

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2025 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

SOWING the SEEDS



Prayer
With music
Belonging
Passion
Community
Faith

Of Sanctuary

Outreach
Vision
With art
During transition
Growth
Friendship

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2025
FISCAL YEAR 2024

Rector's Annual Report for 2024

Beloved of God,

This past year has been filled with blessings, among the most important is the remarkable community of St. Mark's. Being part of this vibrant faith community full of deep relationships and loving care is a blessing beyond words to my family and to me. I'm also fortunate to work with a dedicated staff that genuinely loves what they do and cares deeply for our community. A special thanks to Lucy Sinkular for her joyful and effective leadership as St. Mark's Senior Warden over the past four years.

One of the things each one of us need is a community where we are loved and accepted, where the seeds of belonging have found fertile ground. We also need a place and a community where we are challenged to grow, our rough edges softened and our journey of faith brought into focus in new and life-giving ways. St. Mark's is such a place and I'm grateful to serve as one of its leaders. St. Mark's is a place we people discover belonging not only with each other but in the heart of God where we discover our true selves and flourish.

One of the greatest blessings of 2024 was my sabbatical from April to July. It allowed me to spend quality time with my family in Oregon, enjoy fishing, reconnect with old friends, and pursue hobbies like hiking, biking, and beekeeping. Maren and I also had the chance to visit our daughter Sofia in Denmark, with stops in Amsterdam, Copenhagen, and Ireland. Highlights included visiting the Anne Frank House, the Van Gogh Museum, and the Cliffs of Moher. In addition to the travel, I had time at home to read, walk the North Valley's ditch trails, and develop a more holistic Rule of Life for my spiritual practice. I am deeply grateful for this sabbatical, a gift from the St. Mark's community.

Returning to St. Mark's has been a blessing—coming home to something I've missed and feel deeply energized to lead. Many new members told me how warm and welcoming St. Mark's was for them, how wonderful it was to find a vibrant and joyful the community to which one can belong and become involved. One new member gave me a huge hug after the Christmas Eve Eucharist and said, "I never thought that I would find a church to belong to again and I'm so happy to have found St. Mark's."

I've been taken aback at times this fall and winter to witness the "loving care that surrounds us on every side." Meals are delivered to people recovering from surgery or going through treatment through our parish Take Them A Meal ministry. More casually or organically, members in rehab and hospital are visited regularly--not just by the clergy, but by a new kind of family formed at church. I'm so grateful for the countless ways that members of the community support each other in our community and reach out in loving care. This past



Christmas, our growing participation in the Church Unbound ministry and the special Christmas project headed up by Barbara and Michael Jupin and Sherry Reeder moved me in a profound way. Parishioners touched my heart by the great compassion and care for the faith community of First Christian Church in Colorado Springs. That community mourned the loss of their building and allowed us to purchase their organ to give it a new life at St. Mark's. A special thank you to Deb Bluestone and Pat Catlett for their hard work on the portfolio and the notes of encouragement from the St. Mark's community delivered to the First Christian Church community.

This past year a number of our faithful members passed on to the larger life, to include Mark Hendrick, Ramona Montoya, Sean Murphy, Steve Bowman, Bill Bottorf, Sally Blackstad and Paul Holzman along with parishioners' friends and family members William Leisher, Aldo Arias, JoAnn Marksbury, Holly Pence, Martha Smith and Thomas Held Jr. The people of St. Mark's celebrated the lives of each of these beautiful people with their families and friends. The sudden loss of Paul Holzman has been a great sadness for the community of St. Mark's. Paul and Gerald were relatively new to St. Mark's but close to our hearts. We will celebrate Paul's life with a memorial service on Saturday March 1, 2025, at 4pm, right before our parish Mardi Gras Party.

As I look forward to 2025, I am so moved by the strong support that St. Mark's demonstrates for our life together. I'm amazed by the growing volunteer energy that is emerging, the strengthening of outreach to our community and the continuing care for the spiritual lives of children and youth that St. Mark's is known for in the diocese. This coming year will bring new challenges and new opportunities as we walk further down the path toward renewing our facilities for a future of vitality and welcome. We will hear more about a Feasibility Study with our new partners the Vandersall Collective as we enter a process to discern where the Spirit is leading this community. I look forward to discovering the vision for the future of St. Mark's together with you.

As we move into this new year at St. Mark's, I am extremely grateful and hopeful about life and future of St. Mark's. We continue to be a vital, warm and welcoming community. We continue to attract new members and find new ways of being "church." We are not afraid to try new things, to take risks and to understand ourselves as a church with a future. We are also a church grounded in compassion and love, and we will need those gifts as we navigate a new political landscape that will need faithful people to speak truth to power and call people back to the way of Jesus, the way of love, compassion, belonging and forgiveness. There will be times we may want to despair or have become exhausted, but that is why we are part of a community where we can draw strength and courage to both resist evil and to work tirelessly for good. Together are sowing seeds of love, compassion, belonging and forgiveness and so much more. It is my prayer that together we will proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to a hurting and broken world. Together we are building something beautiful for God in our Neighborhood.

Fr. Christopher McLaren†
Rector

Table of Contents

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024.....	2
ORDER OF WORSHIP AND ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA.....	5
SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT	6
ADMINISTRATION.....	8
VESTRY MEMBERS AND DELEGATES	8
2022-2024 TERM.....	8
2023-2025 TERM.....	8
2024-2026 TERM.....	8
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE VESTRY	8
DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION AND DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES	8
VESTRY NOMINEES	8
DELEGATE TO CONVENTION NOMINEE	9
STAFF LIST	10
ASSOCIATED CLERGY (NON-STIPENDIARY).....	11
FINANCE & TREASURER'S REPORT	11
KEY STATISTICS AT A GLANCE (2018-2024)	12
CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY.....	13
BUILDING RENEWAL COMMITTEE.....	14
MINISTRY UPDATES - WITHIN THE WALLS.....	17
WITHIN THE WALLS... BUILDING RENEWAL COMMITTEE & ORGAN PROJECT	17
WITHIN THE WALLS... ST. MARK'S MONTESSORI SCHOOL	18
WITHIN THE WALLS... HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER.....	19
WITHIN THE WALLS... SACRED ARTS GUILD	19
WITHIN THE WALLS... FLOWER GUILD.....	20
WITHIN THE WALLS... SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR ADULTS: SMALL GROUPS & CLASSES.....	20
WITHIN THE WALLS... SCOUTS	22
MINISTRY UPDATE - BEYOND THE WALLS	22
BEYOND THE WALLS... CHURCH UNBOUND	22
BEYOND THE WALLS... FEAST OF HOPE	23
BEYOND THE WALLS... TAKE THEM A MEAL.....	24
BEYOND THE WALLS... PASTORAL AND EUCHARISTIC VISITS	24
BEYOND THE WALLS... OPEN TABLE CONNECTION (LUTHER HOUSE) CAMPUS MINISTRY	25
BEYOND THE WALLS... CAMP STONEY AND DIOCESAN YOUTH PROGRAMS	26
BEYOND THE WALLS... LGBTQ+ MINISTRY OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE	28
ST. MARK'S MINISTRY LIST	29
LEADERSHIP	29
BUILDING/PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.....	29
WORSHIP – MUSIC	29
WORSHIP – LITURGY	29
WORSHIP – LITURGY (CONT.)	30
COMMUNITY CARE	30
COMMUNITY CARE (CONT.)	31
FORMATION	31
WORSHIP.....	32
ATTACHMENT 1: FY ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 28, 2024	34
IN MEMORIAM... A FEW OF OUR NEW SAINTS IN 2024.....	36

Order of Worship and Annual Meeting Agenda

January 26, 2025

The 2025 Annual Meeting is integrated into our normal Eucharistic Worship. This emphasizes that caring for the business of the church as we celebrate the previous year and look forward to the coming year is an act of worship for the whole community.

Prelude

Jeremy Wirth, Principal Organist

Welcome

The Rev. Christopher T. McLaren

Opening Hymn - *All are Welcome*

Green Book (Gather Hymnal) #753

Readings

Lesson

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Sequence Hymn - *Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word*

Blue Book (1982 Hymnal) #530

Gospel

Luke 4: 14-21

Sermon and Rector's Report

Fr. Christopher McLaren

The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People and Concluding Collect

Confession of Sin and Absolution

The Peace

Stewardship, Finance and Budget Reports

Ken Reese, Treasurer

Offertory Anthem

St. Mark's Choir

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching our Worship

Hymn at Communion - *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

Green Book (Gather Hymnal) #815

Post Communion Prayer

Blessings and Announcements

Closing Hymn - *Canticle of the Turning*

Green Book (Gather Hymnal) #556

Leadership and Election

Call to Order

Appointment of the Secretary of Annual Meeting, Clerk of the Vestry, Peter Pierotti

Election of New Vestry Members and Delegate by ballot or acclamation

Acceptance of FY 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, from January 28, 2024

Acceptance of Financial Reports and Leadership Reports as Printed

SMMS Director Report – Caitlin McGuire

Senior Warden's Report – Lucy Sinkular

Building Renewal Update and Opus 42 Film

Election Results

Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden and Ty Camp, Junior Warden

1st Ballot

2nd Ballot (if necessary)

Adjournment of Annual Meeting

All Parish Coffee Hour and Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall

January 26, 2025

Senior Warden's Report

Dear St. Mark's Family,

As I reflect on my fourth and final year as Senior Warden, I'm filled with gratitude for this community. Serving St. Mark's has been a true honor, and I thank you all for the support and connection you've extended to me.

