our income and expenditures over 3 years – 2013, 2014 and 2015 – with our large capital expenditure on furnaces in 2015 contributing to the drop in our Parish Fair Share in 2017. Our lower assessment for 2017 can also be attributed to the \$200,000 decrease over 2016 in the total PFS to be collected from all parishes in 2017.
- The requested budget for program expenses is slightly higher than in 2016. This is mainly due to two new lines in the budget for programs: (i) The Wellness Committee is a renamed and repurposed Health Committee, which used to support our parish nurse. The Wellness Committee has asked for funds to stage 2 seniors' lunches. It has also requested funding for predicted maintenance needs for the AED and for subsidizing CPR/AED training for parishioners. The full request is for \$720. (ii) The outreach coordinator has requested a small budget (\$200) this year to cover some anticipated outreach expenses.

The budget presented for 2017 is not balanced. A deficit of approximately \$7000 is being predicted. Our bottom line at the end of 2017 will be determined by the faithful work of all our parishioners

## Vestry 2016 Minutes

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST  
ANNUAL VESTRY  
FEBRUARY 28, 2016

### CALL TO ORDER

Vestry was called to order at 10:36 a.m. The chairperson for the meeting was Rev. Brian Kauk. The meeting was opened with prayer.

### APPOINTMENT OF VESTRY CLERK

Janis Perkin was appointed as vestry clerk.

### APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

A motion to accept was moved by Judy Darling seconded by Gillian Morris. **CARRIED**

### CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

A motion of reception of the Wardens' Report was made by Les Cundell seconded by Gillian Martin. **CARRIED**

### 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT & AUDITOR'S REPORT

Acceptance was moved by Gillian Morris and seconded by Sharon Walter. **CARRIED**

Thanks were offered to Joy Bowerman for her dedicated years of service in the role of Treasurer.

### THE PRESENTATION OF 2016 BUDGET

Gillian Martin presented a draft 6 month budget which would cover Q1 and Q2 for the year 2016. Sharon Walter gave the background to how this budget came about. It was hoped that this would give us some breathing room in order to think about where we were going next. Gillian Martin did point out that it wasn't a direct equal split in the budget numbers as user fees (rentals) would affect the halves differently.

Acceptance was moved by Vaughan Barnum and seconded by Penny Miller. **CARRIED**

The floor was then opened to discussion. Kate Greer-Close suggested that the Diocese has a role to play in giving St. Mark to develop our mission. She noted that in other parishes they had been allowed to move to part-time priestly services and had had a reduction in E-COPS and/or a reduction in their Parish Fair Share accordingly.

Since it is a 6 month budget it will be necessary to have a Vestry in June to look at the proposed second half of the 2016 budget.

Wanda Bowman suggested having a financial campaign similar to Advent Giving that would happen before the summer.

Heather Simpson asked why fees weren't set instead of just free will as this saved people from guessing. Father Brian pointed out that baptisms and funerals were free to contributing members of the parish. There are fees for weddings and perhaps the policy needs to be revisited.

### BALLOT FOR LENTEN OUTREACH

Vestry was asked to consider the following projects for Lenten Outreach:

#### Refugees

There are about 60 million people in the world who have been displaced from their home. The Diocese of Ottawa is actively engaged in the support and ultimately sponsorship of refugees to Ottawa. Any donations would be used either as seed money to start a St. Mark's sponsorship group or would be given to another organization engaged in this kind of program.

**Cornerstone Women's Shelter**

Sue Garvey is seeking out donations of money to re-equip the women's shelter after the January 30th fire that affected 60 women. Due to specialized needs at the shelter cash donations are the best help for them.

**Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees, and global justice. With the support of Anglican parishes across Canada, PWRDF makes financial and human resources available to support partners' initiatives and to promote knowledgeable actions of solidarity at home and around the world. PWRDF strives to be a part of the outreach ministry of every Canadian Anglican parish and an expression for all Anglicans of their baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Voting was done by secret ballot.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

A number of positions were filled by election at the 2016 Vestry.

Positions with more than one nominee required that they left the room during the election done by the showing and counting of hands.

Incoming Deputy People's Warden

Nominee: Cynthia Greer

Synod member (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term)

Nominee: Gillian Morris

Synod member (2 years)

Nominees: Jenny Morphew, Janis Perkin

Elected: Janis Perkin

Alternate Synod member (1 year)

Nominee: Heather Simpson

Membership (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term):

Nominee: Margaret Lodge

Member at large (2 years)

Nominee: Kate Greer-Close

Member at large (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term)

Nominee: Jenny Morphew was nominated from the floor by Joy Bowerman and seconded by Michael Perkin

It was noted that the position for Outreach was missing from the report and so was added to the slate.

