

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT



ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 30, 2022

Rector's Annual Report for 2021

Rising to the Challenge. Reconnecting with Joy. Reaching out in Love.

First, I want to express my continuing gratitude for the gift and opportunity to serve as the Rector of St. Mark's. I am now in my 11th year of ministry at St. Mark's and continue to feel blessed to be a part of this dynamic, idiosyncratic, fun-loving, deep-thinking and amazing parish. I'm blessed to work with a really talented and creative staff that love what they do and care deeply for our community. This year we added two incredible staff members to our team. Tricia Morton, Director of St. Mark's Montessori School, who is doing a fabulous job of leading our Montessori Preschool through some of the most challenging years we've ever experienced. She is doing this with grace, incredibly hard work and good humor and is aided by her able assistant director, Jordyn Whisenant. We were also blessed with the addition of Jeremy Wirths, as our new Director of Music. Jeremy's many gifts and deep relational skills have brought welcome growth to our music program and choir. One of the gifts in my life as your rector is the partnership I enjoy with our talented Sr. Warden Lucy Sinkular. Lucy is not only incredibly organized and hard-working, she is deeply grounded in her faith, incredibly generous with her gifts and passionate about helping people find places to serve that are a good fit with their god-given gifts. I'm also deeply grateful for the many volunteers and ministry leaders that have stepped up to make our transition to in-person worship and formation possible. There are so many people that we could not do church without and I want to thank all of you who make the life of this community possible from setting the altar to making coffee, from singing in the choir to running the AV Desk, from acolyting to teaching youth classes, from serving on vestry to being part of the school board. There are so many ways that people bring life and vitality to the community, I cannot begin to thank everyone. I'm also deeply grateful for the kindness and loving care you continue to show to towards me, Maren and our family. This past week I celebrated my 21st Anniversary of Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood. The opportunity to serve as a priest where I feel deeply supported and encouraged in my vocation is a joy. I remain deeply committed to St. Mark's for the long-haul and continue to enjoy the work and look forward to the adventures that 2022 will bring.

Rising to the Challenge.

Looking back over the past year+ at St. Mark's makes me grateful to be a part of this adaptable faith community. We've managed to keep our congregations alive and growing despite the challenges. Early in the year we delivered Lenten devotionals and Mardi Gras beads and treats to every household thanks to bakers and delivery drivers. Finally, in Holy Week we were able to start worshipping in person again. Since Holy Week of 2021 we've been gradually re-gathering our strength and our community though things are still far from our pre-pandemic form. It's been challenging but also fun. When you are part of a community that truly believes that God is making all things new, you can take risks, adapt in new ways, and let the strictures of perfectionism go realizing that they are so often the enemy of the good. One of the ways we rose to the challenge was to invest in our future. We installed a new Audio-Visual System that was a game-changer for our online streaming of worship and other events. This was an investment of nearly \$50,000 which was a huge risk and a great boon. We've moved from streaming using laptops and phones and portable speakers and a single mic to streaming with robotic cameras, a new sound system and probably the only video display in the entire Diocese of the Rio Grande. I know that this was hard for some of us, as Episcopalians we appreciate our tradition deeply and the sense of beauty in our liturgy is important. While Covid has taught us the importance of adaptive change in the church that was a long-time coming, it's also reminded us of all we hold dear and made us long for personal connection and a depth of community. I'm so grateful for the AV team, anchored largely by our



own teenage members Rowan and Malcolm McJimsey, Keelin Morton and Talia McLaren and adults, Ty Camp and Barry Hogge, that handle two computers, a Yamaha Mixer, 4 monitors, 5 cameras, a video switcher and camera controller all while running zoom and streaming to Facebook and soon YouTube as well. I'm also grateful for the choir coming back to sing together in a new way, thus bringing the beauty of music and hymnody back into our midst. All of this was not easy and we've had our moments when we needed to pull-back for a bit. We struggled with a cumbersome system of registering for church and trying to figure out where to sit in numbered pews. What a relief it was when we could just sit anywhere in the nave and not surprisingly many of you went back to sitting right where you did before the pandemic (this makes taking attendance on Sunday so much easier ;-) thanks. But please be kind if someone dares to sit in your pew that really isn't yours.)

I feared that we would struggle to grow and to be financially stable during the pandemic, but to my surprise and delight we grew despite the pandemic and perhaps because of it. People found the warm accepting community that they needed to heal from past wounds and to reconnect with their spiritual needs and a relationship with God. A recent Google review of our church said it this way, "This church is a safe place for people from any walk of life and they really do believe in God's unconditional love for any one of their children. To put it plainly this is a safe place for the LGBT+ community. I'm so happy to have found St. Mark's and the people here, the presence of God's love is real, strong and present in the people who attend this church, and coffee hour after services is always an extra blessing." During the 2nd year of Covid our membership expanded and the giving in support of God's work at St. Mark's and in the world was the strongest ever. What a blessing it is to be part of a generous congregation that is also generous with its time and energy ensuring the vitality of our life together and our ministry beyond.

Reconnecting with Joy.



The pandemic has meant a good deal of isolation for many in our community as it has drug-on and we are still trying to reach out and reconnect with people whom we have not seen in many months. My deep hope is that as the virus begins to recede, we as a community will enjoy a rich time of reconnecting as we rebuild the thick network of relationships that enabled us to weather the difficulties of the last two years. I look forward to a new Summer of Conversation in 2022 as it seems a much needed and greatly desired effort.

One of the most satisfying aspects of having had online and hybrid worship, groups and classes has been seeing people who have actually met each other on line in the Hollywood Squares of Zoom to get to connect in person at church. Indeed we have noticed that Coffee Hour after worship is an immense blessing as it provides much needed relational time and connection. Witnessing this over the past months has led us to begin to re-think our Sunday schedule and Formation opportunities. It is our hope to continue to host a robust coffee hour after worship and to begin classes at 11:30 for 45 minutes as we move back into formation offerings on Sunday mornings. We are starting modestly as we don't have as many volunteers to facilitate, teach and lead as we'd like but we are confident that this aspect of our life together will grow as well. Sunday morning classes will focus predominately on forming children, youth and newer members in the faith. There is always a blessing in focusing on the foundational pieces of our faith and revisiting the core practices and teaching of the Christian way of life. We hope in time that other courses and experiences will be offered during the week to our diverse and curious membership that will offer further pathways of growth in the life of faith. All of this will enable us to Reconnect with Joy and to welcome others into this community as we Make something beautiful for God in this Neighborhood.

Reaching out in Love.

One of the things that is clear about St. Mark's is that we are called to serve. It's not an optional part of the Christian life and when I speak to our parishioners it's not only on their minds and in their heart but they are already taking action in some way. People are taking meals to people who need them each week, we have volunteers working with asylum seekers through ABQ FaithWorks and Lutheran Family Services, people are giving resources to Roadrunner Food Bank and helping to load trucks and package up food, others are parlaying their love of animals and the blessings of therapy animals in hospitals and long-term care facilities, one of our members cuddles premature babies several days a week early in the morning. All of this is important because one of the things our worship life is meant to do, is support, inspire and impel us into the world in service.

Covid has made some of this "outreach" rather difficult and the loss of our regular ministry at HopeWorks serving a Sunday breakfast meal was a real sadness. We are working more intentionally to find ways for our parish to participate in acts of mercy and lovingkindness in the world and that will be a focus of our life together over the next year. We have joined the Diocesan effort on the border by becoming a partner parish and are anxiously awaiting what that might mean for us and how we can become more involved. Our care and share Sundays, each 4th Sunday have been met with enthusiasm as we create Mana Bags, engage in meaningful conversations about immigration and begin to discover ways to work together.