This year, we bid farewell to Vestry members who completed their terms: **Ty Camp** – As Junior Warden, Ty has played a vital role in maintaining our facilities and brought a steady, Christ-centered presence to our Vestry discussions. **Blythe Clark** – Blythe always brings her valuable insight and advocacy as a parent of school-aged children. Her experience as a manager and engineer at Sandia has also been an asset to the Vestry. **Diane Ball** – Diane so aptly shares her perspective on high school youth, drawn from teaching and offers important, practical insights drawn from her work in our hospitality ministry. Thank you to each of these generous parishioners who shared their talent serving on the Vestry.

Each Vestry meeting begins with a meal and fellowship, followed by business. Many months, our meal includes a guest from a ministry or area of parish life. This year, Seminarian Sara Johnson, Cub Scout Pack 990 representatives, Treasurer Ken Reese and St. Mark's Montessori School Director Caitlin McGuire were among those who joined us for this time of collaboration.

Here are some highlights from this year's Vestry work:

- **January:** We approved the 2024 budget, which included exciting plans for ministry growth and outreach. We also officially approved Fr. Christopher's sabbatical.
- **February:** The Vestry took a spiritual gifts assessment to better understand how our individual talents can serve the parish and identified specific areas of ministry for each member's focus in the coming year.
- **March:** We worked closely with Mo. Sylvia and Deacon David to plan for Fr. Christopher's Sabbatical time, Mo. Sylvia took over Clergy leadership for the SMMS School Board and the Finance Committee, while Deacon David stepped up as Clergy leader to the Vestry and the Building Renewal Committee. All during Sabbatical, Mo. Sylvia, Deacon David and I met weekly to help ensure good communication and awareness between the laity and the clergy.
- **April:** Excerpt from meeting minutes... "Deacon David related that St. Mark's has survived two weeks without Fr. Christopher.... There are a million things Fr. Christopher does which are being discovered each day." In April the Vestry approved a recommendation from your BRC to enter negotiations to buy the Letourneau Organ. We also revisited and refined our committee policies to improve communication and accountability across the parish.
- **May-June:** Vestry helped prepare for and participated in the Summer of Conversation while aligning some activities with the diocesan initiative. Members joined the Albuquerque Pride Parade with the LGBTQ+ Ministry of the Diocese.
- **June:** We kicked off the Summer of Conversation, aligning with the diocesan initiative, and joined the Albuquerque Pride Parade with the LGBTQ+ Ministry of the Diocese. This was a month full of meaningful connections and fellowship.

- **July:** While Vestry did not meet formally in July, we held the All-Parish Campout from July 19–21, rallied at the church on the 27th for Dumpster Clean-Up Day, and approved the organ purchase contract on July 31st!



- **August:** The Vestry welcomed Fr. Christopher's return from Sabbatical. We considered the distinction between operating budgets and funds designated for building renewal and worked to ensure transparency and clarity in our financial stewardship.
- **September:** The Vestry voted to enter formal partnership with Luther House at UNM to undertake an important and inclusive campus ministry in which Mo. Sylvia, Deacon David and some St. Mark's students had already been actively engaged.
- **October:** Vestry supported the Seeds of Sanctuary stewardship campaign and the annual Oktoberfest & Hymn Sing. These events brought us together in joyful celebration and reflection on our shared mission.
- **November:** St. Mark's parishioner Kristina Czuchlewski facilitated a day-long Vestry retreat at the Norbertine Abbey. We broke from tradition and held the retreat later in the year to incorporate insights of outgoing Vestry members in future goals and plans.
- **December:** December's Vestry meeting was one of the most impactful yet. We reviewed the Finance Committee's well-crafted draft budget for 2025 and had some candid discussions—so much so that we asked Fr. Christopher to step out briefly while we openly discussed financial priorities. Vestry Member Sherry Reeder summed it up perfectly: "Our church budget should reflect our values. We value people." By consensus the Vestry requested that Treasurer Ken Reese and the Finance Committee find a way to not only include COLA raises but also increase the "market-level" raises for our talented staff. Having seen firsthand the financial and practical costs of employees departing, we want to lessen staff attrition caused by economic factors. At its **January meeting**, the Vestry passed a 2025 budget that took great strides toward this goal.

God's People: What I love most about St. Mark's is its people. I'm sure everyone has a story about someone who made you feel, without a doubt, that you belong here. For many of us, Fr. Christopher, Mo. Sylvia, or Deacon David has been "that person." On top of our fine clergy, I see all you members who not only sing beautifully on Sundays and put on a fabulous coffee hour, but who are also opening your homes when someone needs care after surgery, helping to plan a funeral and driving someone to a doctor's appointment. The love and support you extend to one another every day of the week makes this a place where we can all flourish as we comprise this part of the body of Christ known as St. Mark's.

With gratitude and love,
Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden

Administration

Tending the organizational and physical structures that support the worship, work, and life of our faith community.

Vestry Members and Delegates

2022-2024 Term	2023-2025 Term	2024-2026 Term
Diane Ball	Darcie Farrow	Deb Bluestone
Ty Camp	Amanda Wright	Steve Hayden
Blythe Clark	Dave Aley	Sherry Reeder

Executive Committee of the Vestry

Rector	The Rev. Christopher McLaren
Sr. Warden	Lucy Sinkular
Jr. Warden	Ty Camp
Treasurer	Ken Reese
Clerk	Peter Pierotti

Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Deanery Representatives

Delegate 1 Laurel Leisher-Cabral	Term 2022-2024
Delegate 2 Scott Sinkular	Term 2023-2025

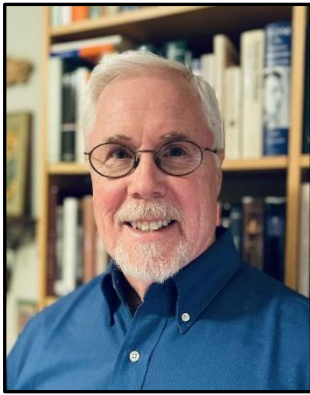
Vestry Nominees



Meg Adams-Cameron

I began attending St. Mark's in the fall of 2022, transferring membership from Cathedral Church of St. John. My introduction to the Episcopal Church was through a small parish (St Anne's) while living a brief time in Reston, Virginia. After that, I returned to Albuquerque and decided to continue exploring the Episcopal Church, attracted by its liturgy and sacramental arts. I was confirmed in May 2008.

Currently, I volunteer my time, energy and problem-solving abilities for food distribution affiliated with Roadrunner Food Bank (RRFB), housed in Kaseman Hall, St. John's Cathedral. Over the past ten years, serving at this food pantry, I have taken on expanded responsibilities to include: recruiting and orienting new volunteers, purchasing foods, securing grant money (during pandemic), and being the primary contact/orderer/receiver of food provided by RRFB. I would like to serve on St. Mark's vestry. I have time, energy and listening skills to be an active member.

**David Duncan**

I was born and raised in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and was brought up in the Baptist Church. I have a Bachelor of Music degree (oboe) from the University of Tulsa and moved to New York City after graduation where I first began attending an Episcopal Church. After beginning my career as a freelance musician, I eventually began working in Human Resources and became an HR manager for the Guggenheim Museum. I moved to New Mexico in the early 2000s and worked for Albuquerque Public Schools from which I am now retired.

I began attending St. Mark's during the pandemic in 2020, where I met my life partner Brett Braud. I currently serve as a lector and intercessor, sing bass in the choir, volunteer in the church office, and assist with coffee team 4. I'm also in my third year of the EfM (Education for Ministry) program. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, reading, and music.

Because St. Mark's has become such an important part of my life, it would be an honor to serve on the Vestry.

**Laurel Cabral-Leisher**

Hi friends! My husband, Aaron Cabral, and I have been coming to St Marks for a bit over 10 years now. I had cancer and my husband was looking for a spiritual, supportive community. We found so much more than that! Over the years I've been a Greeter, a counter, volunteered at the front desk, Stewardship, a member of the Vestry, and Junior Warden. Currently I'm involved with the Coffee Teams Ministry, the Building Renewal Committee, and am still a little bit in the Stewardship efforts.

I deeply value what we have created at St Marks and would like to help continue our growth as we Shepard the Church into the future. I love our community and its diversity, and hope that as a Vestry member, I can help protect those voices as well as be a contributing member of our congregation.

