

# ANNUAL REPORTS TO VESTRY

February 25, 2018

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### Parish Statistics, 2017

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Households	208	209	201	185	189	186
Average Sunday Attendance	97	*99	87	82	89	76
Total attendance on comparable Sundays	4353	4052				
Christmas	186	171	184	171	198	161
Easter	162	181	175	146	153	126
Baptized	4	6	0	2	11	3
Confirmed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marriages	0	5	0	2	0	0
Deaths	12	10	12	13	7	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

Helen Duthie  
George Foster  
Rev. Noel Peyton  
Thelma Armstrong  
Reginald Harrison  
Veda Kelly  
Ted Dale

#### Baptized

Gemma Kelly Cruikshank  
Chisomo Ngulwe  
Karter James Scott Duggan

### Lay Assistants at Communion

Audia Barnett	Michael Perkin
Joy Bowerman	Sheila Pitt
Les Cundell	Georgia Roberts
Jenny Morphew	Keith Wilkins
Janis Perkin	Brenda Zanin

### Rector's Report

It has been a momentous year for St. Mark's. I would like to thank Fr. Jim Roberts for his interim ministry. While Fr. Jim was with you, he brought a calming and pastoral presence which helped keep things on an even path. On May 1st, 2017 I was appointed as the Rector in charge of St. Mark the Evangelist church. I bring with me my husband, Vance Bolling and two young children, Liam (5 years old) and Kyle (3 years old). It has been a wonderful beginning to catch up with everything that has happened since my father, the Rev. Gordon Worden was here in the 1980's. Thank you for your warm welcome home.

I especially want to thank the wardens for helping bring me up to speed on the activities here at St. Mark's. Bruce Lodge as Rector's Warden, Cynthia Greer as People's Warden and Penny Miller as outgoing people's warden have been tremendously helpful in this transition. Joy Bowerman, our Parish Administrator, also deserves recognition as she is a fountain of knowledge and keeps everything running smoothly. I'm happy to announce that Pauline Adams has agreed to become Rector's Warden. At Vestry Bruce Lodge will become outgoing Rector's Warden and Pauline will step right into being the active Rector's Warden. She brings with her teaching background and commitment to St. Mark's church. Welcome Pauline!

It was a very busy spring as the Parish had many activities planned. I was invited to take part in the Madonna Parish walk around the neighbourhood during their festival weekend. Most recently we held a joint service of prayer for Christian unity here at St. Mark's. Joining us were the Greek Orthodox church as well as the Italian Catholics from Madonna. The service was very well attended with wonderful music by all three choirs. I look forward to building on this friendship with other churches in the area.

The new ministry initiatives group was already in full swing with their research and discussions. They have explored many possibilities for St. Mark's to get involved specifically in helping seniors in the neighbourhood. We will continue to look at partnering with other agencies to see what can be done to address senior's isolation.

This summer we had one service at 9am during July and August. It made a lot of sense to combine the services as more people are travelling in the summer months and it is cooler in the church at that time of day. We expect to continue this tradition this coming summer.

The Bishop John Chapman came for the Induction service in September. The Ven. Chris Dunn preached and the regional dean, Rev. John Organ read the Gospel. It was a lot of work for the parish to put together such a large event and I want to thank all those who helped in anyway. It was a beautiful service and made for a great start to my ministry here with you at St. Mark's.

This fall the parish council were having discussions about planning for our future and using our GIFT money wisely. It was decided that we needed to invite the congregation into these discussions early on. At the November council meeting we decided to look at having a visioning day for the parish at the end of January. The planning group met with the Rev. Monique Stone (The Parish of

Huntley, Carp), mid-December and asked her to help in clarifying our vision for St. Mark's future. I am pleased to announce that Rev. Monique Stone will be leading a full day workshop for us on Saturday, April 28th, 2018. The goal of that day will be to organize a five year ministry plan for St. Mark's parish.

In preparation for that day, we kicked-off our season of visioning on Sunday, January 28th. Following a 9am service 50 people gathered in the parish hall to start our discussions about where we feel God is calling us as a church. I gave those in attendance an overview of the 5 Marks of Mission and in small groups we discussed what St. Mark's is currently doing to address these calls to mission. We touched briefly on what can we do to enhance our mission to the community and the world. We will be exploring the 5 Marks of Mission in more depth during our Sunday worship and weekly study during Lent.

The 5 Marks of Mission are; 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, 2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers, 3. To respond to human need by loving service, 4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation, 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

As we look ahead to St. Mark's future it is exciting and yet there are many discussions to be had. Since we are an aging population, similar to other Anglican churches, we will need to look closely at what we want to focus our energy on. Thankfully, we ended 2017 in a very good financial position. We have overcome our deficit budget thanks to everyone's generous support of St. Mark's. This gives us the gift of time to make good, prayerful decisions about what we hope the legacy of St. Mark's will be. Over the coming months we will be sharing with each other our hopes for the future and what we feel God is calling us to do as a congregation. It is my hope that the 5 Marks of Mission will be inspiring and that the 5 year ministry plan that we come up with in April will lead us into the future. May God bless our ministry in this place and may the Holy Spirit be our guide. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Jessica Worden-Bolling

## **Warden's Report**

The Corporation is the legal management body of our church. At St Mark's we also try to have 2 deputy wardens, one in-coming, and one out-going.

We meet monthly, or more frequently if needed, and our treasurer is included in the discussions.

In 2017, we saw many changes. Sharon Walter had resigned because her job took her to Toronto. Father Jim Roberts asked Bruce Lodge to replace Sharon as Rector's Warden for the final two years of her term. Penny Miller became out-going Deputy People's Warden, and Cynthia Greer became People's Warden. Thank you to Penny, as she ends her 4 years. She has worked very hard, because much of her tenure was when we were struggling with several problems which we hope are now fully behind us.

Father Jim had been sent to us in September 2016, just a year before his intended retirement from the ministry. We were devastated when he suddenly announced his retirement before the year was up, because we had felt not only secure with his wisdom and leadership, but there was a feeling of peace in our community, taking us from one incumbent, to the next.

Soon after the announcement we invited his former parishioners from St John's Smith Falls to share a farewell party with us. This was held on our Patronal Festival, April 23rd and was a very joyous occasion for over 120 of us.

Our new rector, Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling celebrated her first Sunday with us on May 7th and was inducted on September 27th with Bishop John in attendance. She is presently visiting many people and getting to know parishioners, both present on a Sunday and those unable to attend.

She also celebrates the Eucharist on Fridays at the Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre.

2017 was the first year of a very bare-bones budget, after the 6 month budgets we had to set the year before, when we were so far in debt.

Sharon Walter had organized a financial stewardship program with Bruce in 2016, which gave us reason to believe that we would continue as our own parish, and again this year Bruce re-connected with the parish to ask for a commitment for 2018. This was also successful, and has put us on a much more optimistic path for our future. Thank you to you, our amazing parishioners who always rise to the occasion. It is planned to continue this recommitment every second year.

Georgia Roberts is completing her first year as treasurer. She and Joy Bowerman have sorted out the tasks, with Joy mainly doing the office type work and preparing cheques, and Georgia more into the budget, and figuring out all the strange things that treasurers have to do, to keep the Diocese and government happy, and to keep us solvent. Thank you Georgia for taking on this position and even continuing into next year, and to Joy for still doing her part, since she had previously been our treasurer.

The financial program was 1 of 4 initiatives which Father Brian proposed before he moved. The second was fundraising. The Vitality team was asked to commit to raising \$5,000. This they did and more besides, but found that a lot of the FUN went out of Fundraising, and it became very stressful and exhausting. They will be cutting back a little on the stress, and hope for more fun this coming year.

The third was to look at rental income, and how to improve our presence on line. While we don't receive the amount we did from the Coptic Church, our renters are well suited to us. They are helpful, and careful with our property.

We have a Narcotics Anonymous group, Girl Guides, oriental Martial Arts twice a week, and a medieval martial arts group twice a week. St Mesrob Armenian Church, and Mar Thoma church both use our worship space. For 2 months in the summer, the day care located at Carleton Memorial United Church spreads to our hall. Although the 72nd scouts use St. Rita's School for their meetings, they keep their equipment in the basement cupboards.

Thank you to Penny Miller for overseeing our rentals.

We also have an agreement with St. Rita's School, whereby if they need to evacuate their premises, they are able to come to us while they contact all the parents. They actually took advantage of this in December.

The fourth is the New Ministry initiative. Father Jim had thought the obvious one to pursue was seniors, both in our church and others, in residences and in our neighbourhood. Laurie Slaughter and Georgia Roberts are heading that group.

At the end of June we held a very successful Happy 150th Birthday to Canada party. Our choir plus friends sang 'Sing Sea to Sea,' by Howard Cable. We were directed by Barbara Clark, and

accompanied by Wesley Warren. Again we had over 100 in attendance, and enjoyed a festive high tea.

We would like to say a big thank you for all the support you have shown for us and the community of St. Mark's. There might be less of us, but we can always find a core group, who sign up to clean, to set up and clear away, to provide food, and anything we need.

Thank you for enabling us and allowing us to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Lodge, Rector's Warden,  
Cynthia Greer, People's Warden.

## **Synod Report**

Report to Vestry on the 136th Diocesan Synod. November 5th -7th 2017.

Synod is the term given to a meeting of clerical and lay people to make decisions for the diocese. It is the Annual General Meeting. St Mark's has 3 lay delegates to synod, one of whom is a warden, and the other 2 voted on at vestry. The Rev Jessica is the other participant.

Synod opens on the Thursday night, and this year our Primate the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz presided at the Eucharist. Bishop John gave the homily, known as the Bishop's Charge to Synod.

The theme this year was 'The Church of Christ in every age.'

### **Rev. Jessica's report on the Bishop's charge**

I would like to share with you the highlights of the Bishop's charge to Synod that he preached at the Eucharist on Thursday, November 4th.