There is great work ahead of St. Mark's in the coming year. St. Mark's is blessed to be a blessing in our neighborhood, in our city and to other faith communities as well as we collaborate, encourage and work with one another in the work of being God's people in the world. Recently in our Inquirer's Class we heard Lillian Daniel offer a talk as part of the Animate: Faith series on why being part of an actual faith community mattered. Her points mesh well with what it means to be: Grounded in Tradition, Centered in Worship, Called to Serve and Free to Dream. We intend for all of these core values to be at work at St. Mark's as we continue to Rise to the Challenge, Reconnect with Joy, and Reach out in Love.

In God's Generous and Surprising Love,
Fr. Christopher McLaren †



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Order of Worship and Annual Meeting Agenda

January 30, 2022

The annual meeting has been incorporated into worship this year. The agenda matches the Order of Worship, with an official Call to Order at the end of the service for the election. Recorded leadership reports will follow in worship throughout February.

Organ Prelude

Jeremy Wirths, Music Director

Welcome

The Rev. Christopher McLaren

Opening Hymn

#412 "Earth and All Stars"

Opening Acclimation & Collect for Purity

The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia

Gloria

#S278

Collect for the Day and Annual Meeting

The Lessons

- The First Reading
- Hymn
- The Second Reading
- Sequence Hymn
- The Gospel
- The Sermon and Rector's Report

#707 "Take My Life"

#488 "Be Thou My Vision"

Fr. Christopher McLaren

The Nicene Creed

Thanksgiving and Prayers for Candidates

Confession of Sin and Absolution

The Peace

Offertory

Stewardship Finance and Budget Reports

Miranda Eastham, Treasurer

The Holy Communion and Post Communion Prayer

Leadership and Elections

- Call to Order
- Appointment of the Secretary and Clerk of the Vestry, Sherry Reader
- Election of New Vestry Members and Delegates
- Acceptance of FY 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2020
- Senior Warden's Report - Lucy Sinkular
- Acceptance of Financial Reports and Leadership Reports as Presented

Election Results - Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden; and Laurel Leisher, Junior Warden

- 1st Ballot
- 2nd Ballot (if necessary)

Announcements

Adjournment of Annual Meeting

Lucy Sinkular, Sr. Warden

Blessings The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia

Closing Hymn

#518 "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

Pancake Breakfast

Senior Warden's Report

Dear Fellow Members of the St. Mark's Family,

I do not believe any one of us would have guessed that the church's annual meeting at the start of 2022 would be hampered by Covid-19 concerns. Yet, here we are in the third year of pandemic and we are all learning new Greek letters and having our meeting in a new and creative fashion.

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as the Senior Warden for 2021. Those who are old hands at all things Episcopal will know this position has somewhat of an organizational importance. Those of you newer to our faith tradition may like to hear a bit more. As the Senior Warden, I am the "chair" for the Vestry meetings, and I do my best to see that things keep moving along in an orderly fashion, that no important business is left undone and that we focus on what is most important in service to you. I have another important duty, though, and it is the more crucial job, in my view. I try to organize things such that Fr. Christopher has what he needs to minister to all of us, to meet our spiritual needs and to be as effective and fulfilled in his job as our Rector as is possible.

For me, this job has been very rewarding! I've developed good friendships with many of you whom I did not know so well, and I've learned so much about all that St. Mark's does. I want for every one of you to know and experience St. Mark's as your faith community and true spiritual home. This means that we as the Vestry need to learn and understand what YOU need from your church! I have worked hard to find ways to help people discover their own, unique spiritual gifts, and to participate in St. Mark's in the way that brings the most joy and satisfaction.

We are a diverse group at St. Mark's! We have many talents, and many needs. Some of us right now have little in the way of strength or time to give and need love and support from the rest of us. Others find they have more time now than they did before and are looking for ways to contribute. The pandemic has isolated us from our communities—whether they be our extended family, work colleagues or even neighbors. We hope that St. Mark's will continue to be a place of connection for you, virtually or in-person, and that you will consider how God may be calling you to participate in the life of the church.

Please take the time to experience Annual Meeting by reading reports, by listening to video clips and also by praying for our clergy and crucial lay workers. How do you see yourself fitting in to the work of our Faith Community? What needs do you see that you could meet? As the Senior Warden, and more importantly, just as another soul embarked on this journey of faith, I welcome the chance to talk with you! Let's find a Zoom breakout room, or better yet, a corner of the courtyard out of the wind, and put our heads together so we can cooperate making something beautiful for God in this place.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden
lucy.sinkular@gmail.com



Treasurer's Report

2021! Year two of the Pandemic. And still, St. Mark's continued to flourish. Our budget for 2021 called for a surplus of \$164 and we actually ended the year with a surplus of \$26,152! Our overall income exceeded the budget because of the overwhelming generosity of our community. Expenses were down in a large part because of our exceedingly generous Business Manager, Ken Reese, who volunteered his time to do the job in 2021. I can't thank Ken enough for stepping into the position and doing such an amazing job.

A portion of the 2021 surplus will be used to retire a small prior year equity deficit. Additionally, the budget for 2021 included a draw from our Investment Account of \$22,040, but that money was not needed for operations. During the year, the Vestry began to envision improvements that could be made to our facility. To that end, it was decided that any remaining surplus from 2021 and also the budgeted draw from 2021 will be used to seed a new capital fund called Worship and Facility Planning.

On the Financial report page, you will see a section referring to Designated Funds. These are funds that people have contributed to in addition to their Pledge. These funds also include fundraising efforts of the School and Church such as the plant sale, the sale of ornaments and magnets donated by Bill Cole and the auction of the beautiful nativity donated by Else Tasseron. As you can see, these funds have seen considerable growth in 2021.

St. Mark's budget for 2022 is a reflection of our community's strong commitment to Giving and Growing in Faith. Our giving goal has been increased over last year from \$450,000 to \$480,000. In the budget we were able to give raises to all of the staff to keep pace with cost-of-living increases. We were also able to make adjustments for the expected continuing costs of inflation. The current 2022 budget results in a deficit of \$13,700 and uses a draw of \$22,500 from our Investment Account for operations. This draw is less than the predicted dividend earnings for the year. The Vestry approved this deficit budget with the belief that our stewardship will continue to grow throughout the year.

For the 2022 Stewardship season we have received \$482,000 in Pledges from 133 families. Our goal is to have 150 families make a Pledge. One of the markers of vitality at St. Mark's is not only the dollars involved, but also the number of Pledges we receive. A Pledge is an indicator of our personal commitment to being good stewards of what God has given us. This year, we would like to encourage those who worship and learn with us online to participate in our stewardship commitments. Every gift is important as St. Mark's strives to become a sustainable congregation for years to come. If your budget is tight as many are, why not consider a small Pledge of \$5.00 or \$10.00 per month? I personally urge you to prayerfully consider turning in a Pledge if you have not yet done so.