**Delegate to Convention Nominee****Lucy Sinkular**

I was raised and confirmed in the Roman Catholic faith, and was received into the Episcopal Church in 1995, at St. Mark's in Albuquerque. Although my husband Scott and I lived in Albuquerque when we were newlyweds, we were absent from the parish from 1997 to 2017 while we moved around the world for Scott's military career. During this time, we also raised our two children Emily and John, who are now 26 and 24 years old. We were very pleased to return to St.

Mark's and find this vibrant and diverse community!

I have always felt drawn into a closer relationship with God. In every parish we have called home throughout 32 years of marriage, I have volunteered in some capacity or another. I have attended Bible Studies, been a Lector, a Lay Eucharistic Minister, a Vestry member, a stewardship worker and a Sunday school teacher. I have so enjoyed my service these last years as St. Mark's working on your Vestry, with the stewardship team and helping with the Building Renewal effort. I attended Convention as Senior Warden and actually really enjoy that work, so I thought I might continue to serve St. Mark's as a Convention Delegate.

Professionally, I have been an attorney for 30 years. I practice family law at Ashton Horton Mullins PC, where I enjoy using my abilities to help families in transition and crisis. I am also the 2025 Secretary-Treasurer of the New Mexico State Bar Association. In my free time, I enjoy camping, hiking, reading and spending time with my wonderful partner, Scott. Thank you for considering me as one of St. Mark's Convention Delegates.

Staff List

The Rev. Christopher McLaren

Rector



The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia

Associate Rector



The Rev. David Martin

Deacon and Director of Christian Education



Patrick Dill, D.M.A.

Director of Music



Jeremy Wirth, D.M.A.

Director of Music



John Garlich

Assistant Organist



Caitlin McGuire

Director, St. Mark's Montessori School



Laura Blum

Business Manager



Jennifer Lind

Parish Administrator



Oris Salazar

Communications Coordinator



Chris Montgomery

Facilities Manager



New Staff in 2024: Patrick Dill, Oris Sandoval & Chris Montgomery

Associated Clergy (Non-Stipendiary)

The Rev. Billie Anderson
Pastoral Associate
(Retired)

The Rev. Michael Jupin
Pastoral Associate
(Retired)

The Rev. James Porter
Pastoral Associate
(Retired)

The Rev. Robert Clark
Pastoral Associate
(Retired)

The Rev. Rhonda McIntire
Pastoral Associate
(Retired)

Finance & Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Ken Reese, [REDACTED]

St. Mark's had another solid year financially in 2024. Our budget had planned for an overall surplus of \$344 while using \$20,985 of income from our investment accounts. We ended the year with a relatively small deficit of \$2361 after using the full draw of \$24,850 from the investment accounts. Since 2021, the Vestry has treated the investment account like an endowment, drawing 80% of the declared dividends which corresponds to a conservative 4% of the 5-year average account balance. St. Mark's investment accounts did quite well this year with gains of \$97,000 on top of reinvested dividends and a final balance of \$674,000.

During 2024, the church supported Father Christopher as he took his long overdue sabbatical. The Vestry has been planning for this eventuality for many years, putting away funds each month into a Sabbatical designated account. The total sabbatical costs were \$30,000, with half going into the church budget for increased hours for our remaining clergy and the other half to reimburse Father Christopher for his sabbatical expenses. At year end, the sabbatical designated account had a balance of \$16,000 and continues to grow every month for future sabbatical needs.

On the Financial report page, you will see a section referring to Designated Funds. These are funds people give in addition to their pledges, and all designated income and expenses are outside the church budget. The total balance in these funds increased \$155,000 over last year due mostly to a large increase in the balance for the organ and Building Renewal Fund (BRF). This year total donations to the organ/BRF were \$530,000, including one extremely generous, anonymous gift of \$266,000. Thank you! On the expense side, we spent \$347,000 to purchase, deinstall and store our new organ, and \$41,000 to our architect and consultants to complete our conceptual plan and begin the fund-raising feasibility study.

St. Mark's budget for 2025 is a reflection of our community's generous commitment to support our hard-working clergy and staff while providing for our projected expenses within a balanced budget. We were able to give raises to all of the staff to keep pace with cost-of-living increases and several higher raises to address equity shortfalls. The current 2025 budget results in a surplus of \$610 and uses the full draw of \$25,700 from our investment account. Our pledge goal has been increased over last year from \$590,000 to \$643,000. So far, we have received \$632,637 in pledges from 138 families. Our goal is to have 153 families make a pledge. A pledge is an indicator of our personal commitment to being good stewards of what God has given us. I urge you to prayerfully consider turning in a pledge if you have not yet done so.

Key Statistics at a Glance (2018-2024)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average Sunday Attendance	176	75	107	137	150	158	
Christmas Attendance	332	120	232	143	281	279	
Easter Attendance	391	363	240	341	370	359	
Children in Sunday School	62	69	50	40	38	43	
Outside Groups-Facility Use	26	22	14	14	19	21	
Number Pledging Households	139	133	129	137	147	135	
Total Collected Pledges	\$396,680	\$403,629	\$469,409	\$488,126	\$561,303	\$590,684	\$632,637 †
Total Income	\$488,469	\$495,718	\$558,478	\$579,736	\$666,743	\$729,878	\$772,360
Total Expense	\$493,502	\$495,406	\$532,326	\$571,597	\$666,743	\$732,239	\$771,750
Income – Expense	\$(5,033)	\$312	\$26,152	\$8,139	\$0	\$(2,361)	\$610
Total Draw on Net Assets	\$0	\$0	(\$22,040)	(\$17,214)	(\$24,465)	(\$24,850)	(25,700)

*2025 figures reflect those that are known at the time of printing on 1/23/25.

†These figures are based on projected pledges.

Church Financial Summary

Church Operating Budget Summary	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget			
INCOME						
Current Year Pledges*	\$ 590,000	\$ 590,684	\$ 643,000	*currently	\$632,637	
Other Offerings	\$ 48,500	\$ 45,492	\$ 47,500			
Admin Income	\$ 57,556	\$ 54,092	\$ 56,160			
Total Income	\$ 696,056	\$ 690,268	\$ 746,660			
*Number of pledging households		142	*138			
EXPENSES						
Personnel Expenses	\$ 421,921	\$ 416,864	\$ 436,650			
Subtotal Church Administration	\$ 72,026	\$ 76,642	\$ 77,180			
Building & Grounds	\$ 67,170	\$ 74,198	\$ 79,100			
Church Worship, Formation & Ministry	\$ 34,850	\$ 31,335	\$ 36,000			
Church Outreach	\$ 10,650	\$ 7,435	\$ 10,650			
Greater Church	\$ 124,840	\$ 125,765	\$ 132,170			
Total Expenses	\$ 731,457	\$ 732,239	\$ 771,750			
TRANSFERS						
Income from Investment Accounts	\$ 20,985	\$ 24,850	\$ 25,700			
Transfer from Sabbatical Account	\$ 14,760	\$ 14,760				
Total Transfers	\$ 35,745	\$ 39,610	\$ 25,700			
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$ 344	\$ (2,361)	\$ 610			
Designated Fund Summary						
	Balance 12/31/2023	Retained Earnings	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 12/31/2024
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 25,734	\$ 574	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ (41,309)	\$ -
Outreach	\$ 39,338	\$ -	\$ 17,871	\$ (17,451)	\$ 4,346	\$ 44,104
SMMS	\$ 28,361	\$ 3,764	\$ 6,097	\$ (2,111)	\$ (1,018)	\$ 35,092
Capital Improvements	\$ 118,348	\$ -	\$ 543,502	\$ (10,982)	\$ (352,404)	\$ 298,465
Reserve for Sabbatical	\$ 36,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (14,805)	\$ (5,160)	\$ 16,035
Worship & Ministry	\$ 11,457	\$ -	\$ 26,307	\$ (18,976)	\$ 1,620	\$ 20,408
TOTAL	\$ 259,238	\$ 4,338	\$ 608,777	\$ (64,324)	\$ (393,924)	\$ 414,104
Investment Account Summary						
	Balance 11/1/2023	Additions	Withdrawals	Dividends	Cap Gain/ (Loss)	Balance 10/31/2024
Episcopal DFMS Accounts	\$ 570,088	\$ -	\$ (24,850)	\$ 31,063	\$ 97,359	\$ 673,659
School Budget Summary						
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget			
INCOME						
Tuition	\$ 563,523	\$ 545,366	\$ 611,770			
Other Income	\$ 28,000	\$ 29,229	\$ 27,090			
Grants	\$ 12,830	\$ -	\$ -			
Total Income	\$ 604,353	\$ 574,596	\$ 638,860			
EXPENSES						
Personnel	\$ 528,422	\$ 506,972	\$ 557,631			
Classroom	\$ 11,000	\$ 14,324	\$ 11,900			
Administration	\$ 9,862	\$ 8,839	\$ 7,850			
Facility	\$ 54,741	\$ 53,613	\$ 62,860			
Total Expenses	\$ 604,025	\$ 583,749	\$ 640,241			
TRANSFERS						
SMMS Fundraising Transfer	\$ -	\$ 1,018	\$ 1,500			
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$ 327	\$ (8,135)	\$ 119			