Bishop John started off by telling us, "you are going to change the world, save lives, be instruments of God's peace, heal the sick and broken hearted, end homelessness and poverty, create a world that trusts God and nurtures God's love"

Then everyone laughed as he added "That ought to cover it". He suggested we might laugh or might cry when we hear such an incredibly daunting call to live out the Gospel. The Gospel message that evening was about John the Baptist. Bishop John emphasized that we have been called to the River, that Jesus has called us to John's river. The bishop said that "It is when we stand in the waters of our baptism that we learn who we are, we receive our name and understand to whom we belong". It is at the river with Jesus that we live out the gospel in embracing truth, justice and compassion.

The Bishop then diverted to draw upon the story of the 3 wise men. He explained that the three kings were looking for one of their own, someone like them – a king. They would have been very surprised that instead of a sophisticated, rich king they found a vulnerable child. So they entered into a different story than what they were expecting. They went home a different way, so that this story of Jesus' could carry on.

The Bishop drew the parallel with church goers today. He pointed out that many of us came looking for a church that was beautiful, powerful, influential. We came to the church looking for people like ourselves, or examples of who we hoped to be. Instead of finding a church of safety and power, we find a church that is a community of love, service and hope. The Bishop affirmed that the Church has now "been returned to us." But what does that mean for the road ahead?

We are called to root ourselves in the waters of baptism. It is in the water of baptism that we can hear God calling us and we draw close to Jesus. Then we will as the Bishop said, “Save lives, be instruments of God’s peace, heal the broken, end poverty and injustice’. He said together, we are called to , “Embrace the mission of Jesus, care for people of God, speak words of truth and justice.

So like the magi, we enter into a different story, we go home a different way, creating a new path for the future. The Bishop called us to forge a new path. To “stand with Jesus in waters of Baptism together”

The bishop ended by encouraging all of the Parishes to send representatives to join the Bishop and Primate Fred Hiltz at the New Year’s Day service at the Cathedral. The Bishop wants representatives of each parish to renew their baptismal vows at that service, to commit to telling a new story and blazing a new path for the church today. It is with this new way that we will ensure the mission of God continues in us and in this Diocese together.

These were my impressions of the Bishop’s Charge and I found it quite uplifting that the way ahead is unknown and yet we are entering into God’s story and are rooted in the affirmation of our baptism. The opening worship was at 9 a.m., and at various times throughout the 2 days, using the prayers from Embracing God’s future.

After a welcome by Mayor Jim Watson, who thanked us for our involvement in community ministries, we moved to our guest speaker, Most Reverend Fred Hilz.

### **Jenny Morphew reports on the Guest Speaker and PWRDF**

The church of Christ in every age  
beset by change but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ’s sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ’s humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord:  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread is liberating word.

The Primate was the guest speaker [at Synod] and he spoke on Friday and Sat morning. He based his reflections on hymn 584 (above). On Friday he based his talk on verses 1 and 5. The first line was the theme of the Synod; “The church of Christ in every age.” The Primate spoke of self-



renewal, the true calling of Christ. The Church must NOT look inward on itself. We must allow ourselves to be continually reformed according to the teaching of the Gospel.

He made reference to the 5 marks of Mission shaping the work of Anglicans throughout the world...

He touched on declining memberships, and how where growth is occurring discipleship is becoming part time. Faith is becoming a private moral exercise and not a life shaping discipleship for Christ.

Pope Francis put it this way: Too many people are Christian but functionally atheist.

There is to be a call for Intentional discipleship for the next nine years.

We were reminded of the wealth of teaching we have in our hymns reflecting our call to follow Jesus.

We were reminded to think how we can bring joy to our Lord. How can we be living stones?

In the address on Saturday, the primate referred to verses 2.3 & 4 of hymn 584.

He spoke of the 150 celebrations: of the interfaith service held in our Cathedral, of a Government Relations Symposium hosted by Bishop John at which former Sen Hugh Sidell stated that the two freedoms that matter most in the world today are, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

The Primate spoke of the challenges facing Canada. He stated that the Church does matter and our input is heard.

Many issues were touched on: reconciliation, poverty, injustice, refugees, special indigenous issues, affordable housing. Murmuring quietly has no impact, Yelling usually is quite counterproductive, but bearing witness has a huge impact. Bearing witness to core problems is rarely easy but does have results.

Mentioned also was the grave concerns regarding human trafficking throughout the world. This needs prompt attention concerning our own poor, and especially our missing and murdered indigenous women. Our Lutheran friends are addressing this in their 500 year celebrations of the Reformation and we are also working with Kairos.

Another concern is the exploitation of temporary Foreign Aid workers such as nannies domestic care workers and farm workers.

Our challenge is to be a servant church remembering the Saints. and how they lived out the Beatitudes. To quicken in our church a passion for truth and justice.

Both these addresses are on the Synod website.

The PWRDF presentation told us that our diocese contributes the second highest amount of all Canadian dioceses. There are two main on-going projects Maternal Newborn and Child Health in Africa and the Pikangikum Water programme in Manitoba, as well as responses to world crisis such as the refugees fleeing from Myanmar.

Much of the day was given over to spoken presentations, mainly with videos. These were all well done, and the speakers were very clear and presented their topic amazingly. We are very lucky to be so well represented by such professional people, many of whom are volunteers, or if priests, as part of their commitment to diocesan committees.

One of the video presentations was on affordable housing and homelessness, which is gradually having a higher profile in the church, and in our city.

The hope is to have 125 housing units available by 2021. It doesn't sound huge, but it is 125 people with a safe place to call home. The development in Westboro on Princeton Ave, a part of Cornerstone, will have 42 units for women.

The Community ministries were presented by Father Brian. These are Centre 454, The Well, Cornerstone, St Luke's table, and the Ottawa Pastoral Counselling centre, with a branch also in Manotick. The first 4 of these, we at St Mark's have always supported, often through the BBQ, the picnic, and our Lenten outreach, Advent Tree gifts, or bringing in requested items from time to time.

Deacon Peter Kazaly, who worked at Centre 454 and is now in Cornwall, has started a breakfast program for homeless people out of Trinity Memorial Church but so far is not part of Community ministries.

Yasir Naqvi and John Fraser, MPPs for Ottawa Centre, and Ottawa South presented a cheque to the Diocese, as a seed grant from the Trillium foundation for a feasibility study on building affordable housing on church properties.

Julian of Norwich, and Trinity Bank Street, are involved in this concept.

On Saturday we heard/watched many more presentations, all very interesting, and had another chance to look at many displays of outreach, refugees etc.

### **Janis Perkin reports on Elder Care**

Provincial Synod has chosen Elder Care as one of its priorities and has established a Committee to look into Elder Care in the Province of Ontario.

Provincial Synod is in a unique position to advocate for positive changes to Elder Care. In recent months there has been a lot of media coverage on the treatment of residents within nursing homes and also the need to give more support to caregivers and their loved ones. CUPE has started a write in campaign to gain support for Bill 33 also known as the "Time to Care Act". Provincial Synod has put together representatives from all dioceses and ex-MPPs with access to Queen's Park.

This committee will be gathering stories both positive and negative about elder care. These stories will form the foundation of issues that can be raised with the Ontario government and will also be utilized to form specific questions to be used during the campaigning in the 2018 provincial election. The questions can be asked to all political parties at all candidates meetings, town halls and campaign events across the province. With the same questions being asked across the province by concerned Anglicans it is hoped the these questions will influence party platforms and policies regarding Elder Care.

Michael (Perkin), as the Diocese of Ottawa representative, has created a very short survey which is also being considered for use in other dioceses. The intent of the survey is to gather some opinions but more importantly will allow for the opening of a dialogue on Elder Care. At the end of the survey there is an opportunity to indicate if you would like to share some of your stories by providing contact information. This will be where the real issues will be revealed and where pointed questions can be generated. Please share this information with those in your parishes.

The survey can be found on the Diocesan website. Just click on the Banner shown on the screens and you will be redirected to the announcements page. Scroll down to the Elder Care Survey and click on "take survey".

### **Cynthia Greer reports on the Priority 1 Working Group**

One of the last presentations was from the Priority 1 working group, which involves reshaping parishes and buildings to better serve the present needs.

The simplest form is

A SINGLE parish like St Mark's, one church building, one priest. For many country parishes that is no longer viable.

A multi- point parish is one like Bearbrook, Vars, St Mary's Navan and St. Mary the Virgin Blackburn Hamlet, which are all now together with Rev Margo Whittaker as the incumbent. The 5th point St Mark's Cumberland closed last year.

Another similar concept is an Area parish, such as the newly formed parish of South Carleton, made up of Kars Osgoode Metcalfe and North Gower. They have 2 priests, working as a team but keep their own Parish Councils, with an extra council made up of the Wardens of each church. They also have weekly services in their own church.. The parish of Mississippi Mills has Carleton Place, Innisville and Franktown together with 2 priests one of whom is Brian Kauk their newly collated Archdeacon.

Many Quebec parishes have closed or dwindled to the point of closure, and have become chapels. This means there is no priest, but a sponsoring parish and they are opened on special occasions a few times a year.

The other alternate is amalgamation, which is the case with St Richard's and St Michael and all Angels, which morphed into Julian of Norwich.

We thank you for the privilege of attending as members from St. Mark's. It was a very informative and enjoyable synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Greer, Jennifer Morphew, Janis Perkin, Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling

### **Stewardship Campaign**

In the 2018 campaign held in the Fall of 2017, we received 34 forms (compared to 50 in the previous 2016 campaign), with 26 being from individuals/households that also submitted forms in 2016. The 34 individuals/households that submitted forms during the 2018 campaign gave 44% of all the envelope/ PAR donations for 2016 (the last year for which we have complete records). The pledges provided by these 34 individuals/households represent a 19% increase over their 2016 giving totals.

