



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



From the Rector

Listening, Living, and Learning to be the Body of Christ

This past year has called us to live ever more deeply into our theme of **One Body, Many Members**. As we prepare to enter 2017, we have already discerned that the next year invites us to build on that foundation and commit to **Living God's Vision**. I am overwhelmed by our parish's commitment to participate fully in casting that vision and taking the necessary steps to embody it each day.

Last year I noted that we had a desire to live more fully into a vision that claims our role as a resource in our diocese and this city. We did this by fulfilling our dream of hiring a third full-time clergy person. We have already benefited tremendously from the ministry of the Reverend Matt Wise. Aided by the able and strong ministry of the Reverend Carol Morehead, we are moving towards well defined areas of focus for their ministry, which allows us to move forward with intentionality and purpose.

The expansion of our senior staff to include Dina Aboul Saad has seen a complete overhaul of our communication efforts and a renewed commitment to the long-term stewardship and planned giving efforts that will ensure our future. I am also grateful for Eric Nelson, our new Operations Manager, who joined the staff this year and has already strengthened the efficiency of our systems and initiated cost saving strategies. Dr. Joseph Causby is continuing to expand our music programs in ways that serve as a leading witness in our city as to our commitment to feeding San Antonio with beauty and creativity. Leah Thomas is creatively leading our kitchen ministries in ways that build our capacity to be generous as we feed those who are hungry for real food. All of our staff see their role as fellow ministers who are called to work alongside members of the parish, and I am honored to serve with each one of them.

As the St. Mark's family, we engaged in our role as leaders when we undertook a year-long process of listening and consensus building on the topic of same sex marriage. With the strong commitment of leaders from throughout the parish, we were able to host parish-wide sessions that allowed us to pray, learn, and listen to one another. We were able to petition the Bishops for permission to perform these liturgies for our members in the future. The outcome, while important, is not nearly as important as the depth of conversation that occurred during this process. Some of it took place in the public gatherings, but there were many other conversations that took place along the way. The grace with which this unfolded is something I am truly grateful for. An archive of our process can be found on our website at stmarks-sa.org in the Resources/News section.

This would not have been possible without the leadership of the The Rev. Dr. John Lewis, and our past wardens Dr. Carl Leafstedt and Ms. Suzy Tackett. I am grateful for the Vestry and people of this place who were able to discuss a topic that could have been so potentially divisive and discover a greater commitment to one another. I was proud to meet with the Bishops and offer our process as a model for other parishes that wish to engage this conversation in the future.

I am grateful for the able leadership and support of our current senior and junior wardens, Mrs. Cathy Dawson and Mr. Craig Stokes. They have been important advisors and leaders in the past year. I also thank our outgoing vestry members who have served during a three year period of transition and new leadership. Their ability to remain committed to the life of St. Mark's has allowed us to undergo transition with grace and love. In addition to our wardens, I personally thank Beverly Bryars, Craig Donegan, and Jill Vassar. I continue to give thanks for John McClung's service as our treasurer and his passion and commitment to the financial health of St. Mark's.



It is hard to believe how much of those early conversations when I arrived two years ago have become manifest in our actions. This report will summarize many of those accomplishments. None of this would be possible without the energy and commitment of each and every person here. This is a community of generosity and care. When we decided to undergo an effort to raise resources to fund a third clergy person, this community not only made that a reality but was also able to pay down \$500,000 of our outstanding construction debt, resulting in an annual budget savings of \$40,000. New programs and enthusiasm are emerging that are grounded in our communal discernment and commitment to one another. This fall has seen a strong start to the program year with Homecoming Sunday, new programs for our children and youth, a Jazz Eucharist as we partnered with Jazz'SAlive, and a cacophonous Blessing of the Animals in early October. Our new Second Sunday musical offerings have also been well received. As I meet people in this city, they always have positive things to say about the energy and vitality we are currently experiencing at St. Mark's.

It is an honor and privilege to serve in this place. When I accepted the call, I quoted Paul who reminds us to give "*Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.*" -- Ephesians 3:20,21

These words still ring true in the calling we have embraced here in San Antonio and I look forward to this bearing fruit in the coming year.