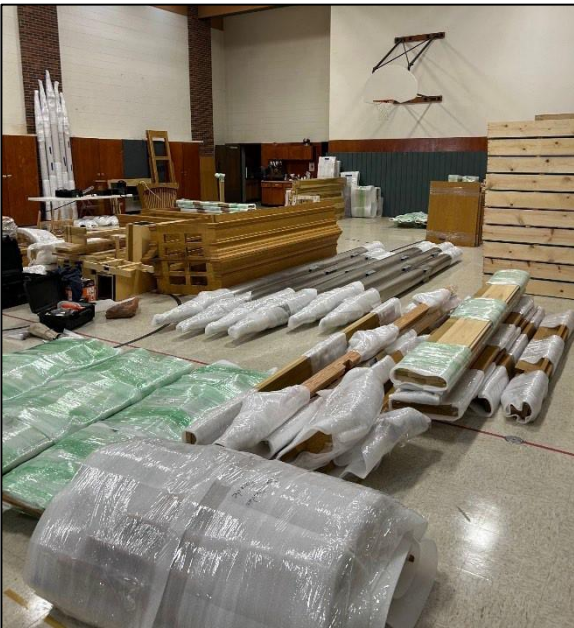
Building Renewal Committee

The St. Mark's Building Renewal Committee members come from a wide range of backgrounds and opinions; the committee includes Stretch Cole, Heather Gaume, David Hardy, Laurel Leisher-Cabral, Tim McIntire, Maribelle Ogilvie, Liz Reardon, Lucy Sinkular, Stephanie and Marcel Varoz, Jeremy Wirth and Fr. Christopher McLaren. Feel free to reach out to any of us with questions or ideas. Meanwhile, we decided this year's Annual Report provides the perfect opportunity to highlight the history of BRC work completed and shine a light on the next steps in the exciting process.

Timeline & Brief History of the Building Renewal Process

- In **2021**, Fr. Christopher began a serious exploration of the needs of the congregation for renewed space and the potential support for such an effort.
- In **December 2021**, Liturgical Design Consultant Robert Habiger provided Fr. Christopher a written proposal for Liturgical Design Consultation Services.
- On **April 28, 2022**, Robert Habiger attended the Vestry meeting to discuss his process, services, prior experience, past projects and the liturgical and spiritual foundation for his work. On that date, the Vestry voted to retain Robert Habiger to begin work on the Preparation Phase as outlined in his December 2021 proposal.
- From **May to September 2022**, Fr. Christopher and the Vestry began to seek members for the Building Renewal Committee, whose work was expected to reach as long as five years.
- On **October 20, 2022**, the BRC held its first meeting, with Stretch Cole and Maribelle Ogilvie as Co-chairs; Recorder, Liz Reardon; Marcel and Stephanie Varoz, prayer team; Hospitality team of Heather Gaume and Laurel Leisher-Cabral; and members Dave Hardy, Tim McIntire, Lucy Sinkular, Jeremy Wirth and Fr. Christopher McLaren.
- In **late 2022 and early 2023**, the BRC undertook a survey of parishioners to identify their priorities and learn how interaction with our space affects worship; the BRC conducted careful analysis of the results.
- In **August of 2023**, St. Mark's hired architect Paul Barribeau of Groth Design Group of Milwaukee, WI to help us develop a Master Plan for our facility and campus and help evaluate our current space—all in preparation for the Building Renewal Project.
- On **September 22-24, 2023**, we held Congregational Meeting #1 with architect Paul Barribeau. He met with Ministry Leaders and Staff and held a Congregational meeting on Sunday. We confirmed the building's existing architectural plans for documentation and began the site review.
- On **September 26, 2023**, St. Mark's learned that the First Christian Church in Colorado Springs might possibly sell its pipe organ. The LeTourneau instrument was built in 1995, consists of 37 ranks of pipes and three manuals and is christened "Opus 42."
- On **January 14, 2024**, we held Congregational Meeting #2 with Architect Paul Barribeau and our Liturgical Design Consultant, Robert Habiger and included small group discussions.

- On **January 17, 2024**, our Acoustic Consultant came on site to complete sound testing and measurement.
- In **March 2024**, the committee put out RFQ's to seek a partner to serve as an "estimating contractor" for our project.
- On **March 10, 2024**, we held Architect Visit and Congregational Meeting #3 to present a Master Plan and Conceptual Drawings. We also viewed some initial renderings of our concept.
- On **April 4, 2024**, about 20 St. Mark's parishioners made a field trip to Colorado Springs to visit the LeTourneau organ.
- On **July 31, 2024**, we signed the Agreement for Purchase of LeTourneau Organ from First Christian Church, Colorado Springs, for \$200,000. This was an astounding opportunity because such an instrument would cost many times as much if purchased new.
- In **August of 2024**, we finalized a contract with Organ Clearing House to disassemble Opus42 and transport it to Albuquerque for storage.
- During the **Summer 2024**, the BRC found a storage facility for the LeTourneau Organ where it can safely reside until it is installed into our renewed space. Many thanks to Stretch Cole for his essential research and hours of on-the-ground work.
- On **December 1, 2024**, Greg and Noralyn Hassold, Stretch Cole, Deb Bluestone, and Harrison Higgins formed a delegation from St. Mark's that traveled to Colorado Springs and attended a special service for the Decommissioning of Opus 42. They brought the First Christian congregation a special portfolio created by Pat Catlett and Deb Bluestone and personal notes from St. Mark's to First Christian members.
- On **December 2, 2024**, our organ consultant Scott Reidell and principal organist Jeremy Wirth inspected Opus 42 in Colorado Springs prior to its disassembly by contract.



- On **December 5, 2024**, St. Mark's Vestry approved a Feasibility Study contract with Vandersall Collective. The choice came after interviewing the two finalists for this work and interviewing many clients of both firms.
- From **December 2-18, 2024**, Organ Clearing House disassembled Opus 42 for its move to storage at the cost of \$210,000.
- On **December 21, 2024**, Opus 42 arrived in Albuquerque and was securely placed in its storage facility at Slater Transfer and Storage.
- On **January 1, 2025**, a working group comprised of BRC members, clergy and other parishioners began work on the fundraising feasibility study with Vandersall Collective.

- Looking ahead, on **February 23, 2025**, St. Mark's will hold a parish-wide meeting during adult-education time to introduce the capital campaign feasibility study process, the next step towards our building renewal.
- Then on **March 5, 2025**, Vandersall Collective will mail its fundraising feasibility study survey to every household.
- Later in **March 2025**, Vandersall will conduct in-person interviews with a cross-section of parishioners for the feasibility study.

Well! Look at that timeline! After more than *three years* of preliminary work, we are ready to move into a new phase of our Building Renewal project. We've created a Master Plan that encompasses projects to address our important needs and to accomplish goals for a renewed worship space. We've held three Congregational meetings to both keep the parish informed and to learn their priorities and special interests in the building renewal effort. The Building Renewal Committee continues to work in support of the parish's established core values: accessibility, flexibility, centrality of music with maintenance of an organ as a key element, balancing continuity of tradition with needs for the future, and ensuring beauty in this proposed renovation work for the thriving of the St. Mark's community.

Our purchase of the high-quality Letourneau pipe organ, Opus 42, from First Christian Church in Colorado Springs to replace our ailing 1958 Reuter pipe organ marked a big step forward. That purchase solidifies traditional music and a growing music program as priorities of our members. Next, the projects and ideas gleaned from the Building Renewal Committee's work among our parishioners will come before the entire congregation for discernment. See this brief description of the upcoming feasibility study guided by the Vandersall Collective.

Feasibility Study Coming Soon - Read, Pray, and Respond

On Sunday, February 23, 2025, St. Mark's will hold a parish-wide meeting during adult-education time to introduce the capital campaign feasibility study process, the next step towards our building renewal. The feasibility phase is an opportunity to hear directly from you as we discern the willingness and ability of our members to support a capital campaign. It is time to build trust within our community about levels of interest, levels of support, and to discover where the Spirit is at work in our midst as we create a place for St. Mark's to flourish.

Around March 5, 2025, Vandersall Collective will mail its fundraising feasibility study survey to every household with a consistent giving or pledging history. Anyone else interested who is without a giving or pledging history can request a survey by contacting Vandersall. Later in March, Vandersall will conduct in-person interviews with a cross-section of parishioners for the feasibility study. Look for feasibility surveys and a case statement outlining the project to hit your mailboxes or inboxes in early March 2025.

Please take time to **read, pray, and respond** to these invitations for input. We hope this vision for a building that is more welcoming, functional, and supportive of our mission as followers of Jesus will resonate with you. Stewarding all our resources, including the building that houses our ministries, is a vital part of our shared life as a church. We are eager to discern how each of us can contribute to this work.