Of the 24 individuals/households that submitted forms in 2016 but not in 2018, three have left or passed away. The remaining 21 contributed 16.5% of the total envelope/PAR givings for 2016.

Although we do not have forms from all parishioners, the information provided by the 2018 campaign, supplemented by the 2016 campaign figures, provided a good basis for the finance committee to set the 2018 budget.

Overall we feel the campaign just ended was very successful, and augurs well for the financial stability of St Mark's.

Reviews of "Talent & Have your say" forms

The forms were made to be simple to fill in and easy to understand, however there seems to have been some confusion in checking boxes of NOW and NEW in the talent part, as some checked both for the same item. It will be assumed that the parishioner wishes to continue in that interest. There was also some confusion on whether attending an event gets checked or only for working at an event eg the Bazaar, Art Show, Pancake supper. Everything will be processed as willing to work.

There were 28 returns of the Talent form (compared to 55 from the 2016 campaign), showing present interests and those for 2018, and the 'Have your say' sheet, giving feedback of what programs, topics, events the parishioner would like to participate in during the next year.

Of those 28 returns – 2 were nameless, and not having access to 'names' through financial confidentiality, they can't be contacted regarding the comments or boxes checked.

Rev Jessica Worden-Bolling and Margaret Lodge (Membership) perused those forms and gleaned what information needed addressing immediately.

Of the 20 comments for future programs etc, look out for some new things. On the talent side - 8 were interested in getting involved in something new and their names were passed on to the lead person for those committees or groups.

It is planned to further refine the forms to be used in the proposed 2020 financial campaign.

We would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all parishioners for your continuing support of the well-being and future of our Parish.

God bless you all.

Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling	Bruce Lodge	Karen Roberts	Margaret Lodge
Rector	Rector's Warden	Envelope Secretary	Membership Chair

## **St. Mark's New Ministry Initiative**

One major project that began two years ago is the New Ministry Initiative, a community exploration, which has evolved into one that is looking at the needs of seniors in our area and the possible services that we might help to provide, in collaboration with a community partner. We have the resource of space in order to participate in such an endeavour. This specific focus on the needs of seniors came from a broad investigation of a variety of needs in the area and from discussions/interviews with community leaders and organizations. This past year we have spoken more specifically with NROCC (the Nepean Rideau Osgoode Community Centre) that has programs for older citizens operating at several sites. Their services and their sources for financial investment in these programs have been a model for the development of our proposal for a seniors' ministry in our local community. Recently we learned that Julian of Norwich is also moving in the direction of providing services for seniors and we are meeting with them in order to share and consider joint action in this area of need. Thus a new St. Mark's Ministry that would serve our community continues to be an exploration of a possible ministry that helps to address the needs and wants of seniors in the community. The present members of our ministry initiative committee are: Rev. Jessica, Georgia Roberts, Michael Perkin, Suzanne Bisson and I.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Slaughter

## **Wellness Committee**

As the Wellness Committee reviewed 2016 we considered what our role should be since our Parish Nurse had departed and so we were no longer a Health Committee. We identified ourselves as the Wellness Committee as we wanted to serve our seniors and other parishioners. Accordingly, as we reported last year we focused on a card ministry. Time was spent at each meeting reviewing those we thought should be sent greetings – condolences, get well, congratulations, enjoy your new house, thinking of you – and any other thought we have.

During 2017 we reviewed and researched the information we have about the IED. Conversation with the Ottawa Paramedics clarified St Mark's responsibility. Now that our understanding is clearer, all the materials we have acquired will be passed to the corporation for their oversight. The Wellness Committee plans to offer refresher training in the spring – date to be announced.

Again in 2017 the Wellness Committee hosted a Eucharist and spring luncheon for our seniors. St Mark's choir led us in celebrating Canada 150 with joyful folk memories.

In November we celebrated another seniors Eucharist and luncheon. In recognition of Remembrance Day and the founding of two neighbouring parishes (St Marks and Carleton Memorial) we invited our neighbours to join us. Many memories and much laughter were shared.

As we move into 2018 we will continue to listen to, for and about our friends and neighbours. If you know of someone in need of comfort please let a member of the Wellness Committee know or contact Rev. Jessica. We have enjoyed meeting with her and we value her compassion.

In December we said farewell to our friend Jackie Sorfleet and we wish her well in her new home.

Respectfully: Judy Darling, chair, Georgia Roberts, Gillian Morris, Jane Delroy, Carol Dicks, Cynthia Greer, Margaret Lodge, Rev. Jessica Warden-Bolling

## **Prayer Ministries**

### **E-Prayer**

E-prayer is prayer sent via e-mail for people who have requested prayers.

St Mark's E-prayer celebrated 10 years of e-mail prayer in 2017. What started in 2007 with a few requests for prayers for parishioners, evolved into 60 E-prayers being sent to 56 members in 2017.

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

The majority of our prayers were for the sick. We prayed for 61 people and their families, for health, surgery and recovery, and we gave thanks for seven who were 'healed'. We were saddened by the loss of 12 parishioners, family or friends. We gave thanks for their life, and prayed for comfort for their families.

We also gave prayers of thanksgiving: for the birth of eight babies and for three baptisms; for the ministry of Fr Jim and Rev Jessica. We prayed for special anniversaries for the Queen on her 65 year reign and Canada's 150 birthday.

Over the past 10 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.

My thanks to all who have been part of our E-prayer team these past 10 years, who have added all these people to their own personal prayers. I also thank those who have put their trust in us, by using the E-prayer for their own prayer requests.

I think of the wisdom and the faith of the late Sheila Vaudrey. When we were praying for her, she said of prayer, "I call it the Power of the Plus ... Positive Attitude + Faith in God = Unbeatable Combination." She also said ... "I give full credit to God, with assistance from all of those lovely folks who continue to uphold me in prayer."

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.

Please join us.

Margaret Lodge  
E-prayer Coordinator

### **Prayer & Praise Group**

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 Calling 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**

The weekly Eucharist has been taking place on Fridays since Rev. Jessica's father, our former priest Father Gordon saw the need for it. Our pastoral care team was already visiting residents when it was on Aylmer Avenue.

This year Ray and Jan Oswald were unable to continue, Jackie Sorfleet left Ottawa and Ted Dale, who used to also visit his old Legion buddies at the same time, passed away.

We are a smaller team, but still have as many residents to push to and from the Eucharist.

Rev Jessica, Sheila Pitt and Carol Dicks take care of the liturgical part, and Helen McGill, Pauline Adams, Paul and Cynthia Greer get their exercise pushing wheel chairs. We relax over coffee after the service.

We are offering a special service for our Anglican and not so Anglican congregation, and it gives them time to chat with us, and be out of their room.

However, and this is a serious however, if one or 2 of us are away, we are in difficulty. We do have one volunteer provided by the Perley, but we really need at least 2 more people to help, one of whom would not need to walk anywhere.

We are trying to involve another church, and ask for more Perley volunteers, but this is a slow process. If you think you would enjoy this, as we do, please speak with one of the people named above, and we would be pleased to take you one Friday morning to see what we do.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Greer

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

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

Pocket prayer shawls continue to be popular. These micro shawls are easily carried in a pocket, purse, tuck into a helmet. These shawls and a copy of the prayer can be obtained from the basket at the back of the church.

The shawls represent the love and prayers of our church community and have many uses, for example comfort or celebration. Full size shawls are available upon request.

I would like to thank knitters, past and present and especially Betty, Ada and Diane for their help in making this ministry possible. New knitters are always welcome, patterns and yarn can be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Morris.

## **Circle 2**

On Saturday, April 1, we held our 49th Art Show & Sale of paintings by local artists. Thirty nine artists participated and 54 pieces of art were sold. The net income was \$1,234.95.

Ongoing through our year, we collect baby clothing, diapers, blankets, and gently used clothing, adults and children to send to Debra-Dynes Family House. Some of us donate personal products to Cornerstone, as well.

We had our usual long table at the Bazaar on November 18. Thanks to so many people who donated knitting, sewn items & crafty things! We also participated at the mini Bazaar on the first Sunday of Advent. In all, each was most profitable.

By mid May, seven boxes of used postage stamps had been mailed to Toronto, to the Leprosy society. In December, another six boxes were mailed. This is an ongoing outreach for our parish.

In mid December, we lost our long time member, Jackie Sorfleet, as she moved to southern Ontario.

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 world-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. 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.

**2017:** 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:** In February we had a presentation by Leslie Worden and Marni Crossley on their trip to Jerusalem and Iqaluit in 2016. They were able to show us our bales in action. Bales for the North is 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 Jenny helps pack them. Circle 2 also makes a generous annual donation to the Bales to help with mailing costs.
- ❖ **Advent Giving Tree:** was an even a greater success than 2016. 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, plus some Women's Purses which went to the main police station.
- ❖ **Bazaar:** an afghan, made by Diane McCaul was raffled, and we ran the candle table, making over \$80, enough 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 \$150 to Akany Famonjena orphanage and a day teaching centre for teens in Madagascar, \$150 to PWRDF, \$150 to the Canadian MU travel fund, \$100 to the branch travel fund, and \$150 to our special outreach,



the Northern Clergy Families Fund. This project has raised \$14,500 since 2000, and all for outreach. Jenny Morphew takes care of the table every Sunday. Many thanks Jenny.