Peace,



The Rev. Beth Knowlton, Rector

<p><u>Parish Clergy</u> The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton <i>Rector</i> The Rev. Carol Morehead <i>Associate Rector for Liturgy, Adult Formation, and Pastoral Care</i> The Rev. Matt Wise <i>Associate Rector for Outreach, Family Ministry, and Parish Life</i></p> <p><u>Making a Gift of Their Service</u> The Rev. C. Douglas Earle <i>Assisting Priest</i> The Rev. Mary Earle <i>Assisting Priest</i> The Rev. Dr. John Lewis <i>Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop</i> The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson <i>Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop</i></p> <p><u>Vestry</u> Cathy Dawson, Class of 2016 <i>Senior Warden</i> Craig Stokes, Class of 2016 <i>Junior Warden</i> Beverly Bryars, Class of 2016 Craig Donegan, Class of 2016 Jill Vassar, Class of 2016 Jan Briley, Class of 2017 John McClung, Class of 2017 Robert Pollom, Class of 2017</p>	<p><u>Vestry (continued)</u> Elizabeth Raney, Class of 2017 Anne Rochelle, Class of 2017 Paul Allen, Class of 2018 Dawna Boudreaux, Class of 2018 Joey Oliver, Class of 2018 Angela Torres-Lopez, Class of 2018 Agatha Wade, Class of 2018</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Dina Aboul Saad <i>Director of Advancement</i> Todd Allison <i>Director of Youth Ministry</i> Amanda Bercher <i>Youth Ministry Assistant</i> Tyler Bercher <i>Youth Ministry Assistant</i> Priscilla Briones <i>Accounting Manager</i> Janet Carrizales <i>Nursery Manager and Sexton</i> Joseph Causby, PhD <i>Organist & Choirmaster</i> Kathy Kelly <i>Children's Music Assistant</i> Marsha Kimura <i>Music Department Admin.</i> Ruby Merrill <i>Facilities Supervisor</i></p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Eric Nelson <i>Operations Manager</i> Pat Hutchison Noble <i>Community of Care</i> Robert Stubbs <i>Organ Scholar</i> Leah Thomas <i>Special Events Coordinator</i></p> <p><u>Sextons and Kitchen Staff</u> John Aranda <i>Sexton</i> Richard Maldonado <i>Chef</i> Chuy Mendoza <i>Kitchen Supervisor & Chef</i> Derek Shively <i>Head Sexton</i> Ivan Vargas <i>Sexton</i></p> <div data-bbox="1124 1720 1576 2030" style="background-color: #fde9d9; padding: 10px;"> <p><u>Cover art clockwise from upper left:</u></p> <p>Palm Sunday in church, Light Cummings and Pat Noble at Senior Tea, Olivia Briley rehearsing in church, Easter picnic at Bishop Jones Center</p> </div>
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Wardens' Report

One Anglican evensong hymn begins “*The day thou gavest Lord has ended, the darkness falls at Thy behest, to Thee our morning hymns ascended, Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.*” Another year in the life of St. Mark’s parish draws to a close, along with a Vestry class term. Your 2016 Vestry class, Beverly Bryars, Jill Vassar, Craig Donegan and wardens, is the last class that began its service under an interim Rector. With the Vestry elections in November, the transition process under the Rev. Beth Knowlton will be complete. We are pleased and proud of the work that our clergy team and staff have done to lead St. Mark’s in pursuing its core vocation.

We welcomed new Vestry members at our January retreat at Mustang Island. Our newest clergy, the Rev. Matt Wise, also attended. The Vestry and our clergy, along with Dina Aboul Saad and Joe Causby, focused on the future direction of the parish and building community within the parish.

The arrival of Matt provided welcome, additional resources for our clergy. With three clergy, we can now better attend to ministry within the parish walls, pastoral care to home-bound members, and being a resource to the larger community. While Matt arrived with a full plate awaiting him, he promptly set to work with Ministry Architects and a number of Vestry and other lay members, to start the process of renewing our children and youth ministries. As a team, we’ve been implementing the recommendations of Ministry Architects.

The prayerful and intentional process of considering marriage rites for all members of our community without respect to their sexual orientation, started by our former wardens Carl Leafstedt and Suzy Tackett, continued. Vestry members participated as observers at one or more of the three parish-wide conversations. The candor and openness of you, our community, in speaking to each other with respect was an inspiration for us. With all the rancor and division that seems to accompany this subject in other spheres, we were gratified to see how our community spoke and listened when asked to consider this topic. The Vestry thanks you and all the facilitators for your thoughtful participation in this process.