The St. Mark's Building Renewal Committee members represent a wide range of backgrounds and opinions. The members of the Building Renewal Committee are: Stretch Cole, Heather Gaume, David Hardy, Laurel Leisher-Cabral, Tim McIntire, Maribelle Ogilvie, Liz Reardon, Lucy Sinkular, Stephanie and Marcel Varoz, Jeremy Wirth and Fr. Christopher McLaren. Feel free to reach out to any of us with questions or ideas!

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden
Father Christopher McLaren, Rector

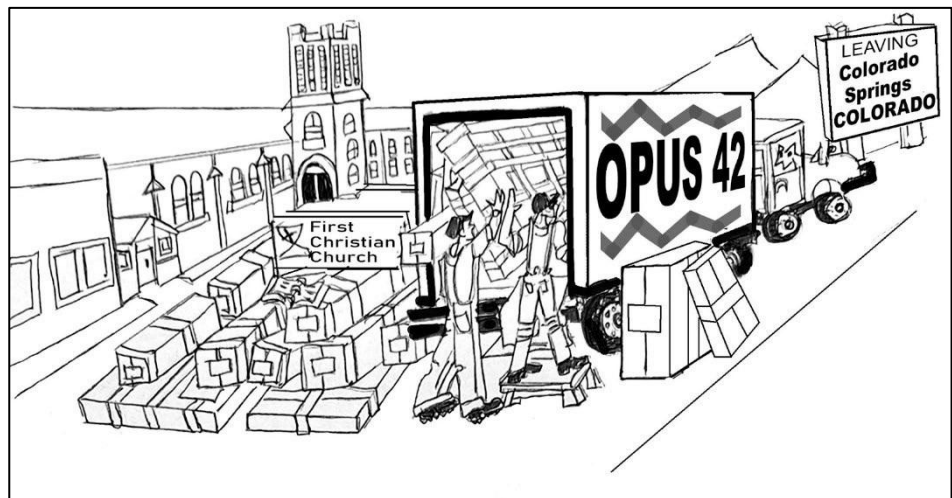
Ministry Updates - Within the Walls...

God is creating a sanctuary of growth and belonging among, within, and through us. Below you will find reports from *just a handful* of St. Mark's *many* ministries. Read on for a glimpse of what God has been doing in 2024 both **within and beyond** the walls of St. Mark's.

Within the Walls...Building Renewal Committee & Organ Project

Submitted by Jeremy Wirth

In preparation for the renewal of our church building, St. Mark's has purchased a previously owned pipe organ to be installed in the nave once the building renewal is complete. The organ was built by the Letourneau Organ Company of Quebec, Canada in 1996 and installed in the First



Christian Church of Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 2023 the First Christian Church voted to sell their building and move to a new location. They then came to the conclusion that the Letourneau organ needed to be sold separately from the building and began to seek a buyer. On April 4, 2024 a contingent of about 20 St. Mark's parishioners traveled to Colorado Springs to examine the instrument. In consultation with organ consultant Scott Riedel of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, leaders of our parish agreed to purchase the instrument and move it to Albuquerque. Attorney/parishioners Lucy Sinkular and Jeremy Wirth worked with an attorney for First Christian Church to negotiate an agreement, which was finalized in the summer of 2024 with a purchase price of \$200,000. The parish then entered into an agreement with the Organ Clearinghouse of Newcastle, Maine, to remove the organ from the church in Colorado Springs and place it in storage at Slater Moving and Storage in Albuquerque. That work was accomplished during December 2024. The organ now waits in

storage for the church building to be prepared for its installation. The leaders of the parish hope to enter a contract with the Letourneau Organ Company, which built the instrument, to install it in St. Mark's in 2026.

Within the Walls...St. Mark's Montessori School

Submitted by Caitlin McGuire [REDACTED]

St. Mark's Montessori School serves children ages 18 months to 6 years of age and currently have about 50 students enrolled. We provide an environment that is safe and engaging for the children to explore. Our teachers monitor for sensitive periods for the student's growth and interests. True to Dr. Montessori's method, we are always looking for new ways to nurture curiosity and growth in our students.

St. Mark's Montessori School achieved 3 stars in our FOCUS program in May '24 and will continue to pursue 4 stars while carefully following our Montessori pedagogy. We installed Astroturf around our cement playground and are working to install a watering system so that our lovely ponderosa pine continues to get sufficient oxygen and water. Our Toddler program has expanded giving us 20 Toddler enrollment spots! We have updated the playground door handle to improve security and are looking to improve the shade over our sand playground. The current bid range is \$8,300.



In August, we won a 'Sprout' award from New Mexico Grown Coalition for our garden and food education activities. In 2025, our mission is to continue to provide an outstanding environment for children and teachers to work in together.

Parishioners can get involved with St. Mark's Montessori School through sharing their skills, participating on our School Board, and material and monetary donations!

If you are a musician, artisan, scientist, performer, community helper, health professional, educator, or skilled professional, we would enjoy you sharing your skills and knowledge with our school! Please reach out and we can coordinate with what you would be interested in sharing. Crafters or artisans can help us repair well-loved materials, books, and furniture. Community members are now invited to come into the school on scheduled days to read and donate a book to the children.

Current School Board members are: Dinah Pierotti, Robin Hammer, Ken Reese, Christopher McLaren, Maren McLaren, Nancy Hilton, LeeAnna Sacoman, and Frances Chaves & Bryan Kaiser as our Parent Representatives. We meet once monthly to discuss school direction and growth.

Parishioners can also support our school through monetary contributions and material donations. Christmas Basket Raffle purchases are very impactful for our school. A Spring

raffle will be held during our Mardi Gras festivities, too! If you would like to donate to the school, please reach out to Ms. Caitlin McGuire (Director) [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Within the Walls...Holden Evening Prayer

Submitted by Jeremy Wirth [REDACTED]

The history of the Church offers a long tradition of morning and evening prayer liturgies, separate from the Eucharistic tradition. These devotional services have taken countless forms over the centuries. During 2024 St. Mark's Church experimented with evening prayer services on Wednesday evenings. During the summer we used the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. During the early fall, parishioner Kirk Landin led chant-based evening prayer services. During the Advent season we again used Holden Evening Prayer. In 2025 we plan to hold evening prayer services during some seasons of the year, while allowing for breaks during some seasons.

Within the Walls...Sacred Arts Guild

Submitted by Lisa Newell, lnewell2015@gmail.com

In 2024, the Sacred Arts Guild (SAG) continued its mission of supporting St. Mark's ministries and community presence through art. We featured four multi-artist shows in the Parish Hall this year on a three-month rotation schedule, and several single artist shows in the library with each exhibit lasting one to two months depending on the artist's availability and schedule. In total, the SAG raised \$2,973.10 from these shows which is used to support St. Mark's initiatives and outreach activities. A library show to raise funds for the new organ raised \$368.00 to date. We are thankful for the support and interest shown by members of the St. Mark's community.

2024 Sacred Arts Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance: \$4,385.60

Sales: \$8,958.00

Paid to artists: \$5,984.90

Expenses: \$ 368.00 (Organ Fundraiser Sales transferred to Organ Fund)

Ending balance: \$6,990.70

We continue to expand the artistic community at St. Mark's and beyond. It is always a delight to feature works of art created by St. Mark's Montessori School students. Our last show of the year featured paper icon images by St. Mark's child and youth members. This year, SAG expanded our outreach into the community, receiving numerous inquiries and show entries from artists who had not exhibited with us before.

Looking to 2025, we will continue to seek and welcome new artists to exhibit at St. Mark's. We will also continue to find ways to support St. Mark's initiatives, such as the new organ and construction projects. We welcome any, and all, with an interest in the Sacred Arts Guild to come join us.

Within the Walls...Flower Guild

Submitted by Brett Braud [REDACTED]

Now in its second year, the St. Mark's Flower Guild is doing well. Let me start by thanking this remarkable team: Heather Gaume, Doreen Gonsalves-Givens, Maribelle Ogilvie, Dinah Pierotti, Barbara Jupin, Ron Hanks and Aida Bingham.

Our goal remains the same: to create beautiful flower arrangements to enhance the worship experience of this beloved community.

The clergy, staff and congregation have been very responsive to our efforts. With that said, we are hoping to expand our team with at least two more members. Perhaps you've wondered if this is a ministry you could be a part of. We are eager to train new volunteers as either designers or assistants. No prior experience is required.



For more information, please contact Heather Gaume at [REDACTED] or Brett Braud at [REDACTED].

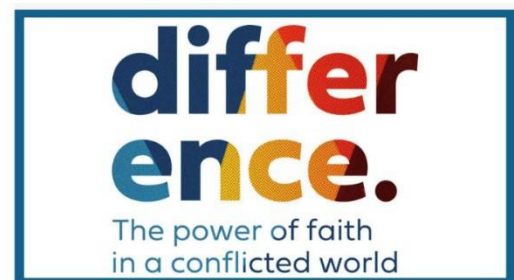
Please remember that fresh flowers are only made possible by the donations of parishioners. The sign-up poster is located in the narthex or you can sign up on the Forms page of the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Brett Braud
Flower Guild Director

Within the Walls... Spiritual Formation for Adults: Small Groups & Classes

Submitted by Mother Sylvia [REDACTED]

God continues to cultivate a sanctuary of growth and belonging among adults in our community through a variety of classes and small group offerings.