- ❖ **Calendars 2017:** MU took over the Anglican church calendar project from the Diocesan ACW in 2015. This was our third year, and following the concerns raised in 2016 about the process and production of the 2017 calendar, the 2018 calendar was much easier. The calendars were a joint venture with the Lutheran Church, still focusing more on mission rather than church buildings, but including seasonal colours for our Altar Guilds. There was the normal work of phoning and emailing parishes, but unfortunately with the many changes of church amalgamations and closures, it has got harder keeping a tally of who's who and where. In fact there were 10 less orders than 2016. I initially received 74 orders, and ordered 2425 calendars. Calendar orders were down from 3240 in 2016. This was expected, but once they were distributed, many churches called for more to be ordered, and none were sent back this year! It has been a wonderful experience for outreach 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.
- ❖ **Card Party:** Organized by Carol Russell and Pat Sinclair, based on the card parties from the past, 96 ladies, and a couple of men, came to play bridge and eat fancy sandwiches. It was a lot of work, especially for MU members preparing the sandwiches, but fun was had by all.
- ❖ **Christmas Puddings & Calendars:** with the departure of Jackie Sorfleet (ACW, Circle 2) MU offered to take on the Christmas puddings project and selling parish calendars in 2018.
- ❖ **Church Yard Sale:** This was one of those many shared events of MU, Membership and Vitality, but relying at the same time on the parish.
- ❖ **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 18 & BBQ September 24:** Each year a new charity is chosen for each event. Some charities are local, others far reaching. This year the picnic raised \$263. The fall BBQ raised \$387. The funds from both, plus donations, went to the Barbuda Hurricane Relief – a total of \$650. Nearly \$7700 has been raised through these fun events, for outreach.
- ❖ **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

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.

As happens in any group situation, membership fluctuates. Presently we have 186 member units, ranging from singles to couples, and families with children. Our new-comers in 2017 represents one family unit, we lost 9 parishioners through moving away, death, or by no means of contact.

The parish demographics are always changing. Our parish was founded by returning vets in the late 40s but very few of the early families still belong to the parish. Also, less members live within the geographical parish. Of the 186 member units, only about 53% live within, or close to, the parish. This leaves 47% who come a distance, by choice rather than just proximity.

A good question in 2018, when we look at our planning for St Mark's future, would be to ask the question of what brought people here, with a follow up question of what kept them here. The second question already has been answered by many – they felt at home and welcomed into the family.

With many of our former parishioners moving away, it has provided the opportunity for younger families to move into the community. This might be slowly showing in our membership, though there is much competition for Sunday family time.

We are an aging and aged parish, but youth was a very positive part of our church membership in 2017. We are very thankful for our young people, the vibrant church school and junior choir. Future new-comers with young families will 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 thriving, 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 Peoples Warden's position, and I became Chair of Membership at Vestry 2016.

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 by trying to speak 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.

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 2017 seven members were on Parish Council, including three in Corporation positions, which envelopes all parish activities. Your interests are well represented!

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 under Membership - the Parish Vitality Working Group. This was a new initiative in 2014 and became very active in 2015, and more so in 2016 and 2017 when it took on a very successful FUN(d)raising role. (see Parish Vitality Working Group Report)

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 most of us there along with a very supportive group in the parish.

Some of our parish gatherings, sponsored by various groups in 2017.

- ❖ Coffee Hour: the most frequent and noticeable gathering is after the Sunday services. Thanks to Helen McGill (8am) and Georgia Roberts (10am) who coordinate the coffee hour rosters.
- ❖ Parish Breakfasts: held 4 times a year, they are organized by Brian Harrison and his team.
- ❖ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: run by Kate and Steve Close, family and friends.
- ❖ Art Show: organized by Jackie Sorfleet, Georgia Roberts, Circle 2.
- ❖ Farewell Fr Jim / St Mark Patronal Evensong and dinner in April: part of the Membership /Vitality group program
- ❖ Card Party in May: bridge lunch organized by Carol Russell and Pat Sinclair, catering assistance by MU/Membership, with help from others.
- ❖ Capital Chordettes in May and the Valleysmen in December, both concerts were part of the Membership/ Vitality group program with receptions.
- ❖ Big Give and Doors Open Ottawa: a Membership/Vitality initiative led by Kate Greer-Close with lots of give-aways.
- ❖ Seniors' Lunches in June and November: organized by the Health/Wellness group.
- ❖ Canada 150 in June: Canadian concert and tea, spearheaded by Membership/Vitality with help from the choir.
- ❖ Church Picnic in June and Church BBQ in September: both of these events are directly sponsored by MU/Membership.
- ❖ Rev Jessica's Induction September 27: the service was organized with Rev Jessica and the Wardens, and the refreshments by Georgia Roberts, Judy Darling with help from Parish Council and the parish in general.
- ❖ Welcoming and Sharing Sunday October 16: parish groups took part in this event that was spearheaded by outreach coordinator, Laurie Slaughter.
- ❖ Fall Bazaar: organized by Joy Bowerman and her many workers.
- ❖ Advent Carol service on December 3: the supper was organized by Georgia Roberts and Penny Miller, both MU/Membership members, and was very much appreciated.
- ❖ Welcome / Farewell: a few 'extras' during the year included welcoming Rev Jessica and family, and saying farewell to Grace Bryan and Jackie Sorfleet.

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.

The Stewardship-Financial campaign brought in a few recruits, but one of the easiest ways of helping out is to join a group or volunteer directly for 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 2017

## 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 Membership (Margaret Lodge).

Members of the group in 2017 were Cynthia Greer, Kate Greer-Close, Maria Padin, Penny Miller, Margaret Lodge and Brian Harrison (Chair), who retired in the summer. Suzanne Bisson agreed to join the group for 2018. 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 2018 we are looking for new members, who could 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, and all FUN.

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. We raised just over \$8000 that year!

Due to the expanded mandate we had to look at ways of reaching out and advertising our events.

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 2017 we accepted the challenge of \$5000 again. Vitality worked with some old activities, and added several new parish initiatives, trying to balance between fun & fund and parish & community:

- ❖ Farewell Fr Jim / St Mark Patronal dinner on April 23: Celebrating our patronal saint has become part of the Membership/Vitality group's annual program. A fun happening just for us, and we originally planned a light parish lunch. This evolved into a parish Evensong and dinner on April 23, for Canon James Roberts – Fr Jim – on his retirement. To celebrate his ministry, we extended an invitation to his former parish of St James, Smiths Falls. It was a full house. About 120 people attended the service, led by Rev John Stopa, followed by a farewell ham and salad supper. Brenda Zanin wrote an ‘Ode to Fr Jim’ for the choir to sing.

There were a few more farewells to parishioners during the year, plus a welcome to Rev Jessica Worden-Bolling and family in May.

- ❖ **Card Party** on April 26: Although not organized through Vitality, this event was part of our overall fund-raising initiatives. The bridge lunch was organized by Carol Russell and Pat Sinclair, with catering assistance by Mothers' Union/Membership. Nearly 100 attended from all over Ottawa for an afternoon of bridge. It raised over \$1200.

- ❖ **Capital Chordettes** on May 13: This Ottawa-based women's chorus drew a crowd of over 80. The event was one of our main fund-raisers for the year, and raised a final total of \$1030.
- ❖ **Parish Clean-up** May 27: This had been an annual event in the past and was needed in 2017 with the new venture of taking part in Doors Open Ottawa. Cynthia Greer was in charge of this project to get the church ready. It was a lot of hard work, but an amazing day of helpers cleaning the church and grounds. Many hands did make light work. Special thanks to Paul Greer for cleaning up the grounds, and Helen McGill and her cleaning lady for polishing the pews. The church sparkled.
- ❖ **Big Give** on June 3: This Membership/Vitality initiative was led by Kate Greer-Close with lots of give-aways, including food, books and plants. The project involves many churches and groups who provide items at no cost. It was a great opportunity to get parishioners together and serve food and beverages to those passing by on Fisher. An opportunity both to serve our neighbours and to enjoy the fellowship of others in the parish.
- ❖ **Doors Open Ottawa** on June 3-4: This was a new venture for St Mark's, it started with a suggestion from David Young, and was coordinated by Kate Greer-Close. It was our chance to literally open our doors to the community. St Mark's building fitted in perfectly with what they were looking for – environment, originality, nature etc. St Mark's has the solar cross, is made of wood, and in 1954 was the first church to be designed by the late James Strutt, who introduced a new natural approach to religious architecture to Ottawa. He was in the news in 2017 with the reopening of the Strutt House in the Gatineau Hills, so it was too good an opportunity to miss. Doors Open had music, graphics, architectural plans, video, history information leaflet etc. Most of the graphic displays were left for the Seniors' Lunch and parishioners to look at during the summer. It was a very well received event with 26 people visiting, and the volunteers enjoyed themselves too, sharing their spiritual home. About 20 people were involved in planning and working the actual event. We're ready for 2018.
- ❖ **Church Yard Sale** June 10: This was a lot of hard work, but very much a social event as over 30 parishioners helped out. It also turned out to be a good fund-raiser - over \$1300. This year there was a trial run with kijiji for on-line 'special' items, like bikes. This alone raised over \$350.
- ❖ **Canada 150** on June 24: This Happy Birthday Canada was a Canadian concert and Canadiana high tea, spearheaded by Membership/Vitality with help from the choir. Our choirs presented the music of Howard Cables 'Sea to Sea' led by Barbara Clark, founder of the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, with accompanist Wesley Warren of St Barnabas. About 100 parishioners and friends attended Canada's early birthday party. Primarily a FUNraiser we raised about \$1000.
- ❖ **Songs for the Soul2** on October 1: This afternoon of songs and spirituality was run jointly by the Choir and Vitality, organized by Lindsay Setzer and Kate Greer-Close. The leader was Roxanne Goodman, and about 30 parishioners attended.
- ❖ **The Vallegymen** on October 28: This male voice choir entertained over 50 parishioners and friends. It was a new concept of holding an afternoon concert. We raised \$630.
- ❖ **Christmas Cards:** All parishioners received Christmas cards again in 2017, an initiative that had been started by Vitality four years ago.

2017 was a year of challenges and changes for Vitality. We took on a few large events and attempted to raise \$5000. 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. Some events were a lot of hard work! 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. Thanks to your generous support we exceeded our goal again, and raised \$5600 for St Mark's.