Respectfully submitted,
Miranda S. Eastham, Treasurer

Key Statistics at a Glance (2015-2022)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average Sunday Attendance	146	166	162	166	176	75	107	
Christmas Attendance	281	306	337	338	332	120	232	
Easter Attendance	283	294	379	329	391	363	240	
Children in Sunday School	40	45	45	54	62	69	50	
Outside Groups-Facility Use	18	22	19	20	26	22	14	
Number Pledging Households	113	117	115	141	139	133	129	133*
Total Collected Pledges	\$245,000	\$267,000	\$294,515	\$342,480	\$396,680	\$403,629	\$469,409	Projected: 482,012
Total Income	\$335,000	\$349,000	\$368,890	\$406,279	\$488,469	\$495,718	\$558,478	588,215†
Total Expense	\$360,000	\$364,000	\$368,912	\$410,567	\$493,502	\$495,406	\$532,326	\$601,933†
Income - Expense	\$(25,000)	\$(15,000)	\$(22)	\$(4,287)	\$(5,033)	\$312	\$26,152	(13,718)†
Total Draw on Net Assets	\$19,200	\$21,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(22,040)	(22,495)†

**2022 figures reflect those that are known at the time of printing on 1/27/22.*

† These figures are based on projected pledges.

Church Operating Budget Summary

Church Operating Budget Summary

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
INCOME			
Current Year Pledges*	\$ 450,000	\$ 469,409	\$ 480,000
Other Offerings	\$ 33,950	\$ 47,504	\$ 40,700
Admin Income	\$ 41,300	\$ 41,565	\$ 45,020
Income from Investment Accounts	\$ 22,040	\$ -	\$ 22,495
Total Income	\$ 547,290	\$ 558,478	\$ 588,215
*Number of pledging households	129		133

*currently \$482,012

EXPENSES

Personnel Expenses	\$ 321,970	\$ 293,268	\$ 347,366
Subtotal Church Administration	\$ 42,356	\$ 54,724	\$ 53,305
Building & Grounds	\$ 65,200	\$ 61,085	\$ 66,296
Church Worship, Formation & Ministry	\$ 12,300	\$ 18,709	\$ 25,330
Church Outreach	\$ 6,650	\$ 6,600	\$ 4,650
Greater Church	\$ 98,651	\$ 97,940	\$ 104,986
Total Expenses	\$ 547,126	\$ 532,326	\$ 601,933

EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$ 164	\$ 26,152	\$ (13,718)
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Designated Fund Summary

	Balance 1/1/2021	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 12/31/2021
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 20,626	\$ 127,193	\$ (11,610)	\$ (126,388)	\$ 9,821
Outreach	\$ 38,007	\$ 10,839	\$ (13,239)	\$ 350	\$ 35,957
SMMS Assets	\$ 4,142	\$ 2,741	\$ -	\$ 49,381	\$ 56,264
Capital Improvements	\$ 59,470	\$ 28,728	\$ (69,340)	\$ 101,022	\$ 119,880
Reserve for Sabbatical	\$ 18,000	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 3,500	\$ 24,000
Worship & Ministry	\$ 31,245	\$ 15,927	\$ (13,782)	\$ (974)	\$ 32,417
TOTAL	\$ 171,490	\$ 187,928	\$ (107,971)	\$ 26,891	\$ 278,338

Investment Account Summary

	Balance 1/1/2021	Additions	Withdrawals	Div & Cap Gain/Loss	Balance 12/31/2021
Episcopal DFMS Accounts	\$ 665,086	\$ 17,432	\$ (22,040)	\$ 61,508	\$ 721,986

School Budget Summary

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
INCOME			
Tuition	\$ 227,580	\$ 214,958	\$ 312,155
Other Income	\$ 20,753	\$ 19,480	\$ 22,775
Grants	\$ -	\$ 89,550	\$ 74,550
Total Income	\$ 248,333	\$ 323,988	\$ 409,480

EXPENSES

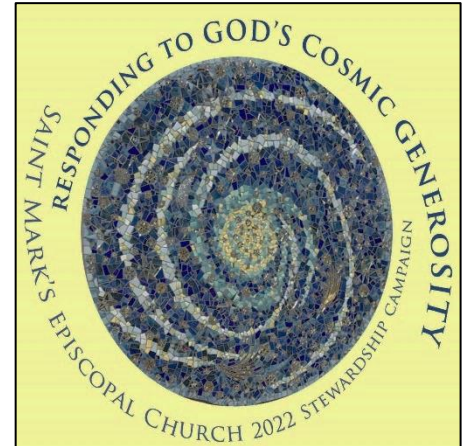
Personnel	\$ 239,205	\$ 244,129	\$ 344,176
Classroom	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,830	\$ 6,500
Administration	\$ 15,048	\$ 15,176	\$ 13,905
Facility	\$ 29,868	\$ 30,051	\$ 38,520
Covid	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,391	\$ 4,000
Total Expenses	\$ 298,120	\$ 299,576	\$ 407,101

EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$ (49,787)	\$ 24,413	\$ 2,379
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Stewardship Report

I am happy to write you all a recap of the **Responding to God's Cosmic Generosity 2022** stewardship campaign. This year your stewardship team included Laurel Cabral, Erin Cook, Aric Elsenheimer, Else Tasseron, Barry Hogge, George McJimsey, Lucy Sinkular, Jon Wright and Fr. Christopher, with behind-the-scenes assistance from Treasurer, Miranda Eastham and assistant Treasurer Ken Reese.

This committee always begins work early for the next year's stewardship plans. As the committee, we were very sensitive to the fact that 2022 would be parishioners' **THIRD** year of pandemic. The global pandemic has wreaked havoc with people's lives and has threatened people's livelihoods, too. With no end in sight to Covid, we decided to purposefully continue along the path we began last year. We focused our prayers and discussions on the concept of giving as an act of worship and an important part of Christian discipleship. By emphasizing the spiritual aspect of financial support rather than "this is the budget" or "we need this much money to fund the X, Y and Z thing"—we hoped to encourage members in their faith. We committed ourselves to developing ministry and outreach at St. Mark's commensurate with whatever people could support.



This was similar to the theological approach we took in 2021, too. We presented the idea of offering your financial support to the church as a percentage of all you earn, rather than some flat amount. The biblical tithe of 10% is something to consider or work toward, but whatever percent someone gives is in itself a faithful response to God's generosity to us. In targeted letters we shared scripture and explained this different approach to stewardship.

Our "Responding to God's Cosmic Generosity" campaign featured gorgeous graphics created by Erin that incorporated our second Mosaic. During online worship, we enjoyed the videos where so many of you shared your own stories of gratitude and belonging. This year's lull in the pandemic numbers meant we could bring back the beloved tradition of Pledge & Pie Sunday, and members gathered in the Fish Garden for "Celebration Sunday" and ate together dozens of pies.

What has been the result? Despite the pandemic, or perhaps partly because of it, St. Mark's has welcomed many new members into fellowship this last year. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response to stewardship. We have more households pledging, and importantly, many members reported an increase in the percentage of their gifts to ministry! We received commitments for giving from 22 new individuals and families since last year. We have a higher total number of pledges and have seen a 19% increase arrive. Members have commented that the idea of giving a certain percent of their income has opened their eyes to count the many blessings God has bestowed on them.

On behalf of the stewardship team, I thank each and every person and household that has participated with a gift. I look forward to 2022 and watching how our faith community grows through our worship together. We are very humbled by the generosity of the people of St. Mark's, especially in these very uncertain times.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lucy Sinkular, Stewardship Committee Member

Christian Education

2021 was a year of change and transition for Christian Education at St. Mark's.

At the beginning of the year, all church activity was held virtually/online. Children's Chapel met in the Zoom room at 9:00 before virtual worship. Coffee Hour (immediately following the Sunday morning liturgy) experimented with watching short videos by Nadia Bolz-Weber followed by a discussion that video's theme or topic. The Inquirer's Class for adult education met in Zoom after worship. During the winter they read and discussed "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans. A Youth Group of middle- and high-school ages met online at 7:00 on Sunday evenings. A Parents' Group was held monthly on Sunday evenings online.