In 2024 Father Christopher led a Lenten Study on Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times by Soong-Chan Rah and an Advent Study on Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer by Eugene Peterson, in addition to his popular ongoing Sunday morning "(Not Just For) Newcomers" class, inspired by Scott Gunn's book, Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices.

In Lent we hosted our first parish-wide "Funeral Planning Party" and seminarian Sara Johnson facilitated a Way of Love class.

January 26, 2025

During the Summer, in addition to our annual “Summer of Conversation” program, we hosted a “Summer Sanctuary Series” in which several members shared their personal experiences of finding sanctuary through music, prayer, and service.

In August, Laurie LeBrecque introduced The Difference Course to St. Mark's, and helped facilitate sessions throughout the summer and fall at St. Mark's focusing on 3 spiritual habits (Be Curious, Be Present, Reimagine) to help us navigate conflict and disagreement with faith and hope.

This Fall we welcomed Kelley and Ric Tredwin of Altalune Wealth Advisors to offer two initial “Giving Makes You Happy” Workshops, as a way of beginning to provide tools to help our members cultivate financial health as one aspect of overall spiritual health.

In Fall of 2024 Mother Sylvia also launched two new Spiritual Support Groups that meet monthly on Saturday mornings at St. Mark's. Our Parenting Group and Eldering Group each provide spaces for honest sharing and mutual support among folks doing the hard spiritual and practical work of parenting or eldering (or both!)

Throughout the year, small groups enjoyed watching Seasons 2 & 3 of The Chosen, reading the Gospel of Mark in the First Nations Version of the Bible, exploring Sufi Prayer Practices and “Praying the Names of God” with Mary Catherine Casey, Contemplative Prayer gatherings with Father Michael Jupin, Praying the Anglican Rosary every Tuesday on Zoom, Storytelling w/Harriet Cole, Seasonal Morning Prayer and Yoga with Mother Sylvia, and a study of the “The Strangest Prayer” (aka the Lord's Prayer) with Karen Pound.

In 2025 our “Thursday Bible Study” Group (which meets every Thursday from 12-1:30pm is already planning to explore a variety of texts, including: The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder by Richard Rohr and Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons by Jan Richardson during Epiphany, Reading Genesis by Marilynne Robinson and Spirituality of the Psalms by Walter Brueggemann in Lent, Whistling in the Dark: A Doubters Diary by Frederick Buechner and various resources for healing in Eastertide.

We encourage you to participate in classes and groups at St. Mark's, and discover the growth and belonging that comes from studying, sharing, and praying together in a small group!

Within the Walls...Scouts

Submitted by Vicki Everett [REDACTED]

Pack 990 is a dynamic and inclusive Cub Scout group made up of 40 scouts from kindergarten through 5th grade. Our members represent a variety of schools and backgrounds from across the greater Albuquerque area.

We meet regularly to work on earning "Adventure Loops," which teach practical and engaging life skills through fun, age-appropriate activities.

We are deeply grateful to St. Mark's for their partnership, which helps us create lasting, positive experiences for youth in our community.

Know a child who might be interested in joining?
Contact us at [REDACTED].



Ministry Update - Beyond the Walls...

Beyond the Walls...Church Unbound

Submitted by Barbara & Michael Jupin, [REDACTED]
Also Joan Camera, Richard Meadows, and Sherry Reeder

The Diocese of the Rio Grande and its Ministry to the Homeless and Displaced developed **Church Unbound** to establish a Christian worship service without walls for those without and with shelter. Members of this ministry believe that to address spiritual needs on the streets of Albuquerque we must meet people "where they are" by engaging in mutual relationship building and practical hands-on ministry. The Rev. Dr. Chloe Chavez, Diocesan Missioner, oversees this ministry.

Church Unbound meets every Sunday (except the Sunday after Christmas), rain or shine, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Albuquerque Inn parking lot (7640 Central SE) across from the International District Public Library. Fellowship (with the distribution of bags of a sandwich, fruit, and treats) at 1:30 p.m. precedes an abbreviated service of Holy Communion at 2:00 p.m.

St. Mark's had a humble beginning in its participation in Church Unbound. The first sandwiches were defrosted peanut butter and jelly. Soon we were preparing 100-120 sliced ham or turkey and cheese sandwiches with both mayo and mustard. While sandwiches were being prepared in the kitchen, in the undercroft snack bags were being filled with a piece of fruit, chips, and a sweet treat. There, too, in the undercroft, the sandwiches were refrigerated overnight.



On Sunday morning the sandwiches are added to the snack bags and loaded into the cars of volunteers to be transported to the Church Unbound site (now the Albuquerque Inn). Before long donated clothing - especially warm pants and jackets - were added to the delivery of sandwich bags.

This past year a special Christmas gift was created for and given to street ministry participants: 108 Christmas stockings sewn by eight St. Mark's members and filled with candies (including candy canes), hand warmers, warm socks, tissue packets, and chap sticks, given by many, many church members. Another surprise gift came through St. Mark's business manager Laura Blum. Through her



membership in Keep America Warm – we received almost a hundred each of knitted hats and hand-woven scarves. What a gift! Thank you, Laura. Two members and the Outreach Committee ("Matthew 25") also purchased a "Pop-up" Tent Canopy to give shade and shelter to the volunteers and ministry participants.

This year we look to add homemade baked cookies as the sweet treat in the sandwich bags and develop a corp of sewers to create mittens from repurposed used sweaters, while also

continuing the "tradition" of stuffed Christmas stockings.

If you are interested in participating in or donating to this outreach ministry, please contact Barbara Jupin [REDACTED] Sherry Reeder [REDACTED] or Richard Meadows [REDACTED]. As this ministry spends almost \$200 for each Sunday it prepares sandwich bags, financial donations are especially welcome. Earmark your checks to St. Mark's for "Church Unbound."

Beyond the Walls...Feast of Hope

Submitted by Deacon David Martin [REDACTED]

In 2023, St. Mark's accepted an invitation to partner with La Mesa Presbyterian Church to host their annual Feast of Hope. The Feast of Hope is a dinner served on Thanksgiving Day to anyone who wants to take part. It is designed especially for anyone who does not have the means or place to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

In 2024, La Mesa expanded the invitation and 12 different churches throughout the city joined the event. This year, each parish was given the



opportunity to lead one aspect of the Feast. St. Mark's volunteered to work on procurement of supplies needed. Two weeks before Thanksgiving, three shopping experts from St. Mark's joined Deacon David in buying food and serving supplies. It is our intent to have the same position next year. Having been in charge of procurement once, we've figured out a system.

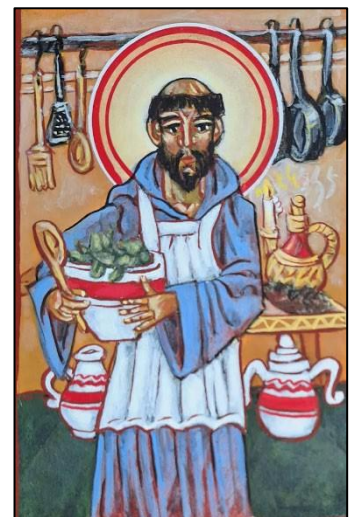
There are opportunities to help with the Feast of Hope in food preparation the three days before Thanksgiving and then on Thanksgiving Day as well. If you are interested in any aspect of the Feast of Hope, please contact Deacon David.

Beyond the Walls...Take Them a Meal

Submitted by Steve Hayden [REDACTED]

Website: [REDACTED]

Take Them A Meal is a ministry where church members deliver meals to fellow church members and/or their family members who find themselves in need of a delicious lovingly prepared meal. Life events occur and there sometimes is a need for a cooked/purchased meal to allow one to focus on assisting, coping, or healing from such a life situation. Take Them A Meal utilizes a website, by the same name, to help coordinate meals and requested days of needed meals. The website also offers delicious, fully-prepared meals that can be shipped directly to their door as well as recipes for dietary restrictions such as gluten free, low sodium, paleo, dairy free, vegetarian, diabetic, etc.



If you are interested in participating or have questions regarding this heartwarming ministry, please contact Steve Hayden [REDACTED] or email him at [REDACTED]. Many thanks to Sherry Reeder for overseeing this wonderful ministry in past years.

Beyond the Walls...Pastoral and Eucharistic Visits

Submitted by Deacon David Martin, [REDACTED]

Eucharistic Visits were plentiful in 2024. Eucharist Visitors are given a kit with the elements of bread and wine at the end of our worship service on Sunday mornings. Some people receive Eucharistic visit each month as the person cannot attend church. But there is also a need for temporary visits when someone is sick or can't make it to church for any reason.

These visits are pastoral in nature – bringing warmth and friendship to people who are not able to get out into the world as often as they would like. As a community, we are also able to determine special needs of those we visit and can help when it is needed.