A big THANK YOU to Brian Harrison, who was one of the founders and chair of the Vitality group. He retired mid-year to focus on new ventures. And also thanks to members of the group, Kate, Maria, Penny and Cynthia, who took over as chair, and all who helped us with the various events.

A big THANK YOU to everyone. We are grateful to all parishioners who participated in our church events and helped to make St Mark's a vibrant, vital community. We look forward to sharing this vitality with you in 2018.

Margaret Lodge (Membership)

on behalf of

**St Mark's Vitality Working Group 2017**

Brian, Cynthia, Kate, Margaret, Maria and Penny

## Altar Guild

The Altar guild is a group of people who work "behind the scenes". We wash, clean, set up and tear down but also enjoy each other's company as we try to ensure that all is in place for worship.

We are divided into 3 small teams that work on a rotating two week schedule to share the responsibilities between us.

Depending on the team, they may do set up on either Friday or Saturday for regular Sunday services and then be available to clean and set up between the services, as well as after. Obviously for special services we work around when they are scheduled.

We are always looking for new members so if you think you might be interested please talk to one of us and maybe join us as we "do what we do" to see if this is a ministry that will "speak" to you.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller

## Flowers

Flowers can be placed in the church for memorials, celebrations and thanksgiving.

To donate flowers please fill in a form from the flower board in the Link, it is beside the doors. You will be asked to identify the date you would like flowers to be arranged and the reason for your donation, so that it can be printed in the bulletin. Ensure that this form is sent to the office.

Place your donation in on the plate clearly identifying that it is for flowers.

At the moment the arrangements are primarily done by one person with another available if needed. If this is an area of interest please let us know so we can increase our team.

Respectfully submitted

Penny Miller

## Choir

There are three choirs at St Mark's: 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 as well as an anthem feasible for the choristers present.

The January 22 service marking the week of Prayer for Christian unity was celebrated at the Greek Koimisis (Dormition of the Virgin Mary) Orthodox Church, and also included parishioners and celebrants from the Lebanese St Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church and our Catholic neighbours at Madonna della Risurrezione. Our priest, Canon Jim Roberts, was one of the officiants. Members of St Mark's congregation attended, and several choir members participated, singing both the Anglican hymns and the Italian songs. It was a new experience to hear some of the readings canted in the Orthodox traditional styles.

On Ash Wednesday, March 1 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 April 16 Easter morning service including the Hallelujah Chorus in the "come and sing with us" format.

On April 23, we held an Evensong to celebrate the Feast of St Mark, our patron Saint. The choir sang the Stanford "Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B flat", as well as Charles Wood's "O Thou the Central Orb" and his "I Love the Lord". This was followed by a supper to honour the retirement of Canon Jim Roberts, who had served as interim Priest-in-Charge since September 1, 2016. The choir sang an "Ode to Father Jim" penned by our wordsmith par excellence, Brenda Zanin, to the tune of Beethoven's Ode to Joy.

We welcomed Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling as our new priest at the coffee time after the May 7 morning service, with a welcome song written by Brenda sung to the tune of "Here We Come a Wassailing".

Members of the choir entertained at both seniors' Eucharist and lunches this year, led by Margaret Lodge and Joy Bowerman. On June 7 the entertainment was Canadian folk songs for Canada's birthday and on November 8 they sang war songs for remembrance.

Our last choir practice before summer was on June 20. This was mostly spent preparing for our St Mark's celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, a joyful late afternoon concert of "Sing: Sea to Sea", a 1984 arrangement by Howard Cable of Canadian folksongs from all corners of the country. The choir was directed by Barbara Clark, who many years ago taught it to her choir, the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, which is where Kate Greer first learned it! Wesley Warren was the accompanist, as I had to be out of town. The senior choir was joined by Russ Graham, Thomas Pilson and James Zacour, as well as former ORYC members Joanne Greer-Pagani and Vance Bolling. The junior choir joined in singing several of the songs, singing the verses of "Un Canadien Errant" on their own. The concert was followed by a high tea in Bishop Reed Hall.

Choir practices resumed on September 7, with the main focus being preparing for the September 27 induction service of Rev. Jessica as our parish priest. We sang the Brahms "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place", as the text corresponded to the appointed psalm, and the Mozart "Laudate Dominum". The choir was joined by Russ Graham and Signi Damus, and Frances Macdonnell accompanied the Brahms on the organ.

On November 12, we commemorated Remembrance Day, with Scott Kirby playing the trumpet for the Last Post, Reveille and some of the hymns, and Anne Kirby joining the choir.

Our Lessons and Carols services were two weeks apart this year, as Advent 4 fell on Christmas Eve. On December 3 we sang the Advent Lessons and Carols service in the afternoon before a light supper in Bishop Reed Hall. Many of our choristers were away or ailing. Fortunately we were joined by Marilyn Jenkins, Sylvia Larasse, Russ Graham, and Scott and Anne Kirby. The December 17 Nine Lessons and Carols took place during the morning service with most choir members present, and the junior choir sang with us and contributed several pieces of their own.

The choir also took part in the “Quiet Christmas” service on December 12.

At 9pm on Christmas Eve, we sang the traditional Merbecke music for the ordinary of the Mass.

On a social note, we had two choir parties, one on January 6, Epiphany, at the home of Cynthia and Paul Greer, and one hosted by Brenda Zanin on September 15.

The choirs participated in the second edition of “Songs for the Soul”, a workshop for the whole parish, led by Roxanne Goodman. Thank you to Kate Greer-Close and Lindsay Setzer for their work in organizing this event.

Alto Maria Padin retired to give more time for other activities.

Our **Junior Choir** continues to flourish. By the end of 2017 we had seven members: Jeremy, Madeline and Penelope Close, and Patrick Findlay; Anabella Martinez-Ball, who received her surplice in May, and Jessica Robinson, who received her surplice in September. Hiyab and Fish Yehdego did not return in 2017. The junior choir continues to sing the first verse of the communion hymns on their own on Sundays, as well as an anthem on most Sundays. They led the hymns and service music at the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Family service, and sang two anthems. This year again, they had the help of former junior choristers Sarah and Alex Dee, who sang a duet on their own. Alex again helped me with the calypso-style rhythms of “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”, playing the derbouka (Middle Eastern drum). Thank you to Kate Greer-Close, the highly skilled co-director of this choir, and to Carolyn Findlay, who helps out every Thursday and Sunday as well.

We had one choir outing with the juniors and some family members on May 20 to the NAC children’s series presentation of Peter and the Wolf, narrated by Rick Mercer. The junior choir welcomes new members; the only requirement is the ability to read English.

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

In 2017 the choir sang for several funerals, including those of two former choir members: Marie-Claire Douglas on March 18 and Veda Kelly on October 7. For Veda Kelly’s funeral we were searching for a soprano soloist as our singers were either ailing or away, and a chance comment inspired Rev. Jessica to ask her visiting sister Emily Worden-Kwok if she could be the soloist for a specially requested piece, “You Raise Me Up”. It all worked out beautifully!

The organ has held up remarkably well since major electrical circuit repairs were carried out in the summer of 2016.

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



Thank you to all choir members, who faithfully and diligently convene to practice and sing for the services every week. Special thanks to our choir presidents, Gillian Martin followed by Kate Greer-Close in January; 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 hymnboard, for keeping our choir robes organized; to Ray Davidson for representing the choir at Parish Council; to our convenor Cynthia Greer for making all those phone calls and looking after the signing and sending of cards of congratulations or sympathy from the choir 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 to Margaret Lodge, our past president who has acted as past-president when necessary.

Thank you also to Fr. Jim for his appreciation and understanding of choral music and of choristers, and to Rev. Jessica, who brings her considerable musical skills and knowledge to bear in liturgical planning, for her support. Joy Bowerman continues to be a highly-informed, efficient and caring presence in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ariane Dind

## **Nursery & Sunday School**

Kate Greer-Close has been the main teacher supported by many help-ers. We were very lucky to several returning helpers, including Isabelle Boutros, Carolyn Findlay, Julia Fogg, James Kelly and Maria Padin. Paul Greer and Stephen Close help with setup, cleanup and step in whenever help is needed. Cynthia Greer helps with the pageant and re-replaces Kate on occasion. I am very thankful for 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 lead into our lesson! Thank you Janis.

Then we exit to the Hall where the nursery and school-aged children re-main 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 but I see how the diverse ages benefit from each other and I enjoy having them all together.

Sunday school finishes in time (we try!) for the children to join the congregation for Communion. Reverend Jessica 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 re-main in the church until the dismissal. Some of the younger children go back to the nursery after communion (when supervision is available – several 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 12 children, ranging in ages from 2 to 14. We have a very regular core group of about 9 children and seem to have a larger number of children who join us when they can. Hurray! Growth! Sunday school roughly follows the school schedule (e.g. no organised classes during school breaks).

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 Ancoura and The Mission Hospice 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 \$100 to PWRDF to help with famine relief in East Africa.

The children were again well represented at the Tulipathon in May, where we walked to raise money for the MultiFaith Housing Initiative.

We sold Advent wreaths again this year. We weren't able to sell as many this year (busy Sundays and Cynthia and Kate were both away) so we only raised \$60 but we were very fortunate to receive special donations towards our outreach. The children have been thoughtfully considering how to best direct these funds and I think they have decided on \$45 to buy Moringa trees (Christian Children's Fund of Canada), and through Plan - \$10 for books, \$35 for bees - and \$30 for a goat through PWRDF (funds to be directed shortly).

Again this Epiphany we participated in the creche Sunday by building and displaying our (impressive!) pasta creches.

Although we do not have a youth group, 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 (10AM) with 20-some children and youth participating. The Junior choir also led the early (4:30pm) service on Christmas Eve with both regular and guest choristers. Many thanks to Reverend Jessica for her consideration and encouragement as we decided how best to fit in the pageant in this Advent4/Christmas Eve overlapping year. The pageant was again developed using the two Christmas story readings in such a way as to allow older children and youth to read, and younger children to listen and participate in costume.