During Lent, there were two opportunities each week to study and discuss the book "Wild Hope" by Gayle Boss. Lent Madness brackets and booklets were distributed to all parishioners and a weekly dinner discussion met on Zoom to talk about the saints of the week.

At Easter, St. Mark's began to slowly return to in-person worship and educational activities. The Inquirer's Class continued to meet after Sunday morning liturgy online through the end of the year. That class studied "Walk in Love" by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe.

Children's Chapel is now held in-person in the Parish Hall during the 9:30 liturgy and St. Mark's Montessori Children's Chapel is held on Wednesdays in-person in Stoney Chapel.

During the summer, several St. Mark's Youth attended Camp Stoney, the summer camp for the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Mother Sylvia and Deacon David worked with Brother Angel Roque, Youth Missioner for the Diocese, at camp.

At the end of October, we held a Youth Retreat for middle- and high-school youth. Time was spent studying the apostles and then carving pumpkins to represent the method by which each one was martyred. This was a very popular activity for the youth.

During Advent, there were again two opportunities each week for a book study. This time we read Gayle Boss's book "All Creation Waits." The Thursday book study will become a Bible study in 2022.

As we move into the new year, St. Mark's has begun Sunday morning formation classes in-person for all ages again. Godly Play has returned for a younger youth - and anyone of any age who would like to attend. A class following the curriculum of "Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints" by Daneen Akers is targeted for middle-schoolers but also open to all ages. The Inquirer's Class continues in hybrid form (both in-person and online) and is studying the "Animate" series of videos from Sparkhouse.

Finally, high school juniors and seniors are looking toward a pilgrimage to Ireland within the next year.

Respectfully submitted,
David Martin

Worship and Prayer



In January 2021, our community worship and prayer was taking place exclusively in virtual formats due to the pandemic. We gathered virtually to celebrate Holy Eucharist via Zoom and Facebook each Sunday and Thursday. Every weekday we offered a 5-10 minute "Pause and Pray" session at noon via Facebook, and every Tuesday at 10AM our Anglican Rosary Group met to pray together virtually on Zoom. Throughout the year, members submitted special prayer requests to Deacon David via email to be included in our weekly worship and shared with our Intercessory Prayer List.

During Lent, we began slowly and carefully moving to open the church for limited in-person worship, and by Holy Week we were offering all services in a "hybrid" or "multi-access" format, with some members participating in person and other members participating online. "In person" participation grew rapidly throughout the summer and the fall, but online participation continued to provide vital access for many members who, due to geography and/or health concerns, relied on online platforms for continued access to our community life and worship.



In September we invested in significant upgrades to our Audio/Visual equipment in the Nave, enabling us to celebrate hybrid worship in ways that offered a more beautiful, integrated, and functional experience for both online and in person worshippers.

In December we moved to once again offer Communion in both kinds (bread AND wine) at the Holy Eucharist. Due to pandemic restrictions, we have temporarily adopted a modified practice of distributing wine in individual vessels. We anticipate returning to our practice of distributing wine from the Common Cup as soon as pandemic health precautions allow us to do so.

The move from exclusively virtual worship to in person/hybrid/multi-access worship has been enormously challenging, and the members of St. Mark's have been faithful in rising to the challenge. We continue to work to build up the robust, committed, intergenerational liturgical ministry teams needed to facilitate meaningful in-person and hybrid worship including a new A/V Team, Altar Guild, Acolytes, Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, Intercessors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Choir.



As we move into a New Year, we invite you to renew your commitment to full participation and active leadership in the weekly worship life of this community. At St. Mark's, we make church together!

Respectfully submitted,
Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild duties were largely performed by Karen McDonald throughout the pandemic shut-down when we only offered on-line services. During 2021, we have been recruiting new people to join an Altar Guild team and we will continue to focus on additional teams in 2022. Altar Guild prepares the flowers, altar and communion for Eucharist for all services and cleans up after the service. This important group relieves our clergy of these time-consuming tasks so they may prepare other aspects of the service and greet and minister to our members and visitors. We sincerely thank Karen for her dedication, especially during the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Lind, Parish Administrator and Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector

Music at St. Mark's

In spite of the relentless challenges of the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic, those who make liturgical music at St. Mark's continued their work faithfully throughout 2021.

I would like to thank my colleagues and all parishioners of St. Mark's for their warm welcome to me. I began my work at St. Mark's in February of 2021 and, being honest, it was totally weird. For the first few months we made music primarily online because no assembly was present at Sunday services. During that time Mother Sylvia and I worked together with all choir members to conduct online rehearsals and meetings of musicians, and I am grateful for her help. We created an entire library of music recorded and combined through Zoom, Garage Band, and other electronic media. On Sundays the organist sat alone in the choir loft and the clergy sang duets and trios way down in the front. That was kind of lonely. I struggled with that situation because I believe that leading the congregation- everybody- in song is my most important job.

During the spring and summer some musicians were able to appear in person again. We sang many solos and duets and began to sing congregational hymns. One highlight of the summer was a solo cantata by Johann Sebastian Bach, sung by parishioner Jacque Zander-Wall, and a group of string players. During the spring and summer Annelise Wall and Allison Lium, two college students and parishioners, were indispensable to the music of the parish.

In the fall the choir returned. We began rehearsing weekly on Wednesdays and singing for the services each Sunday. The singers were required to wear masks, which is difficult for some. Some singers sang only when COVID numbers low and chose not to sing when numbers were high, which worked fine. The choir sang well and faithfully on Sundays, adding an element that had been missing since March 2020. The choir was especially effective during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Advent included more liturgical music than usual and during Christmas the choir provided music at both Christmas Eve services. The late service included a group of string players, including both parishioners and paid musicians.

The choir and I are working to build strong working and personal relationships. I believe that singing in the choir is a service to the parish but should also be a positive experience. I aim to use choir time efficiently and maintain a fun, affirming environment. Everyone is welcome to come and sing. Over time I hope to build a strong choir but also provide other opportunities for music-making on an ad hoc basis.

The organ of St. Mark's has experienced some mechanical decline and will need restoration in coming years. Mike McHugh continues to tune the organ and maintain it. Some ranks of pipes (sets of pipes that make a particular sound) are missing altogether and some are missing pipes. Some ranks do not stay in tune consistently. In the future we hope to make improvements, possibly even a significant re-design and re-build of the instrument.

I look forward to getting to know you and your family in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Wirths, Director of Music

Church Administration Reports

Communications Report

The Communications area spent a lot of time keeping up with ongoing needs of flexible platforms for both virtual and in-person activities. We tried new things, like sending out more event-specific postcards to alert members of upcoming events, and we even sent out our first all-parish text for Christmas Eve midnight service. We received a lot of positive feedback for the mailings and the text, and our attendance for those well-advertised events went up significantly. As we look at the year ahead, we are hoping to be strategic about the tools' use and integration.

All Stewardship materials (pledge card, mailing header, graphics, posters, giving envelopes, postcard mailing, companion-area of the website, etc.) were all crafted in-house.

The parish raised funds for a new Audio-Visual (AV) system to make virtual and physical worship a cohesive experience for all. The communications area spent time and effort on helping raise funds by creating an online virtual gallery of artwork donated by parishioners for 100% of the proceeds to go toward the new system.

Once the new cameras and sounds system were installed in the worship space, an AV Team was formed for Sundays, and the Communications Specialist took on learning the new AV system for special events, funerals and for Thursday Eucharists.