As planned for 2024, each person receiving Eucharistic Visits was assigned a specific Sunday of each month. This plan was implemented to make sure everyone received a visit and to make the visits easier to track. However, after a few months, it became clear this brilliant idea was not sustainable. People being visited have unexpected interruptions.

There are two difficulties with planning Eucharistic Visits. The schedule is planned a month in advance so the visitors can plan their calendar accordingly. But the people being visited often cancel at the last minute – leaving someone ready to make a Eucharistic Visit with no one to see.

The second difficulty is the number of visitors required. We added four new visiting teams to our roster in 2024. But the demand for Eucharistic visits is growing. St. Mark's could use even more people interested in taking communion to people who can't make it to church.

If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Visitor, please contact Deacon David.

Beyond the Walls...Open Table Connection (Luther House) Campus Ministry
Submitted by Deacon David Martin

St. Mark's was invited to join the expansion of Luther House Campus Ministry this year. We readily accepted the invitation.

The new campus ministry is called Open Table. It is an inter-denominational approach to reaching young people on college campuses across the country. Open Table is a progressive and inclusive Christian Ministry. All denominations are welcome and encouraged to participate.



Open Table has an on-campus pastor, Rhonda Newby-Torres, in the facility near the west end of campus. St. Mark's clergy has worked with Rhonda in the past and were eager to join her in this new Open Table fellowship.



Mother Sylvia and Deacon David alternate weeks and attend Open Table Thursday night gatherings. We meet at 5:00 for dinner and conversation. It has been fulfilling to hear college students share their triumphs and struggles with each other. After dinner there is a program offering thoughts and insights on Christianity. This year, we are exploring how different theologies impact our Christian faith. The evening concludes at 7:30 with the Eucharist.

St. Mark's is talking with the Global Education Office at UNM about hosting Culture Nights in our St. Mark's facility. Culture Nights offer UNM students from other countries an opportunity to join others with similar cultures to be reminded of home and enjoy community in a familiar setting.

St. Mark's has made a financial commitment to Open Table at UNM. We then have a position on the board. Ryan Kangas is St. Mark's board member. If you have any questions or want further information about Open Table Campus Ministry, please contact Mother Sylvia or Deacon David.

Beyond the Walls...Camp Stoney and Diocesan Youth Programs

Submitted by Alex Miller-Mutia [REDACTED]

Members of St. Mark's are both experiencing and helping create a sanctuary of growth and belonging beyond the walls of St. Mark's through active participation and leadership in Camp Stoney and other Diocesan Youth Programs.

In 2024 we in the Diocese of the Rio Grande welcomed the Rev. Le Anna Brun [REDACTED] as our new Missioner for Christian Formation. Le Anna+ provides leadership and oversight for Camp Stoney, Youth Formation, and Young Adult programs for our diocese.



In 2024 I (Alex Miller-Mutia) was honored to serve as Head Counselor for Camp Stoney and as an adult chaperone and leader for several other diocesan youth events.

Highlights of our ministry in 2024 included:

Camp Stoney

- Intergenerational family camps and 2 regular camp weeks
- Young adult staff took charge of program planning and leadership
- Reintroducing the low ropes activities to the camp program

Snow Slam....

- Ice skating in Santa Fe
- One participant had such a good time they signed up for summer camp and brought their younger siblings

Taos Trip ...

- Connected kids from Taos, Española, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque
- New people who had never attended any diocesan events
- Hiked up to Williams Lake
- Community meal and tour during our visit to Hanuman Temple

My favorite part of these events is watching teens connect with each other and come out of their shells. There's something special about giving them the chance to just have fun for a week or weekend. Playing goofy games, enjoying nature, and making new friends, all away from the pressures of technology and daily stress. Overnight trips seem to magically break down the social barriers that often weigh heavily on kids and teens. I've seen deep friendships form in just a two-day weekend trip.

On the Taos trip, we did an activity where we sat in a circle, and people could voluntarily share things they appreciated about each other. These kids had known each other for less than 24 hours, but we had to limit the affirmations just to keep things moving! It was incredibly moving to see how quickly they recognized and celebrated each other's strengths.

I feel very privileged to help facilitate and support these experiences by working and volunteering at these events. It's truly rewarding to witness and be a part of these moments.

Plans are already underway for this new year's diocesan programs for youth and young adults, including Camp Stoney 2025, including:

- June 12-15 Family Camp (intergenerational)
- June 15-21 Classic Camp Session 1 (Grades 3-10)
- June 22-28 Classic Camp Session 2 (Grades 3-10)
- June 29-July 2 Family Camp (intergenerational)

Camp Stoney provides a terrific opportunity for members of all ages from St. Mark's as well as family and friends, to escape the pressures of everyday life and build friendships and faith in the context of a supportive spiritual community. Learn more and register at www.diooceserg.org/camp-stoney-and-snow-slam. Contact Rev. Le Anna Brun, Missioner for Christian Formation [REDACTED].

Beyond the Walls...LGBTQ+ Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande
Submitted by Deacon David Martin, edu@stmarksabq.org

In the Episcopal Church, we believe that everyone is a beloved child of God. In our baptismal vows we pledge that we will strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. The LGBTQ+ Ministry of the Diocese of the Rio Grande is supported by our Bishop. The goal of this ministry is to have visible and participatory offerings for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. The ministry wants to help everyone know that they, no matter how they identify, are welcome, loved, and accepted. Another goal is to help those who have been hurt by religion in the past heal from those wounds.

2024 Events:

- **May** – Drag Queen Bingo at St. Michael and All Angels in Albuquerque. Over \$1,000 was raised for the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico
- **June** – Pride Eucharist at St. Michael's and participation in the Albuquerque Pride Parade. We had the largest contingent ever since we started marching in 2008.
- **June** – Deacon David traveled to El Paso to celebrate Pride with the 5 Episcopal parishes there.
- **August** – Deacon David traveled to Gallup to celebrate Pride with the local parish, Church of the Holy Spirit.
- **September** - Cookout and Eucharist at Holy Cross parish in Edgewood
- **November** – Observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance at St. Michael and All Angels
- **December** – Bishop Hun conversation with the LGBTQ+ Ministry at St. Mark's about concerns with changes in national government
- **January** – St. Mark's hosted a viewing of the movie "1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture."

Since the beginning of this ministry in 2016, Deacon David has been instrumental in its operation and outreach to the wider church. If you are interested in helping with the LGBTQ+ Ministry of our diocese or want to be included on the mailing list, please contact Deacon David.



St. Mark's Ministry List

If you are interested in any of our Ministries, please contact the person listed. We are always excited to welcome new members to our Ministries!

OPEN- denotes an opportunity for calling a new leader.

TBD – denotes a position usually decided by Vestry or the SMMS board.

Leadership		
Group	Clergy/Staff Contact	Member Contact
Vestry	Fr. Christopher McLaren	TBD
Deanery/Convention Delegates	Fr. Christopher McLaren	TBD
Finance	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Ken Reese [REDACTED]
Stewardship	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Lucy Sinkular [REDACTED]
Office Volunteers	Jennifer Lind, Parish Administrator	Heather Gaume [REDACTED]
Montessori School	Caitlin McGuire, Director	Dinah Pierotti [REDACTED]
Building/Physical Environment		
Group	Clergy/Staff Contact	Member Contact
Building Renewal Committee	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Maribelle Ogilvie [REDACTED] Stretch Cole [REDACTED]
"Fix-It" Group	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Stretch Cole_ [REDACTED]
Building & Grounds Committee	Jennifer Lind	TBD (traditionally Jr. Warden)
Worship – Music		
Group	Clergy/Staff Contact	Member Contact
Choir	Patrick Dill	N/A
Organ	Jeremy Wirths	N/A
Worship – Liturgy		
Group	Clergy/Staff Contact	Member Contact
Greeters	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Catherine Vogel [REDACTED]
Ushers	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Jo Ann Swinson [REDACTED]

Worship – Liturgy (Cont.)		
Group	Clergy/Staff Contact	Member Contact
Altar Guild	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	Darcie Farrow [REDACTED] Cleo Ochs [REDACTED]
Flower Guild	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Brett Braud [REDACTED]
Acolytes	Fr. Christopher McLaren	TBD
AV Team	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Jon Wright [REDACTED]
Lectors/Intercessors	Deacon David Martin	Catherine Vogel [REDACTED]
Communion Bread Bakers	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Lynette Cole [REDACTED]
Funerals	Fr. Christopher McLaren	-
Community Care		
Group	Clergy/Staff Contact	Member Contact
Homelessness/Church Unbound	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	Joan Camera [REDACTED] Barbara Jupin [REDACTED]
Immigration/Asylum Seekers	Deacon David Martin	Pauline Artery [REDACTED]
Gardening Group (nascent)	Fr. Christopher McLaren	OPEN
Sacred Arts Gallery	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	Lisa Newell [REDACTED]
DRG LGBTQ+	Deacon David Martin	Ryan Trumbauer [REDACTED]
ABQ FaithWorks	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	OPEN
Summer of Conversation	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Else Tasseron [REDACTED]
Newcomer Welcome & Follow-Up	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	TBD
Coffee Hour	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Pauline Artery [REDACTED]
Pancakes	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Aric Elsenheimer [REDACTED]
Big Parties (Mardi Gras, Easter Vigil)	Fr. Christopher McLaren/ Deacon David Martin	Maribelle Ogilvie [REDACTED]
Take Them a Meal	Deacon David Martin	Steve Hayden [REDACTED]