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

respectfully submitted by Kate Greer-Close

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## Property Report

Over the year the property group has fixed things safely, without spending money unnecessarily. We have been lucky, and with our relative financial stability will be able to make some improvements next year.

The parking lot light continues to spread light well, and the flat roof continued to leak sporadically until the spring. Paul and James removed snow very carefully, and then the roofer suggested putting roof patch all over the area, when the warmer weather arrived. Magically this has solved the problem in the front area.

We had special lighting effects for the pancake supper when the lights dimmed or went out. A new more modern large fuse solved the problem, and will allow for sudden surges. This brought our attention to the fire extinguishers, and emergency lighting, and all were checked completely.

The kitchen has had its share of leaks and fixing, and the taps were changed to make them easier to use. We are still working on renovating the kitchen from money in our reserve funds.

Water is a nonstop topic, and we had several floods in the basement from the sump pumps, which needed replacement. Our water bill went up, and we found that the toilets were flushing constantly. Paul has fixed those. He also capped the sink in the old kitchen to prevent water from shooting up during heavy rain.

Our first 'Doors Open Ottawa' caused us to reflect on first impressions, and over 30 volunteers worked hard to make the church shine inside and out.

This led to asking for help with gardening, and Margaret Blakeney and Pauline Adams undertook this helping Helen McGill and Connie Bowerman. Joy Bowerman and John Hancock were also seen bending over pulling weeds. The hedges and front bed were also tended by Georgia Roberts, and Russell Wilkins, who did a constant job of pruning where needed. Bill Barber and Paul worked hard on the vines which cover the cedar hedge, and Paul removed massive roots in the ditch to enable mowing. Paul and Lawrence Peever worked on the ride-on mower, but the engine had overheated. This year the cleaning company is mowing with a regular gas mower.

There is always something to do, cleaning out gutters and downspouts, allowing water to drain from the parking lot and back steps, clearing broken branches, and the ditches, replacing whatever needs replacing.

Much of this is not obvious, but one thing definitely was, the pothole at the entry with orange pylons around it. It certainly slowed down the St Rita's parents in our parking lot, but eventually once the city told us that culverts were the owner's problem we asked Elio put a patch on it. That parking lot needs repaving, but this wasn't the year to do it.

We will hopefully find an answer to the question of how to make ourselves more visible physically, and how to make our sign boards more effective. If you have ideas please share them with us.

Keeping the church property in good condition is a never ending job. We really need more people who can do little things. If you are able to help, please let me know. Most of us could do some job or other and you won't be turned down. !

Many thanks to Steve Close and Trevor Dee for working on the WiFi system, and for being available with suggestions or advice.

Thank you to those who have helped, but whom I neglected to name and to Steve who finds himself involved if his father-in-law Paul isn't available.

Worshipping and working together is what makes us such a caring community.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Greer, for Paul Greer

## **Pancake Supper**

Shrove Tuesday fell on February 28 this year. There were 55 tickets sold; 55 were redeemed; 75 paid at the door for a total of 130 adults.

There were many families with children - again hard to count but at least 40 children, for a total of at least 170 attendees. Many of our 72nd Scout families were in attendance again.

We made a profit of \$1089.25 for St Mark's, with about \$200 in donations (e.g. paying over ticket price). Last year we made \$1210.91 (with significant donations totalling over \$400 because of a directed donation).

We charged \$8 per adult and children 12 and under were free - same as last year.

There was a great energy in the room but a surge of energy to the dishwasher in combination with other energy demands is thought to have been the cause of a blown fuse. We were able to continue with reduced power and lights. Everyone was remarkably patient and unbothered.

Respectfully submitted

Kate Greer-Close & Steve Close

## **Parish Breakfasts**

We had three parish breakfasts in 2017. In past years we have had four breakfasts, but our January breakfast in 2017 was cancelled because of illness. Our March breakfast featured City Councillor Riley Brockington who talked about important city issues and the plans for the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday. In September we were blessed to have Reverend Jessica as our speaker and she talked about various events in her life. It was a great way, for those present, of getting to know our new priest better. We are grateful to Paul and Cynthia Greer for helping to carry out the September breakfast in the absence of the coordinator, who was on vacation. In November, the speaker was Sue Garvey, Executive Director of Cornerstone Housing for Women. We learned a lot about what Cornerstone does and about their new housing project, in Westboro, that will provide 42 new rooms for women. The main purpose of the breakfast is to bring parishioners together and enjoy fellowship, but we did have a profit of \$330 at the end of the year, which was donated to the church. I want to thank the special people, who have worked on the breakfasts for many years, and 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"**

Regardless of whether you attend the 8 am or 10 am service, you can count on a hot cup of tea or coffee, and great nibbles cheerfully served afterwards. In 2017, Helen McGill coordinated

volunteers after the 8 am service and Georgia Roberts organized the roster for after the 10 o'clock Eucharist.

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 are welcome at either time slot. Just speak to one of us or leave a message in the office if you would like to participate.

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 2017**

For the first time this year, our bazaar was not held at the beginning of November. Diocesan synod was on that weekend and a number of people involved in the bazaar are also involved in synod. The following Saturday was Remembrance Day and so the bazaar was moved to November 18. This date put us on the same day as a large number of other bazaars. The weather was not the best, so the actual attendance of the bazaar was less than usual. However, our usual mini-bazaar was held on December 3 and turkey pies had been made in the spring of 2017 so our net revenue was actually \$7,072 – the highest it has been. Next year, synod is again on the first weekend of November, and the bazaar has been moved to October 27 – truly a Fall Bazaar.

We were joined for the ninth 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 & Diane McCaul; Knitting - Coralie Sheehan; Lion's Needleworks -Joy Bowerman; Preserves – Margaret Pirnat; Rummage – Paul Greer; Toys - Margaret Jeremy Close 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 2017

## **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 6 applications were made for a Police Records Check (PRC) for the year 2017 and 1 renewal . We will have to carry out 1 Police Records Check and approximately 1 renewal for myself in 2018.

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 2018 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.

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

Respectfully submitted, Les Cundell

## Outreach

Our main outreach in the community continues to be Debra Dynes Family House. Supplies for their Baby Cupboard, Mother's Day gifts and Christmas items, as well as weekly donations to their Food Bank, are given generously by our members. Georgia Roberts remains on the Board of DDFH and for the third year, she was assisted by a few members at the major fundraising event called "Soupalicious" held by Debra Dynes in the Carleton Heights Community Centre. Penny Miller and Laurie Slaughter again decorated the hall and the tables for this fall supper event.

In 2017 once again Outreach invited St. Mark's parishioners to be part of the Multi Faith Housing Initiative walk for affordable housing. The "Tulipathon Walk" is held every spring and involves many groups from different churches and faiths. The Walk is in aid of the new housing projects that the MFHI supports in concert with the City of Ottawa. This past year people representing St. Mark's, proudly carrying our prize winning banner of St. Mark, walked along Dow's Lake and the Canal and presented a donation to the organizers, thanks to the generosity of our church family, in aid of housing for those less fortunate than ourselves. Hopefully when our church participates in the 2018 walk we can be an even larger group and we can show our strong support for this very essential community project. In Barrhaven "The Haven" is well underway and Veterans' House on the Rockcliffe Base has been started.

As well, in the spring, the Diocesan "Bales for the North" drive was advertised and St. Mark's members as always, generously gave the requested items. These needed clothes and household items are organized and delivered to St. Columba's church by Jenny Morpew, to be shipped by air to communities in the far north.

In October we held our second annual "Welcoming and Sharing Sunday". Although our members are still reticent to bring guests for this special Sunday welcoming service and sharing reception afterwards, some guests were present and enjoyed the light luncheon prepared once again by our Parish Council. The special food and the wonderful displays that each committee or group created to highlight their contribution to our community, show the commitment and welcoming atmosphere that exists in our church. It would be a testament to our strength and faith as a group to have a

number of guests with us on that day so that we may share what we are so fortunate to experience at St. Mark's.

This year our Lenten Outreach giving was divided between two worthy groups who were both very grateful for St. Mark's contributions:

The Ottawa Mission Hospice that provides medical and emotional support to those on the street who are terminally ill and in need of residential palliative care.

Ancoura, an organization that provides stable and supportive homes for those coping with mental issues. There are six of these homes in Ottawa.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Slaughter

## **Lenten Outreach 2018**

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 2018. This year, parish council plans to focus our outreach on the Cornerstone Princeton Project.

Cornerstone Housing for Women is one of the community ministries of our Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and is dedicated to improving the lives of homeless women. It provides emergency shelter and safe supportive permanent housing for a diversity of women. Currently it has four residential communities in operation. And now it is preparing for a new affordable and supportive rental housing facility through the adaptive reuse of the former Institut Jeanne d'Arc residence at 373 Princeton Avenue. The new facility will include 42 studio units, five of which will be reserved for women of indigenous heritage. A large chunk of funding for this project is coming from Action Ottawa, which is a combination of municipal, federal and provincial grants. The remainder of the funding required (\$1.9 million) is being raised through a capital campaign. One way to contribute to the campaign is to "Adopt a Room". Each room will be identically outfitted with kitchen equipment, furnishings, linens and soft furnishing, and other miscellaneous items. The Adopt a Room gift program will ensure that good quality and consistency is carried out in the furnishing of the whole building while keeping costs reasonable. A group or individual can adopt a room for \$6500.

Parish Council has passed a motion for St Mark's to adopt a room in partnership with Julian of Norwich. Lenten outreach giving is one of the special ways that St Mark's can raise its share of the donation.

Offering envelopes are available at the back of the church during Lent. These should be used in addition to your regular offering envelopes or PAR. All money received in these envelopes will be directed to the Cornerstone Princeton project. If you wish your offering to be directed 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 directed to the project chosen. Don't forget to write your name or envelope number on the envelope to receive tax credit for your donation!