Zoom, our main tool for broadcasting, has been casting live to Facebook throughout the pandemic, however there are quite a few parishioners who have voiced hopes for including YouTube in our broadcasts. We have already tested a multi-casting software and are looking to bring our Zoom live to both Facebook and YouTube in early 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Cook, Communications Coordinator

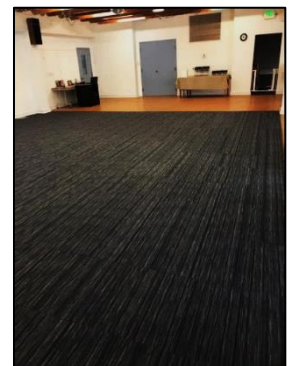
Building Administration

In 2021, we did see more in-person building use as compared to the prior year, but we continue to have many groups forego live meetings for online meetings. An advantage of this is that we were able to complete some major projects, we began some long-term planning for our facility, and our Facilities Manager, Leo C'de Baca, has been able to keep the usual long list of routine maintenance to a minimum.

St. Mark's completed the following major repairs in 2021:

- New carpet in the Parish Hall
- New audio/visual system for the Nave to improve the quality of the sound and better equip us for the future, including the continued broadcast of hybrid services on multimedia.
- We again the Cosmic mosaic project at the front of the preschool with the help of the St. Mark's community and artists Lisa Domenici and Manuel Hernandez.
- Updated HVAC in areas of the building where possible for better air purification/filtration and purchased a number of air purifiers for the Montessori.

The Vestry has begun to work toward long-term planning for improvements and updating for the Pipe Organ, Nave and Kitchen. A feasibility phase is just beginning as we interview liturgical architects and begin to dream about how to improve the intimacy, beauty, and hospitality of the nave as well as the experience of music and to make the space and liturgical action more accessible to those disabilities. Our Music Director, is also seeking proposals for much needed repairs (replacement) of the organ console and pipes in coordination with this long-term planning.



To this end we are beginning to interview liturgical architects, organ builders and restoration specialists and eventually a kitchen design specialist as well.

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We have commissioned a firm to install a stair chair lift to the choir loft to increase accessibility for people who wish to join the choir. We have begun work on a hearing loop, another accessibility improvement for those with hearing issues.

We are currently in the bid process to replace the lawn in the Fish Garden due to invasive weeds and increased use in 2021 from outdoor worship and coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Lind, Parish Administrator and Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector

Staff List

The Rev. Christopher McLaren
Rector

Ken Reese
Business Manager (Volunteer)

The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia
Associate Rector

Jordyn Whisenant
Assistant Director, St. Mark's Montessori School

The Rev. David Martin
Deacon and Director of Family Ministry

Erin Cook
Communications Coordinator

Jeremy Wirths
Director of Music

Jennifer Lind
Parish Administrator

Tricia Morton
Director, St. Mark's Montessori School

Leo C' de Baca
Facilities Manager

Volunteer "Staff"

Miranda Eastham
Treasurer

Altar Guild
Karen McDaniel

Associated Clergy (Non-Stipendiary)

The Rev. Rhonda McIntire
Pastoral Associate (Retired)

The Rev. Neil Elliot
Pastoral Associate (Retired)

Mission and Outreach Reports

Outreach

Throughout 2021, St. Mark's struggled to identify effective avenues for outreach amidst the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and organizational changes at ABQ Faithworks. In the Fall of 2021, Mary Beth Libby convened a series of well attended conversations to discuss the ongoing immigration crisis and to assess the interest and capacity among St. Mark's members to get involved. In January of 2022, Amy Malick accepted the position of Housing and Homelessness Program Director for ABQ Faithworks. As we move into 2022, members of St. Mark's are ready and eager to embrace outreach ministries with renewed vigor. We have designated the 4th Sunday of each month a "Share and Care" Sunday-- members of St. Mark's (of all ages) will have opportunities following the Sunday Liturgy to participate in a variety of service projects and conversations related to faithful stewardship of our gifts for the good of all. In 2022, we plan to launch our "One Step Campaign" at St. Mark's, inviting friends and members of St. Mark's to take one specific step (small, medium, or large) each month to support outreach efforts by praying, learning, giving, and/or acting! We hope you'll join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia

Sacred Arts Gallery



With the reopening of many facilities and venues, we were happy to have a parish-wide show starting in September. Much of the proceeds from sales benefitted the cost of the beautiful new mosaic which is on the outside wall by the school. Again, as with the Tree mosaic, Manuel Hernandez and Lisa Domenici brought their artistic talent and expertise to the creation along with many eager helpers.

In addition to the show, Heather Gaume along with a wonderful crew, had a sale of art works to benefit the cost of the mural.

We are happy to be back featuring shows from various groups and the schedule for the next year is very encouraging.

Sadly, we are not yet able to have our annual Hollyberry Craft fair. Hopefully that will change in the not too-distant future.

We are always looking for new members to the gallery group. You don't have to be an artist, just a willingness to help when shows come in, which is every three months.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Minard and Anne Gordon Fritz
Sacred Arts Ministry

New Mexico School of Sacred Arts (NMSSA) Iconography

In 2021 we suspended in-person icon-painting classes. Individual and small-group instruction did continue, and we are hoping that in-person classes can resume in the future.

The Icon Series of large, devotional images for the south wall of the nave is continuing with icons of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, British and Celtic Saints. Five artists are working collaboratively to complete 20 new images. Obviously, this is a long-term project; I am very much looking forward to working on these images, and to helping our congregation to learn about our spiritual for-fathers and mothers.

These religious ancestors had lives full of adventure, challenges, joys and sorrows that are inspiring to contemplate and fun to learn about - most of them are new to me; I am enjoying "going on pilgrimage" with them as their icons are revealed and displayed in the church.

Many, many thanks to the artists and students who work hard to create icons that help and support our lives of liturgy and prayer; many thanks, also to our inspiring clergy who care for and support us.

If you are interested in becoming involved with small-class instruction, or in helping with the icon series, please contact me at 505-307-5230 or marksburyl@yahoo.com.

May God bless us and keep us.

Respectfully submitted,
Lin Marksbury

Intercessory Prayer Team

St. Mark's Intercessory Prayer Team is a group of about 50 committed members who pray for the need, cares, and concerns of our community. Prayer requests are sent to Deacon David who then emails the prayers to the group. If you would like to be a member of this prayer team, please contact Deacon David.

Prayers are most often requested for family members and friends of St. Mark's parishioners. Permission from the person we are praying for is required to be added to the prayer list. These prayers and matters we pray about are completely confidential within the group. They are not discussed among those who pray.

Deacon David encourages prayers for members of our own community as well. Please do not be afraid to share your own concerns with the prayer team.

Updates to the prayer list are compiled and sent to the team quarterly.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon David Martin

St. Mark's Montessori School (SMMS)



St. Mark's Montessori School (SMMS) is a non-profit preschool proudly offering an authentic Montessori curriculum to children ages 18 months old to kindergarten. St. Mark's Montessori is our largest outreach ministry here at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and it is a vital part of our commitment to serving our neighborhood, in all of its inherent cultural and economic diversity.

Since SMMS' opening (in the fall of 2013), we've continued to provide a quality Montessori education to our community. At our school, children have opportunities to learn and explore through a wide variety of "hands-on" experiences, encouraging their imaginations and inner creativity. We've created this environment through a combination of Dr. Maria Montessori's philosophies and her methodology. Our students are further nurtured by the School's Spiritual fellowship with our Church's wonderful clergy.

We are proud to report an increase in both enrollment and staffing, an encouraging recovery from previous lows due to the pandemic. This last summer, with our new boon in staffing, we were able to have the first summer program in our school's history, helping us to better serve the needs of our families during these uncertain times. We were also able to begin our Cosmic Generosity Project, working with long term artists and friends of the Church, Lisa Domenici and Manuel Hernandez, to create our beautiful cosmic mural on the St. Mark's Montessori Playground (alongside the east parking lot).