Community Care (Cont.)		
Group	Clergy/Staff Contact	Member Contact
Funeral Receptions	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Gerald Carlin [REDACTED]
Eucharistic Visitors / Pastoral Visits	Deacon David Martin	Deb Bluestone [REDACTED]
Intercessory Prayer List	Deacon David Martin	N/A
Eldering Group	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	Cheryl Digman [REDACTED]
Parenting Group	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	Maggie Brophy [REDACTED]
Formation		
Group	Clergy/Staff Contact	Member Contact
Baptism & Confirmation	Fr. Christopher McLaren Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	OPEN
SMMS Board	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Dinah Pierotti [REDACTED]
SMMS Chapel	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	N/A
Sunday School Children's Chapel	Deacon David Martin	TBD
Sunday School – Godly Play	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	Maren McLaren [REDACTED]
Sunday School – Upper Elementary	Deacon David Martin	Heather Gaume [REDACTED]
Sunday School – Middle School	Deacon David Martin	Rachel Ribeiro [REDACTED]
Campus Ministry-Open Table Connection	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia Deacon David Martin Rev. Rhonda Newby-Torres [REDACTED]	Ryan Kangas (Board) [REDACTED]
Camp Stoney & Diocesan Youth Events	Deacon David Martin Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	Alex Miller-Mutia [REDACTED]
Adult Ed Small Groups (Various)	Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	Various
Adult Ed (Sunday Classes)	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Billie Abraham [REDACTED] Harrison Higgins [REDACTED]
Icon Writers/School of Sacred Arts	Fr. Christopher McLaren	Lin Marksbury [REDACTED]
Contemplative Prayer	Michael Jupin jmjupin7@gmail.com	Harrison Higgins [REDACTED]

Worship



Welcoming the full participation and gifts of all of our members to sustain a robust worship life that nourishes souls and glorifies God. We offer services on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

We are happy that our Thursday service is as robust as our main Sunday service and especially thank all of our guest preachers including our retired clergy and others.

All services take a group of volunteers to make them happen, from Altar Guild, the Tech Team,

Flower Guild, Children's Chapel Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Greeters. We always have a place for you if you would like to help with the services. Please contact a clergy or staff member to discuss how you may help out with our most sacred events.

Music

Submitted by Jeremy Wirth, D.M.A., [REDACTED]

The music of St. Mark's was led by an expanding team of musicians in 2024. The members of the choir continue to provide faithful and tireless service to the parish. The Choir led the music of every Sunday liturgy during the year. The Choir also sang in numerous special liturgies, including Ash Wednesday, Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil of Easter, and many others. The choir sang at both services on Christmas Eve, leading both the 5:00 and 8:00 Eucharists. The choir continues to facilitate the singing of the traditional choral repertoire and hymns of the Episcopal Church, while constantly experimenting with new styles, as found in *Gather* and other resources.

The Choir continues to grow and flourish. The choir welcomed several new members this year and seeks to provide a warm welcome and helpful resources to new singers. Several soloists from the choir sang psalms and other liturgical music in various services. Members of the choir also provided solos on Christmas Eve and other occasions. The choir was especially proud of their performance of the *Litany to the Virgin Mary* by Mozart during Advent. Taylor Spence served faithfully as Choir Librarian, assisted by Natalie Adolphi.

The Choir welcomed Patrick Dill, DMA, as its director in the fall of 2024. Patrick and his family moved to Albuquerque during the summer to accept a position in the University of New Mexico Department of Music, where Patrick teaches choral music education.

John Garlisch continues to serve as Assistant Organist. John leads some choir rehearsals and plays the organ primarily in Jeremy's absence, but on some occasions Jeremy and John lead services together. John has also played at a variety of special parish events.

The flourishing of the choir is also made possible by other leaders such as Jeremy Wirth, Hannah Stephens, Kelli Dahlke-Fuentes, Jacqueline Zander-Wall, and Gabriel Deyarmond. The choir is a community and a team, and members constantly step in to help and support one another.

While welcoming several new members, the choir said goodbye to Carolyn Huff. Carolyn sang in our choir for a few years while serving as a hospital chaplain in Albuquerque. In the summer Carolyn accepted a call to serve as Priest in Charge of two parishes in Iowa. The choir misses her insight and wit a great deal. The choir also misses Jesse Murray, a faithful member who is currently living abroad. Fortunately Jesse will return in the summer of 2025.

St. Mark's musicians also provided instrumental music throughout the year. Asher Barreras and Rowan McJimsey, when he is in town, played the piano in liturgies, coffee hour, and other events. Kirk Landin provided saxophone music for Good Friday that deeply enhanced the service. A brass group played loudly on Easter morning. Several musicians provided special music on Christmas Eve. Entourage, a jazz ensemble, provided music on a Sunday in February. These are only a few examples of the wonderful music provided by many musicians throughout the year.





Some staff favorite photos from 2024: Mo. Sylvia receiving award from Bishop Hunn, staff trying out donated scarves and hats, and Bishop Hunn leading an LGBTQ+ conversation.

Attachment 1: FY Annual Meeting Minutes, January 28, 2024

**St Mark's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Annual Meeting
Held January 28, 2024**

This year's annual meeting was incorporated into Sunday worship. The Parish received the document "St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2023 Annual Parish Report *"Rekindle the Gift of God that is Within You,"* which included written reports on various ministries. This report is appended to these *Minutes*.

Meeting Within the Liturgy

1. A special *Collect for the Day and Annual Meeting* was offered at the beginning of liturgy.
1. For the Sermon, Fr. Christopher McLaren delivered the **Rector's Report**.
2. The Prayers of the People included special blessings and thanksgiving for all lay and ordained ministers involved in serving God's people in our Parish and beyond.
0. Following the Peace, Treasurer Miranda Eastham gave the **Stewardship, Finance, and Budget Reports**.

76th Annual Business Meeting

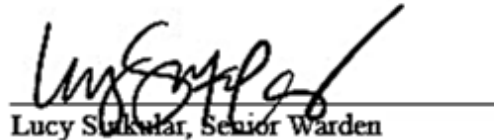
0. Following Holy Communion and the Post-Communion Prayer, Rector Christopher McLaren called to order the business portion of the Annual Meeting. Parishioners remained in their pews in the sanctuary for the remainder of the agenda.
0. Clerk of the Vestry Deb Bluestone was appointed Secretary of Annual Meeting. *A motion was made, seconded, and passed by acclamation.*
7. Election: Deb Bluestone, Steve Hayden, and Sherry Reeder were nominated to fill three vacancies on the Vestry for three-year terms. Scott Sinkular was nominated as the Parish Delegate to the Diocesan Convention. The election was conducted by paper ballot during the meeting.
8. The **Annual Meeting Minutes for January 29, 2023** were received, a committee of the Vestry having previously approved them at the February 2023 Vestry meeting.
9. Acceptance of Annual Report: The Parish officially accepted all **Financial Reports and Leadership Reports** in the Annual Report as presented. *A motion was made, seconded, and passed by acclamation.*

10. Senior Warden Report: Lucy Sinkular briefly addressed the congregation with a personal reflection, encouraging members to consider their own call as a lay person to find a place of belonging and contribution in Christ's work at St. Mark's.
11. SMMS Report: St. Mark's Montessori School Director Caitlin McGuire's report to the congregation included updates on enrollment and efforts to create an increasingly strong foundation for children going into first grade. SSMS is currently taking steps to implement the New Mexico preschool FOCUS program, qualifying the school for other grants and resources. Community members are encouraged to share their skills and knowledge with the children by teaching and demonstrating. Parishioners can also support the school through monetary contributions to the online Montessori Material Registry.
12. Election Results: Ty Camp, the Junior Warden, brought results of the paper balloting forward to Fr. Christopher, resulting in the election of Deb Bluestone, Steve Hayden, and Sherry Reeder to the Vestry and Scott Sinkular as the Parish Delegate to the Diocesan Convention.
13. Adjournment: Following announcements, Fr. Christopher adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.
- The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia gave the final blessing.
 - The congregation sang hymn #493 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" for the closing hymn, then gathered in the Parish Hall for a community breakfast.

Minutes approved at the MUNA ^{21, 2024} meeting of the Vestry.

MINUTES APPROVED:


Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector


Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden

In Memoriam... a few of our new Saints in 2024

1st row: Aldo Arias, Sally Blackstad, Bill Bottorf, Steve Bowman. 2nd row: Thomas Heldt Jr., Mark Hendrick, Paul Holzman, Bill Leisher, JoAnn Marksbury. 3rd row: Ramona Montoya, Sean Murphy, Holly Pence, Martha Smith.