## Slim & Trim

Slim and Trim had a very successful year with numbers slightly up. Attendance is generally good but it varies. This year the attendance after the Summer break was excellent, with on some mornings over twenty people.

We donated \$650 to the church and \$25 to the PWRDF.

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.

## 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 2017, \$1,487 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 Loblaws' 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 2017, were Georgia Roberts, Coralie Sheehan, Penny Miller, Margaret Pirnat and Ada Henwood. Gillian Morris and Karen Barber also sold gift cards in the office during the week. I wish to thank this team for their dedication to their task in this fundraiser for our parish.

Joy Bowerman  
Dollar for Dollar Coordinator

## Financial Report

### Overview of 2017 Finances

This has been my first year as treasurer and this is my first financial report to Vestry. I want to begin by saying that the treasurer is just one member of a diverse team that all contribute to the financial management of the parish. Joy Bowerman, our office administrator and bookkeeper, has been a constant mentor as well as provider of top-notch financial material. Les Cundell and his



teams of counters made sure that the income was recorded and deposited. Our envelope secretary, Karen Roberts, entered and double-checked the income data and managed PAR. Parish Council reviewed the financial statements each month and John Hancock and Steven Coaker reviewed the books at the end of the year. Thank you to all of them.

Because we passed a budget with a deficit of \$8,048 at our Vestry in February 2017, many people were keeping a cautious eye on the “bottom line” as the year progressed. For a large part of the year, total income hovered slightly below total expenditures. But, as has been the case in many years in the past, total income pulled ahead of total expenditures in December so that we ended the year in a much better financial position than what had been budgeted, with a surplus of \$11,558. This result was due to careful spending, generous giving, and higher-than-expected income from such sources as fundraising events, donations from organizations and user fees.

While collection income is a large proportion of our total income, income from other sources is still an essential component of our financial well-being. As well as being fun, events such as the card party, the St Mark’s dinner, the Valley Men concert, parish breakfasts, the pancake supper, the bazaar and Slim and Trim all contributed to our treasury. Thank you to those who organized these events and to those who came out to support and enjoy them.

### **More Comments about 2017 Finances**

The “Budget 2018” table included in the Vestry Report contains 2017 Actual and Budget figures in the first 2 columns. My comments will mainly refer to numbers that you see there.

Total collections for 2017 were \$168,686, which was \$11,186 over the budgeted amount. This was largely due to envelope givings (including PAR) exceeding budget by a little more than \$5,000, and combined open and identifiable open collections exceeding budget by just over \$6,000.

The fundraising income, which came from several events organized by the Vitality Committee, exceeded the budgeted amount of \$5,000 by \$793. The income donated from various organizations (\$9762) also exceeded budget by \$1592.

The gain from assets of \$24,591 was approximately \$2000 over budget. User fees were more than budgeted due to some new regular renters being attracted to our building in 2017, after our large drop in rent in 2016 from the departure of St Mark and St Mary. The weather, on the other hand, had a negative impact on our solar income.

Directed income received totaled \$6005 in 2017, while, as is our custom, none was budgeted. More will be said about directed income and its expenditure further in this report.

While \$500 in income had been budgeted to come from the capital projects reserve fund to lower and cap the chimney, this project did not take place in 2017.

Total income received in 2017 thus amounted to \$215,390, which was \$21,620 ahead of budget. (If the \$6005 directed amount is removed from the actual income, the difference drops to \$15,615)

Expenditure in the Salary category was very close to budget in 2017 even though there was a change in clergy partway through the year. Fair Share expenditures were exactly as budgeted.

Of the actual worship expenditure of \$2541, only \$312 of the total amount budgeted (\$2150) was required to be spent. The remaining expenditure of \$2229 was covered by directed income: the \$1083 for flower expenditures was covered by flower directed income; \$121 of the \$271 expenditure on music was covered by directed music money; and \$1026 of the \$1187 expenditure on service and

altar supplies was covered by the altar guild directed donations and the remainder of the flower directed income.

Expenditures in the Outreach category were totally covered by directed income. An expenditure of \$2556 for donations to Ancoura and the Ottawa Mission hospice were covered by Lenten Outreach directed income while \$1120 of directed income was sent to the PWR Fund.

Actual and budgeted total Programs expenditures were small, as can be seen in the table, with programs either not spending at all, or underspending their budget.

Of the various expenditures related to the church, electricity was \$1500 below budget while other expenditures tended to be slightly below. Finance expenditures were as budgeted.

Both actual and budgeted expenditures for the Miscellaneous category are small, with only expenditure on the photocopier exceeding budget by much, for the purchase of paper.

When you look at the Actual and Budget figures for 2017, there is the complicating factor of directed donations. We look as if we spent a lot on flowers, for example, when nothing was budgeted, but really the flower expenditures were offset by directed donations for flowers. As another example, expenditure on music (\$271) was above the budgeted amount of \$250, but the difference (\$121) was covered by a directed donation. To remove these complicating factors, the table below shows how close we came to actual budget, in the large categories, by subtracting the directed income from actual income. It also tells us that, overall, we were close in budgeting for expenses with total expenditures being slightly less than budgeted (-1%). Total income, however, was much higher than budgeted (8%).

	Actual - Directed	Budget	% Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
Collections	168,686	157,500	7%
Fundraising	5,793	5000	16%
Gain from Assets	24,591	22,600	9%
Organizations	9,762	8,170	19%
Other Income	553		100%
Income from Reserves	0	500	-100%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>209,385</b>	<b>193,770</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries	123,894	121,521	2%
Worship	312	2,150	-86%
Programs	1051.8	2,440	-57%
Fair Share	31,808	31,808	0%
Outreach	0	0	0%
Finance	5,516	5,698	-3%
Church	31,787	34,340	-7%
Miscellaneous	3,459	2,800	24%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>197,827</b>	<b>200,757</b>	<b>-1%</b>

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## **2018 Budget Report**

The proposed budget for 2018 can be seen in the same table as the actual and budgeted quantities for 2017. The budget, while the responsibility of the wardens, is developed from the input from many sources, including reports on income and expenditures from recent years, known quantities for 2018, and amounts requested from various people and organizations who contribute or spend money for the church. Some comments and explanations related to 2018 budget items are provided below.

### **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 positive response to the stewardship campaign in 2017 and the increase in envelope giving in 2017 over 2016, \$157,000 is proposed for envelope giving in 2018.

Since open collections – both identifiable and unidentifiable – vary so much from year to year, a conservative estimate (compared to both the 2016 and 2017 actual amount) is being proposed for 2018.

The budgeted amount of income from fundraising has been reduced for 2018, as requested by the Vitality Committee.

Our gain from assets is predicted to be a little higher in 2018 than what was budgeted for 2017, due to new renters of our facilities beginning in 2017.

Budgeted amounts of income from organizations are similar in 2018 to what were budgeted in 2017.

\$1000 is being budgeted to come from the capital projects reserve fund for lowering and capping the chimney. This is a project held over from 2017. No firm estimates of how much this work will cost have been obtained yet.

As is always the case, no directed income is included in the budget for 2018.

### **Expenses:**

Our biggest expense category for the 2018 budget, called staff salaries, is \$122,827. This amount is 2 lay staff salaries (for organist and office administrator) plus equalized cost of priestly services (ECOPS) plus clergy housing allowance less income of \$11,286 that will come from the Rectory Trust Fund. The quantities for ECOPS, clergy housing allowance and Rectory Trust Fund earnings are provided by the Diocese.

Our Parish Fair Share of diocesan expenses is \$32,509 for 2018. Because of our large capital expenditure on a boiler and furnaces in 2015, our assessments for 2017, 2018 and 2019 are lower than they would be otherwise.

The amount being budgeted for repair and upgrade of our church buildings has been increased to \$5000 for 2018 since it is anticipated that there will be jobs to be done for which professional assistance will be required.

The special project in the budget is the lowering and capping of the chimney, with funds coming from the capital projects reserve fund.

Georgia Roberts  
Treasurer

## Statement from the Financial Review

January 28, 2018

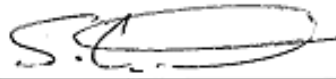
To: The Parish of Saint Mark the Evangelist  
Anglican Church of Canada  
1606 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 1X6

A review of the financial record of St Mark's was performed for the year ending December 31, 2017. Our review consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to financial information supplied to us by the officer of the parish.

In our opinion, the financial statements fairly present the financial position of St Mark's church at December 31, 2017 and summarize the financial activities in comparison to the budget plan for the year then ended.

Reviewed by:

Stephen Coaker



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John Hancock



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Balance Sheet

8:36 PM  
2018-01-20  
Accrual Basis

**St Mark's Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of 31 December 2017

	<u>31 Dec 17</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Chequing/Savings	
TD BANK	83,967.70
<b>Total Chequing/Savings</b>	<u>83,967.70</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Dollar for Dollar	4,329.23
HST Receivable	432.19
PST Receivable	986.45
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>5,747.87</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>89,715.57</u>
<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>	<u>368,591.86</u>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>368,591.86</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>458,307.43</u></u>
<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	1,963.55
Choir Gowns	810.07
GIFT Funds	29,541.54
Joan Knight - Kitchen	19,644.00
Key Deposits	455.69
Memorials	8,174.36
Ministry	8,603.35
Pastoral Care Support Fund	875.00
Rector's Discretionary	16.77
Sunday School	143.90
Tree Care	900.00
<b>Total RESERVE ACCOUNT</b>	<u>79,002.98</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>79,002.98</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>79,002.98</u>
<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>	<u>362,787.49</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>441,790.47</u>
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings	4,949.27
Net Income	11,567.69
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>16,516.96</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>458,307.43</u></u>

**Reserve Account Activity**

If a reserve account is not listed below, no activity has occurred in 2017.