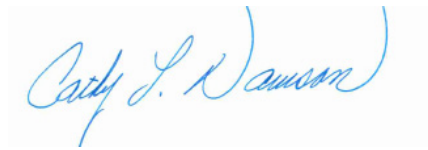
With the coming of fall, we see and welcome a change in how our parish views stewardship. Under the leadership of Dina Aboul Saad along with Dell and Chris Villa, Barbara and Darin Dibgy, and Reagan and Tricia Houston, we are evolving how we view stewardship in our community. Now we are seeing stewardship as more than an annual process of renewing our commitment of resources to our community, but as an integral part of our experience as members of Christ’s body. The videos prepared by the committee provide witness to what commitment to stewardship means to our members.

As the calendar closes out, the Vestry responded to comments made by a number of parishioners to turn our focus more outward. After dealing with the transition that comes with the arrival of two new clergy and the conversations that were concluded this spring, we were reminded that ultimately we need to focus on what St. Mark’s means to our broader community both in the vicinity around our buildings and throughout San Antonio. To this end, The Rev. Carol Morehead coordinated the use of our facilities and volunteers as we became a sponsor of the Pathways To Hope conference on mental health issues at the Tobin Center. Likewise, Joe Causby and the choirs continue to reach out to our neighbors with our participation in the Jazz’SAlive Fest and the upcoming Remembrance Day service.



Within the Vestry, we have started describing what we would like to see St. Mark's become in the next five years and beyond. The five of us who are arriving at the end of our Vestry service term are enthused to see the willingness of eight of our fellow parishioners to step forward and allow their names to be placed in nomination for the 2019 Vestry class election on November 6. Part of our class' final duties were to serve, along with Lisa Uhl, as a discernment committee to identify the leaders of our parish who are well suited to continue the Vestry's work after our term. Thank you to those who answered the call to serve.

Finally as wardens, we thank you for your support. This year of service was a pleasure for both of us. We both travel and have the opportunity to visit other Episcopal communities. While other communities which we have visited face struggles to maintain and grow, you, the people who are St. Mark's, continue to build a vibrant community in the body of Christ that is growing and reaching out beyond its walls. Thanks to you and the Rev. Beth Knowlton for the opportunity to serve. The second verse of that evensong hymn brings to mind what we see all of you building at St. Mark's, "*We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping, while earth rolls onward into light, through all the world her watch is keeping, and rests not now by day or night.*" We are confident that our community also rests not now by day or night.



Cathy Dawson, Senior Warden



Craig Stokes, Junior Warden

Members as of 12/31/2015

Total Active Baptized Members	1337
Total Adults	1079
Total Youth (under age 16)	258
Others Who Are Active (not Baptized)	158
Average Sunday Attendance	391
Total Weekend Eucharists	188
Total Weekday Eucharists	76
Marriages	9
Burials	17
Baptisms	12
Confirmations	7
Received by a Bishop	6



Music from St. Mark's



Living into our core vocation of feeding those hungry for beauty and creativity in our parish and city is central to the music ministry of St. Mark's. Every Wednesday and Thursday, the third floor is flooded with singers of all ages and backgrounds, as we come together to learn, pray, and sing – all to the glory of God. Our work together is a spiritual discipline – a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving – coming together to create something much larger than ourselves, and grounding our daily lives in community.

Events of significant note in the past year include the Royal School of Church Music Festivals (RSCM) held at St. Mark's and in Houston. These events bring together young singers that share a love of our Anglican choral heritage, and help to form bonds and friendships that last a lifetime.

The St. Mark's Choir participated in an English Cathedral Festival, featuring celebrated organist and conductor, Dr. Wilma Jensen. Dr. Jensen not only provided instruction

to our choirs, she also conducted an organ master class for our local universities, and provided a choral music workshop for local church musicians.

Of extraordinary note was our annual Fiesta Concert that featured Benjamin Britten's 'Noye's Fludde.' This experience involved over 200 musicians from all over the city of San Antonio. The animals (children) on the ark came from St. Mark's choirs, St. Paul's Montessori School, and the Children's Chorus of San Antonio. Additionally, the orchestra included members of the San Antonio Symphony, the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio, and the recorder ensemble from the Montessori School of San Antonio. We offered two performances that reached over 800 folks. Special thanks goes to Susan Wilson and Patrice Oliver for the design and production of over 70 animals hats and scenery. Other members of the design and production team included members of the parish and parents of choir children.