This project was unfortunately sidelined for a significant amount of time due to the ever-shifting sands of the pandemic. Overall, our school has had to adjust, time and time again, to this new landscape of education during COVID-19. We've embraced ever-evolving Coronavirus regulations, PPE scarcities, testing issues, and ensuing staffing, enrollment, and financial challenges. We've remained afloat in these stormy seas through the four major grants we have been able to secure, totaling in 210,600 dollars. Because of these blessings, we've also been able to hire our current assistant director, Ms. Jordyn Whisenant, who has quickly become an essential member of our family here at SMMS.

With these new grants we've also been able to support three of our staff members in earning their Montessori Certifications, as well as switch to a new software program, BrightWheel, to ensure fast and secure communication between our staff and families. And, through much patience and creativity we were, at last, able to complete our beautiful Cosmic Mosaic Mural, which we heavily encourage you to check out on your way out of the building, today. We are currently, after many months of pursuit of quality candidates, pleased to be fully staffed. Student enrollment is currently 32 in our Montessori school day, 21 of whom are also enrolled in our Aftercare program.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Morton, Director

St. Mark's Montessori School (SMMS) Treasurer's Report

Despite the significant challenges from the pandemic, the school had a good year financially. This is entirely thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff. Our 2021 budget predicted that we would end the year with a \$50K deficit. We actually ended the year with a \$24K surplus. A big factor in this outcome was being awarded several large grants resulting in \$90K of unbudgeted income. One of those grants is continuing to provide an additional \$75K of income as part of our 2022 budget. The school also ran a very successful summer program, which helped our bottom line and certainly boosted enrollment going into the fall. Our enrollment is still not at pre-pandemic levels, but it is gratifying to see it gradually moving upward.

Enrollment as of this writing is 30 with a family with 3 children starting in February. Our 2022 budget assumes that we'll be back at 40 students starting in the fall and projects a small surplus for the year. The school also has "rainy day" funds in the SMMS Assets account. Thanks to the Vestry designation of half the PPP loan forgiveness proceeds to the school, the SMMS Assets account is currently sitting with a comfortable balance of \$56K.

It continues to be a great privilege to support the dedicated staff and families of the St. Mark's Montessori School.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth W. Reese, SMMS Treasurer

St. Mark's Montessori School Board Members

Voting Members

Maribelle Ogilvie, Chair
Kenneth Reese, SMMS Treasurer
Robin Hammer, Legal Advisor
Nancy Hilton
Maren McLaren
Jesse Murray, Secretary
Karen Pound

Non-Voting Members

Rev. Christopher McLaren, Rector
Miranda Eastham, SMEC Treasurer
Tricia Morton, Director
Jordyn Whisenant, Assistant Director

St. Mark's Ministry List

†- denotes an opportunity for calling a new leader.

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!

MINISTRY	PURPOSE	MINISTRY CONTACT	CONTACT INFO.
Vestry	Define and articulate the congregation's mission; to support that mission by word and deed, select the rector, ensure effective organization and planning, and manage resources and finances.	Lucy Sinkular Sr. Warden	lucy.sinkular@gmail.com (703) 638-4286
Office Volunteers	Welcome all to St. Mark's and support the staff.	Jennifer Lind	stmarks@stmarksabq.org (505) 262-2484
Servants of Worship	Advise the Rector in matters of worship and ensure that the worship experience flows smoothly and holds meaning.	Matt Wolke, Pat Catlett and Scott Sinkular	wolke.matthew@gmail.com (505) 710-6811 patcatlettarts@gmail.com (505) 228-4441 slsinks@gmail.com (703) 638-2770
Ushers	Welcome all to St. Mark's	Mark Hendrick and Scott Sinkular	mhendrick67@yahoo.com (505) 331-9204 slsinks@gmail.com (703) 638-2770
Eucharist Bread Bakers	Prepares Eucharistic bread every Sunday.	Lynette Cole Cheryl Foote Margo Clayton Harriett Cole	lynettebill@gci.net (505) 908-8722 crfoote@aol.com (505) 400-0265
Altar Guild	Sets up for all worship and sacramental services, cleans and decorates for high holy days. Maintains altar fixtures and vestments.	Karen McDaniel Karen Pound Sarah Camp Lucia Miller-Mutia	karenmac1@aol.com (505) 250-8451 kspound@mac.com (505) 314-3887 campsk@gmail.com (575) 317-4251
St. Mark's Choir	Sings every Sunday, Sept.-June; director helps plan all liturgical music.	Jeremy Wirths	music@stmarksabq.org (505) 358-6729
Coffee Teams	Hospitality on Sundays	Aric Elsenheimer	aric225@hotmail.com (575) 520-9137
Christian Education/ Small Group Leaders	Plan curriculum, writes newsletter, recruits and schedules teachers.	David Martin	edu@stmarksabq.org (505) 231-1354
Inquirers' Group	Holds fall classes that educate new (and old) members about our church, theology, history and faith practice.	Fr. Christopher McLaren	christopher@stmarksabq.org (505) 331-4638
Welcoming Committee	Welcomes all every Sunday, plans newcomer events, advises on communications that target potential and new members.	†	

MINISTRY	PURPOSE	MINISTRY CONTACT	CONTACT INFO.
Coffee Team Ministry	Sets up food and drink for fellowship after worship every Sunday.	Aric Elsenheimer	aric225@hotmail.com (575) 520-9137
Stewardship Team	Plans, organizes and executes annual giving campaign.	Lucy Sinkular	lucy.sinkular@gmail.com (703) 638-4286
Building Assets	Evaluates building space for opportunities to increase income and/or community use of St. Mark's facility.	Liz Reardon	elizabethcreardon@gmail.com 301-1912
Fix-It Team	Completes small and medium projects to help keep St. Mark's facility in good working order and beautiful.	Stretch Cole	jt.cole@hotmail.com (480) 216-3580
NM School of Sacred Arts	Gives classes in iconography year-round.	Lin Marksbury	marksburyl@yahoo.com (505) 307-5230
Sacred Arts Gallery	Displays community artists' work in parish hall, provides meeting space for local artists, generates income for parish.	Audrey Minard Anne Fritz	aminard42@msn.com (505) 281-1966 annegordonsilks1@gmail.com (404) 213-3772
Intercessory Prayer Team	Connects parishioners who intentionally pray for others with those who request spiritual intervention.	David Martin	edu@stmarksabq.org (505) 231-1354
Contemplative Prayer	Offers a Thursday morning contemplative sit in Stoney Chapel at 10:30 AM	Stephanie and Marcel Varoz	peace2u@comcast.net (505) 280-5609
Celebrations (Mardi Gras, Easter Vigil, etc.)	Organizes large parish fundraisers and parties.	†	
Take Them a Meal	Networks with parishioners who agree to cook a meal/s for members in need of some temporary support.	Melani Tutt	foo_zhook@live.com (505) 410-6952
Montessori School	Preschool for 25-50 students that operates on the grounds of St. Mark's August-May.	Tricia Morton, Director	school@stmarksabq.org (505) 582-3898
Montessori School Board	Advisory Board for St. Mark's Montessori School	Maribelle Ogilvie	maribelleo17@gmail.com (505) 358-5736
Human Rights & Social Justice	Christ-centered ministry for working in our parish and in the community for anything having to do with Human Rights and Social Justice issues.	†	
Couples Class	Offers individual premarital counseling	Donnelle Miller-Mutia	donnelmillermutia@gmail.com 510-932-1762
Men's Group	Men's fellowship and study	†	