Outreach (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term): Laurie Slaughter

A motion to accept the slate as put forward by the Nominating Committee was moved by Bruce Lodge seconded by Les Cundell **CARRIED**

Thanks were offered to the Nominating Committee for their work.

**ALL OTHER 2015 REPORTS**

Acceptance of all other reports was moved by Joy Bowerman and seconded by Michael Perkin.

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**APPOINTMENT OF BANK**

Gillian Martin moved that St. Mark's continue using TD Canada Trust at Emerald Plaza as the financial institution of choice for the coming year. Motion was seconded by Jenny Morpew. **CARRIED**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The two Lenten outreach projects chosen are Cornerstone Women's Shelter and Refugees. There was a motion for the destruction of the Lenten Offering ballots made by Bruce Lodge and seconded by James Kelly. **CARRIED**

The following memorial was drafted at Vestry 2016

"It is requested that the Corporation and Parish Council consider the matter of part-time Priestly Services as a temporary cost saving measure and consult with Bishop John Chapman."

Moved by Kate Greer-Close and Seconded by Bruce Lodge  
(the vote was For: 37, Against: 13 and 1 Abstention)

The Auditors for 2016 are John Hancock and Steve Coaker

At this time there were motions to items to the agenda under Other Business:

St. Mark and St. Mary of Egypt Coptic Church- Sharing space- 10 minutes  
Moved by Steve Close and seconded by Margaret Lodge **CARRIED**

Parish Ideas for Generating Income- 10 minutes  
Moved by Margaret Lodge and seconded by Betty Caughlin **CARRIED**

**MOTIONS OF THANKS**

Thanks was offered by Penny Miller to Property Chair James Kelly and his team for taking care of the leaks etc.

Joy Bowerman offered thanks to Gillian Martin for her role as Treasurer.

Thanks were offered by Georgia Roberts to Jane Delroy for her 4 years of service on Corporation.

Brian Kauk offered thanks to Suzanne Wilkins for her service as Rector's Warden.

Carol Dick thanked Father Brian for the beautiful Sunday service before Vestry and his skill at chairing Vestry as well.

Thanks were offered by Judy Darling on behalf of the Health Committee to Janet Helmer.

Michael Perkin thanked all who had given to the Advent Giving campaign.

Margaret Williamson offered thanks to Kate Greer-Close for her work with the Children's Choir and the Christmas Pageant.

Thanks were offered by Sharon Walter to the Altar Guild.

Margaret Lodge offered thanks to Ariane and the Choir.

Thanks was offered for the ministry of prayer carried on at St. Mark's by Betty Caughlin.

A motion of adjournment was made by Joy Bowerman and was seconded by Judy Darling at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by **Janis, Perkin**, Vestry Clerk February 28, 2016

## Minutes from Special Vestry,

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST  
SPECIAL VESTRY  
JUNE 26, 2016

CHAIR: Rev. Brian Kauk

RECORDING SECRETARY: Janis Perkin

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m.

Father Brian reviewed the budget document with Vestry pointing out changes.

The total Envelope Collection for 2016 is a best guess based on the donations given in the Spring financial campaign.

Footnote 11 on page 4 of the budget document should be amended. The Parish Nurse received funds from the GIFT Funds and Debra-Dynes should be removed.

It should be noted that the staffing amounts for the incumbent will not change.

Fair Share- It is expected that Fair Share will increase by about 7 percent. This computation is our share of the overall amount that is used in helping run the Diocese. Our relative standing among the other parishes is what gives a fairly large dollar amount. There is an appeal process which can be started once the 2017 assessment arrives in the parish in late summer or early fall.

The question was asked: "Does the Diocese know that we are running a deficit budget?" We do know that both our Archdeacon and Bishop know the status of St. Mark's finances. Fair Share is set by a formula that doesn't take deficits into account.

Another question was asked: "If the budget is passed how will we deal with the deficit?" There are locally held reserves that can be used as an internal loan.

Another question: "What if we don't pass a budget." According to the Canons, By-laws and Regulations we must have a budget.

It was then moved by Sharon Walter and seconded by Penny Miller that the Vestry adopt the 2016 budget as presented.

It was noted that St. Mark's has gone from a \$40,000 deficit to a deficit of \$14,000 and this is quite an achievement.

Margaret Lodge commented that, in regards to Fair Share, the Diocese needs to look at how it can more fairly assess parishes.

The budget motion was carried unanimously.

Betty Caughlin offered thanks to all who had prepared the budget so faithfully and thoroughly.

The business having been completed Vestry was adjourned at 12:17pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janis Perkin, recording secretary