	Credit	Debit	Balance
<b>Choir Fund</b>			\$1,916.29
Donations	283.00		2,199.29
Choral Workshop		200.00	1,999.29
Choir Plaques		35.74	\$1,963.55
<b>GIFT Funds</b>			\$27,726.27
GIFT Income	2,479.02		30,205.29
New Wifi Equipment		663.75	\$29,541.54
<b>Memorials</b>			\$7,404.36
Memorial Donations	770.00		\$8,174.36
<b>Priest's Purse</b>			\$0.00
Donations	2,155.30		2,155.30
Gifts		2,155.30	\$0.00
<b>Rector's Discretionary</b>			\$120.77
Congregational Resource Day	80.00	100.00	100.77
Perley Donation to Honour Jackie	146.00	150.00	96.77
Deposits	350.00		446.77
Expenses		100.00	346.77
Disbursements		330.00	\$16.77
<b>Sunday School</b>			\$90.00
Donations	170.00		260.00
Gifts for children		71.10	188.90
Candles for Advent Wreathes		45.00	\$143.90

Budget 2018

	<u>Actual 2017</u>	<u>Budget 2017</u>	<u>Budget 2018</u>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>GENERAL</b>			
<b>Collections</b>			
Envelope	153,218	148,000	<b>157,000</b>
Identifiable Open	10,596	6,500	<b>8,000</b>
Open	2,044		
Special Collection	2,828	3,000	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Total Collections</b>	168,686	157,500	<b>168,000</b> a
<b>Fundraising</b>	5,793	5,000	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Gain from Assets</b>			
CTF Dividends	1,263	900	<b>1,200</b>
Dollar for Dollar	1,487	1,500	<b>1,200</b>
Investment Income	1,071	1,200	<b>1,200</b>
Solar Income	9,645	11,000	<b>11,000</b>
User fees	11,125	8,000	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total Gain from Assets</b>	24,591	22,600	<b>24,600</b>
<b>Organizations</b>			
Bazaar	7,072	6,000	<b>6,000</b>
Breakfasts	350	300	<b>300</b>
Pancake Supper	1,089	750	<b>800</b>
Slim & Trim	650	400	<b>400</b>
We Kicked the Habit	600	720	<b>720</b>
<b>Total Organizations</b>	9,762	8,170	<b>8,220</b>
<b>Other General Income</b>	553		
<b>Total GENERAL</b>	209,385	193,270	<b>202,820</b>
<b>DIRECTED</b>			
Altar Guild	325		
Flowers	1,784		
Forward Day by Day	75		
Lenten Outreach			
Ancoura	160		
Mission Hospice	450		
Not specified	1,946		
<b>Total Lenten Outreach</b>	2,556		
Music	121		
Other Directed Income	25		
PWR Fund	1,120		
<b>Total DIRECTED</b>	6,005		

<b>INCOME FROM RESERVES</b>			
Capital Projects		500	1,000 d
<b>Total INCOME FROM RESERVES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>215,390</b>	<b>193,770</b>	<b>203,820</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>SALARIES</b>			
Clergy Fill-in	1,542	1,260	1,272 b
Organist Fill-in	600	600	600
Staff	121,753	120,722	122,827 c
<b>Total SALARIES</b>	<b>123,895</b>	<b>122,582</b>	<b>124,699</b>
<b>WORSHIP</b>			
Flowers	1,083		
Hymn & Service Books			
Music	271	150	150
Piano/Organ		1,000	1,000
Service & Altar Supplies	1,187	1,000	1,000
<b>Total WORSHIP</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,150</b>
<b>FAIR SHARE</b>	<b>31,808</b>	<b>31,808</b>	<b>32,509</b>
<b>OUTREACH</b>			
Ancoura	1,133		
Ottawa Mission Hospice	1,423		
PWR Fund	1,120		
<b>Total OUTREACH</b>	<b>3,676</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>			
Christian Education		250	250
Church School		100	100
Conferences & Memberships	230	500	500
Membership	72	150	150
Outreach	200	200	300
Prayer Shawl			50
Publicity		70	200
Synod	323	450	450
Wellness - Seniors' Hospitality	227		350
Wellness - AED		720	370
<b>Total PROGRAMS</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>2,720</b>
<b>CHURCH</b>			
Cleaning Service	15,533	15,200	15,200
Electricity	4,502	6,000	5,500
Heating	3,506	4,000	4,000
Operating Supplies	673	1,000	1,000



Repair & Upgrade	2,349	2,500	5,000
Security	458	250	250
Snow Removal	2,221	2,400	2,450
Special Projects		500	1,000 <sup>d</sup>
Telephone	1,280	1,300	1,300
Waste Collection		90	90
Water	1,291	1,100	1,100
<b>Total CHURCH</b>	<b>31,812</b>	<b>34,340</b>	<b>36,890</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>			
Bank Charges	358	350	350
Insurance	5,048	5,048	5,048
Supplies	110	300	200
<b>Total FINANCE</b>	<b>5,516</b>	<b>5,698</b>	<b>5,598</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Computer & Internet	871	700	800
Forward Day by Day	172		
Office Supplies	131	200	500
Photocopier	1,703	1,200	1,500
Postage	506	400	600
Rector's Hospitality		100	200
Wardens' Discretionary	151	200	200
<b>Total MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>3,534</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>203,832</b>	<b>201,818</b>	<b>208,366</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>11,558</b>	<b>-8,048</b>	<b>-4,546</b>

Footnotes:

**a:** Predicted from 2018 stewardship pledges and actual givings in 2017

**b:** Per diem rate for 6 days from 2018 Stipendary Scales and Allowances. Does not include travel reimbursement.

**c:** This amount is 2 lay staff salaries plus ECOPS plus clergy housing allowance less earnings from Rectory CTF. Increase of 1.16% over 2017 for our 2 lay staff.

**d:** \$1000 is guess at price for lowering and capping chimney. No other special projects have been identified at this time. For this project, money is budgeted to come from the capital reserve fund.

## Vestry 2017 Minutes

**ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST  
ANNUAL VESTRY  
FEBRUARY 19, 2017**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vestry was called to order at 10:37 a.m. The chairperson for the meeting was Rev. Jim Roberts.

The meeting was opened with prayer and a moment of silence.

### **APPOINTMENT OF VESTRY CLERK**

Janis Perkin was appointed as vestry clerk.

### **APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016 and THE SPECIAL VESTRY, JUNE 26, 2016**

A motion to accept was moved by Joy Bowerman, seconded by Michael Perkin. **CARRIED**

### **RECEPTION OF ALL 2017 REPORTS**

-One correction was noted, on page 20, in the Choir Report it should read "a poem written by Brenda Zanin"

A motion to receive was moved by Paul Greer, seconded by Brian Harrison. **CARRIED**

### **2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT & AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Joy Bowerman gave an overview of how the 2016 financial year looked like using a slide presentation. 2016 ended with a net income of \$4,939.27.

Acceptance was moved by Penny Miller and seconded by Suzanne Wilkins. **CARRIED**

### **THE PRESENTATION OF 2017 BUDGET**

Our new treasurer, Georgia Roberts, presented the budget for 2017. Georgia pointed out that this was a cautious budget. A request was made for the discretionary salaries to be laid out in the budget. Georgia will have a conversation with Parish Council about changing how we show salaries in the budget.

Acceptance was moved by Suzanne Wilkins and seconded by Penny Miller. **CARRIED**

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

A number of positions were filled by election at the 2017 Vestry.

Rector's Warden (2 years)

Appointed - Bruce Lodge

Incoming Deputy Rector's Warden

(This position will remain unfilled until the new rector arrives.)

Alternate Synod member (1 year)

Nominee: Maria Padin

Membership (2 year term):

Nominee: Margaret Lodge

A motion to accept the slate as put forward by the Nominating Committee was moved by Margaret Lodge seconded by James Kelly **CARRIED**

Thanks were offered to the Nominating Committee for their work.

### **APPOINTMENT OF BANK**

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Joy Bowerman 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 Carol Dick. **CARRIED**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Auditors for 2017 are John Hancock and Steve Coaker

David Young posed the following question. "Where does one find the job descriptions for Wardens etc.?" Rev. Jim Roberts suggested that we could search them in the Canons, Regulations and Bylaws and offered to search them out.

David Young asked Vestry to consider participating in Doors Open Ottawa 2017. The application needs to be filled out quickly and will be followed up on.

**MOTIONS OF THANKS**

Cynthia Greer offered thanks to Joy Bowerman and Georgia Roberts for their work on the Financial Report and Budget.

Michael Perkin, Stewardship chair, offered a wordle which contained a collection of our thanks from the Stewardship Sunday Wall of Thanks.

Thanks was offered by Penny Miller to Suzanne Wilkins who is retiring after 4 years of service and also to the Office staff, Joy Bowerman, administrative assistant and our volunteers, Gillian Morris, Karen Barber and Grace.

Sheila Pitt offered thanks to Kate Greer-Close and her team for their work with the Church School and Children's Choir.

Thanks were offered by Betty Caughlin for her constant work in the church.

Ray Davidson offered thanks to Ariane Dind who does a great job as our choral director.

Thanks were offered by Pauline Adams for the recent Mark This Word which was quite beautiful.

Betty Caughlin thanked all who give vitality and hospitality within the parish.

Thanks were offered by Margaret Lodge, the newest member of the Vitality committee, to the parish for their support for the committee's different planned activities.

Thanks were offered by Father Jim to the Altar Guild for their patience with wine stains.

Margaret Lodge offered thanks Father Jim who is a breath of fresh air due to his sense of humour.

**MOTION OF ADJOURNMENT**

A motion of adjournment was made by Joy Bowerman and was seconded by James Kelly. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted by **Janis, Perkin**, Vestry Clerk February 19, 2017