Vestry Members and Delegates

2019 – 2021 Term

Tom Blueher
Jeff Devereaux
Kate Spielman

2021-2023 Term

Barry Hogge
George McJimsey
Lucy Sinkular

2020-2022 Term

Laurel Cabral
Aric Elsenheimer
Melanie Peterson

Executive Committee of the Vestry

Rector	The Rev. Christopher McLaren
Sr. Warden	Lucy Sinkular
Jr. Warden	Laurel Cabral
Treasurer	Miranda Eastham
Clerk	Shery Reader

Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Deanery Representatives

Delegate 1 Sherry Reeder **Term 2019-2021**
 Delegate 2 Mary Beth Libby **Term 2020-2022**

Vestry Nominees



Diane Ball

Dr. Diane Ball is a 27-year veteran Humanities Instructor at the High School and College level. She earned her BA in History & Russian Studies, a MA in Secondary Education and her PhD in Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies from the University of New Mexico. Her academic research is focused on the role of New Mexico in World War II specifically Japanese-American internment, Civil Liberties during wartime, and 20th Century World History. Diane is also a National Board Certified Teacher, Executive Director of the New Mexico Council for the Social Studies and was named New Mexico History Teacher of the Year in 2018.

Diane has been involved in a variety of philanthropic activities throughout her adult life, most especially through her Masonic affiliations. She currently serves as the Board Secretary of Ashlar #58, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, is an officer in Eastern Star of New Mexico and a Past Queen of Yucca Temple No. 74, Daughters of the Nile. Her work with Nile helped to raise \$14,000 this last year to support the tissue bank at Shriner's Hospital-Galveston.

Diane was raised at the Cathedral of St. John's in Albuquerque and has been a member of St. Mark's for the past six years, where she currently serves as an usher and an on-going member of the Inquirer's class. What she can offer to the Vestry and St. Mark's community is her extensive work with non-profit organizations, hosting conferences and workshops, management of budgets, and community outreach. Her passion is to explore the history of Episcopal Church, never lose the joy of learning, and help to promote the vibrant, inclusive, and community-driven nature of St. Marks.



Ty Camp

I was born in Roswell, NM to a Catholic father and a Presbyterian mother who were married in a Methodist church. I have been baptized twice (once as a baby and once as a young Baptist), attended churches in at least a dozen denominations, received a bachelor's degree from a Church of Christ college and a master's degree from a Methodist seminary. I have played guitar in worship bands and spoken at Christian summer camps while teaching rappelling and mountain biking. I have been a leader in college ministries and a dissident at an evangelical church.

Throughout my adult life, I have attended mainly Episcopal churches, being drawn to the physicality of the liturgy and openness to all people. As a seminarian I learned to ask philosophical questions and as a graduate student in philosophy, I taught college students to do the same. When our first child was born, I decided to become a firefighter and paramedic, which has been my profession for ten years now.

I married Sarah, the love of my life, under the big New Mexico sky in 2003 and we have watched, with awe, as our boys, Jonah (12) and James (7), grow bigger bodies and bigger hearts. I have received grace and am learning how to give it in order to make the world a more just and loving place. For me, the story of my walk with God has been—and continues to be—a way of questioning and doubting, loving and serving, imagination and music. St. Mark's has been our church home since 2018 and here we have found a community of people with whom we can share this journey of expansive love, honest questions, and open hearts.



Blythe Clark

Blythe Clark has been a member of St. Mark's since 2013. She works as a Research & Development Department Manager at Sandia National Labs, managing a dedicated team of mechanical engineers. When she's not at work, she's either playing indoor soccer, training for trapeze, or spending time with her family, Andrew, Sadie (12), and Eloise (9). They enjoy traveling, cooking/baking, cycling, skiing, playing Nintendo, and watching movies together. Blythe has been an active member at St. Mark's, serving 3 years on the vestry from 2016 to 2018, serving as a youth educator for J2A and co-leading a youth pilgrimage to San Francisco in 2019, and playing piano for the Treble Choir and pageant back in the day. She is looking forward to serving St. Mark's and its amazing congregation again.

Delegate to Convention Nominees



Sherry Reeder

I am excited about the possibility of serving St. Mark's for a 2-year term as a delegate. Delegates convey God's mission as it is expressed at St. Mark's and help connect St. Mark's with the wider church. This is done by representing St. Mark's, through voice and vote, at the quarterly Northwest Diocesan Deanery meetings and the yearly Diocesan Convention along with the clergy and wardens.

I was raised Methodist and was confirmed into the Episcopal church at the Cathedral in 1999. Nine years ago St. Mark's first welcomed me and my spouse Miranda. From the beginning, I have found myself plugged into a vibrant and welcoming faith community that extends the joy and meaning of Christ's table beyond the communion rail. Having served previously on the Vestry, I feel capable of representing St. Mark's at the diocesan level. Many of the skills I use as a hospital leader and used in the Vestry will also be used as a delegate: active listening, evaluating possibilities, discerning strategic plans for the future, and connecting with people in our church about upcoming issues at Convention or in Deanery meetings. I will also represent St. Mark's in a way that can move decisions thoughtfully forward while building relationships, teams, and community. If elected as a delegate, I would bring a passion for service and dedication by representing our extraordinary faith community to the diocese during these next two important years of our shared story of St. Mark's.

Attachment 1: FY 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2021

Annual Meeting Notes

Leadership

1. Opening Prayer - Deacon David
2. Appointment of Secretary/Clerk - Meredith Sweeney
 - a. Jeff Devereaux is appointed Clerk for meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes (Attachment 1, Annual Meeting Report)
 - a. Lucy Sinkular moves.
 - b. Pat Catlett seconds.
 - c. Passes unanimously.
4. Senior Warden Address
 - a. Meredith Sweeney delivered an address regarding COVID-19 and its impact on the Church and Vestry. Meredith is the outgoing Senior Warden and Vestry member of St. Mark's Vestry.

Elections

5. Election of New Vestry Members
 - a. Vestry: Three nominees for three positions on the Vestry at the moment.
 - i. Nominees for Vestry:
 1. Lucy Sinkular
 2. George McJimsey
 3. Barry Hogge
 - b. Convention Member
 - i. Marybeth Libby nominated.
 - c. Moved by Ken A, Second Ty Camp. To close nominations and move to vote. Vote passes to move into vote. Voting completed via poll. Results recorded in Election Results section of these minutes.
6. Introduction of Lay Staff
 - a. No staff were laid off as a result of COVID-19.
 - b. Bruce Roach has taken over as Business Manager for Allen.
 - c. Erin Cook is communication
 - d. Jennifer Lynn, Administrator
 - e. Leo C'de Baca, Caretaker
 - f. Clergy Team
 - g. Trisha Morton - SMMS Director
 - h. Jeremy Wirths - Director of Music

Thanksgivings

7. Thank you - Vestry
 - a. Acknowledge work of current vestry members.
8. Thank you - Outgoing Vestry Members
 - a. Meredith Sweeney - Senior Warden
 - b. Kenneth Stalter
 - c. Susan Smith-Pierce
9. Thank you - Kathie MacDonald-Vargo (Retiring Organist/Choir Master)
 - a. Ten years with St. Mark's as Choir Master.

10. Thank you - Ms. Denise Talamante (Director of St. Mark's Montessori School)
 - a. Retired on January 14th, 2021. Directress for 4 years. Part of school since school has been in existence (8 years). Helped shape school into its current configuration to be Monday - Friday with before and after care.
11. Thank you - St. Mark's Montessori School Board
 - a. Andrew Clark is Chair. Voting Members who are parishioners volunteering to do this.
 - b. Non-voting members to ensure school provides clarity and guidance for school and finances.
 - c. Miranda & Ken for Financial expertise in keeping school open.

Announcements

12. Welcome SMMS New Director - Trisha Morton
 - a. New Director for SMMS. Begins February 1st, 2021. Previously Assistant Director of SMMS. Continuity for families and community.
13. Welcome Director of Music - Jeremy Wirths
 - a. New Director of Music. Begins February 1st, 2021. New to St. Mark's Community.

Finance & Budget

14. Special Announcement - Father Christopher
 - a. \$10,000 Library Gift at end of 2019 from parishioner (anonymous) to complete library renovations.
 - b. \$15,000 from Ed Lazar Estate. Social justice advocate, very involved in Church prior to passing. Used to re-establish Capital Reserve, which was depleted for other previous repairs.
 - c. \$7,000 Gift for technology needs. Anonymous gift. Purchased two new laptops with more memory and faster speed for internet connection and video.
 - d. \$244,000 Dudt Gift. Largest gift in last ten years. Put into investment to generate interest and grow. Vestry is still deliberating about special uses of those funds for larger purposes.
15. Stewardship, Finance, & Budget - Miranda Eastham
 - a. Budget 2020
 - i. Income Down, but Expenses were down as well.
 - ii. Finished with small surplus (\$311).
 - iii. Did not need to take draws from investment funds. Shows strong community support financially.
 - b. Budget 2021
 - i. Modest raises to all staff and completely fund New Music Director.
 - ii. Also fully support FaithWorks Social Worker.
 - iii. Draw of \$22,000 from investment in current budget.
 - iv. Designated funds set aside for specific ministries and programs. COVID Relief Fund. Community generous to this fund.
 - v. Legacy gifts can ensure continuity of Church community and ministry.
 - vi. Goal to get 150 estimates of giving. Estimates are indicators of stewards. Estimates can be of any amount.
16. St. Mark's Montessori Budget - Ken Reese
 - a. Forced to physically close from April - May 2020. School families asked to pay 80% of tuition, which most did.
 - b. Chose to re-open with strict adherence to State Protocols, but decrease in admittance.
 - c. Two grants to cover deficit. SMMS Assets fund was used and was bolstered by Vestry from Economic Grant.
 - d. 2021 Budget projected deficit of \$50,000. Awarded in 2020 PPP loan to cover paychecks for school.
 - e. Looking to have balanced budget once more in 2022.

Election Results - Meredith Sweeney

17. No second ballot required. Elected Lucy, George, and Barry to Vestry. Marybeth Libbey will be Convention Delegate for St. Mark's.

Coming Attractions - Deacon David

18. Mardi Gras/ Ash Wednesday Delivery & Activities

- a. February 13th, delivering Mardi Gras packages to parishioners (180 households). Please contact Church Office to make sure name is on the list.
 - i. Supplies = beads, sweets, Communion for Sunday
 - ii. 7:00 AM Liturgy for Ash Wednesday
 1. Looking to have a drive-through for receiving ashes. If not possible, all Mardi Gras deliveries will have temporary ash cross tattoos
 - iii. Schedule of all Lenten activities
 1. "Inspired" Group on Sundays in place of Inquirer's
 2. "Wild Hope" Tuesdays
 3. "Bible Stories for the 40 Days" Mother Sylvia organized people to read stories.
 - a. Story board and some stickers. End at Easter.
 4. Daily Devotion Book "The Living Compass"
 - iv. 2021 Lent Madness Bracket Tournament Card

19. Lenten Opportunities

- a. See above.

Closing Remarks

Adjournment & Blessing

Karen S. moved, Pat C. seconded. Vote passes and meeting is adjourned.

Mother Sylvia delivers blessing.

Attachment 2: What Happened at St. Mark's in 2021

- Hybrid Storytelling Events;
- Hired new SMMS Director, Tricia Morton;
- Hired new Music Director, Jeremy Wirths;
- Virtual Pre-Lenten Poetry Group for African American History Month;
- Virtual Lenten Book Study: Wild Hope;
- Virtual Lenten Book Study: Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again;
- Virtual class on Making Anglican Rosaries for Grief Care Packages;
- Held Virtual Coffee Hour discussion groups;
- Held Annual Meeting Virtually;
- Delivered Gift/Care Packages to members for Mardi Gras/Ash Wednesday/Lent preparations, as well as for Easter;
- Virtual Filipino Star Lantern Workshop;
- Held virtual Inquirers' Class: The Art of Redeeming our Battered Era Discussion with Julie Polter;
- Parents' Groups were held virtually;
- New Carpet Installed in the Parish Hall;
- St. Mark's was thanked for Contributing to Navajoland During Pandemic;
- St. Mark's parishioners picked up Valentine Care Packages for Unhoused Neighbors;
- Limited In-Person worship began again in March;
- Online gallery for artwork donated by parishioners raised money for Audio-Visual equipment;
- Quarterly "Rosary for Remembrance" were held in hybrid format;
- Held Stations of the Cross in-person;
- Virtual Anti-Racism Group was held;
- Restarted the Take-Them-a-Meal Ministry;
- Offices of St. Mark's reopened in May;
- Summer of Conversation with the Clergy of St. Mark's went on for four months in an effort to meet with every parishioner;
- Blessing of the Gardens was observed in Eastertide by blessing gardening tools and outdoor space (hybrid);
- Sacred Arts Guild of St. Mark's reopened the Gallery (in the Parish Hall);
- In-Person Sunday Coffee Hour started again in June;
- Pre-registering for in-person liturgies ended at the end of June.
- Cosmos Mosaic Workshops took place in July.
- In-person Thursday Prayer & Meditation started in Stoney Chapel from July, on-going;
- Newcomers: Libations & Hymns Event was held and coincided with Nob Hill Summerfest;
- St. Mark's donated to our partner, ABQ FaithWorks Collaborative, to help asylum seekers;
- St. Mark's joyfully took part in ABQ Pride Parade;
- Safeguarding Our Children workshop was an enormous success in September;
- A new choir formed in September;
- Cosmos Mosaic Blessings, Art Fundraiser & Dedication was held in October;
- St. Mark's started a "Service Sunday" tradition in which manna bags are assembled, rosaries are made, and birthday cards are written;
- Responding to God's Generosity Stewardship Campaign kicked off in October;
- Blessing of the Pets was held;
- St. Mark's held "Oktoberfest & Hymns" outside in the Fish Garden;
- Pledge & Pie Sunday was a tremendous celebration of God's generosity, our community and fellowship;
- All-Saints' Ofrenda was outstanding (both in-person and virtually);



- Grief Group was given by Donnel Miller-Mutia;
- All-Ages Virtual and In-Person Christmas Pageant was fantastic;
- Homemade Communion Bread returned; as did wine (in a creative way);
- Advent Extravaganza was held, which included pageant filming, snacks, Advent greens, crafts and LGBTQ+ fence painting.
- Cocoa, Carols & Twinkle Light Parade event was held;
- Capitol Project for a stair lift to our choir loft to help more members be able to participate in choir;
- Took photos of parishioners (who were wanting to) around festive areas of the church for them to be used for holiday keepsakes;
- Parish-wide text was sent out to invite all to the late Christmas Eve service - ended up being the most well-attended late Christmas Eve liturgy in recent St. Mark's history;
- Christmas Eve liturgies were outstanding with our St. Mark's youth, congregational singing, choir and musical accompaniments.