Noye's Fludde proved to be an example of how we could fully embody our mission to engage with community partners and be a strong resource for our city. Our March 2017 community project involves assembling a children's choir of over 100 singers, accompanied by harp and the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio.

During the summer, our youth choir and staff singers travelled to Washington, D. C. to serve as choir in residence at Washington National Cathedral, and Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia. We received a warm welcome and high praise from both locations, resulting in a standing invitation to return and sing anytime in the future.

September 18 saw our first official collaboration as a community partnership with the Travis Park/City of SA Jazz'SAlive festival. We offered a jazz mass, featuring the choirs of St. Mark's and a jazz combo. Both services were filled with parishioners, guests, and local jazz-goers. We intend to remain active in this project for future years.

The second week of October involved a unique opportunity for all of our choirs to participate in making a professional recording. Recordings will be available on our website. An official recording of our organ and choirs, to be released on CD, is scheduled for late 2017.

As I enter my sixth year as Organist and Choirmaster, I am continually grateful for the support and encouragement our parish provides to our choristers of all ages. The future is very bright, indeed!

Our choirs continue to enjoy tremendous growth.

We reach into the parish and city through our liturgies, concerts, radio and television broadcasts, and community partnerships.



Noah's Flood (Noye's Fludde)



Dr. Wilma Jensen with Choir



Youth Choir and St. Mark's Choir at the National Cathedral

Children and Youth



2016 has been a year full of changes and transitions in both children and youth ministries here at St. Mark's, and it all began with our hiring of the consultants with Ministry Architects. Following three day-long listening sessions where those consultants heard from many of our children, youth, parents and other parish members, they presented our congregation with two reports (one for youth ministry and one for children's ministry) that shared both their assessments and their recommendations for moving forward. The two respective "Renovation Teams" then began their hard work in carrying out these recommendations according to the reports' timelines. With continued coaching support from the consultants, we began preparing for a new chapter in these ministries beginning this fall. We also hosted a Formation Summit which led participants through a process to determine what the core competencies we want our children and youth to develop during their time in

our formation programs. These core competencies were then used to choose and develop new curriculums for all of our children and youth Sunday school classes as well as our youth group gatherings on Wednesday evenings.

On the heels of all the energy around Ministry Architects and the work of our Renovation Team, the summer brought us another successful Vacation Bible School. With even more participants than last year, leaders René Faulk and Rachel Doyle delighted and engaged our children in the Genesis stories of Joseph and his rise from prison to Pharaoh's palace. Family groups made up of children of all ages got to experience an Egyptian Marketplace, complete with a prayer tent, arts and crafts and, of course, lots of snacks. They also got to meet Joseph and several other characters during story-telling time.

In July, after a many month national search to find a full-time Director of Children's Ministries, we found the best fit right here in our own pews when we hired Rachel Doyle and Shea Pollom to serve as part-time co-directors. Shea and Rachel have been an incredible blessing to our children, parents and to the church staff as they have impacted this ministry with their passion and skills and with how invested they are in the success of our programs. Through the discernment of the Formation Summit, we made the decision to take an intentional sabbatical from the Godly Play curriculum – which had been used with the younger children - in order to reevaluate and then potentially retrain teachers at a later time. In its place, we kicked off the fall with "Spark: Classroom," a curriculum that takes our students on a journey through the whole bible. The "Spark: Lectionary" curriculum was chosen to walk our older children through the lectionary texts each week, paralleling their Sunday school learning with the biblical texts they are hearing in church. Through the capable leadership of Rachel and Shea and the gracious guidance of more than twenty volunteer teachers, the transition into these two new curricula has been wonderfully smooth and our children are excitedly engaged. With the prompting of the Ministry Architects' listening sessions and Summit, Shea and Rachel have also made some changes at Children's Chapel. By beginning Children's Chapel at 9:00am, they have been able to deepen the formation experiences of our children who attend. Chapel now includes not only a bible story and some prayers, but also a craft or activity and a time for music, which is being led by Dr. Joe Causby, Bobby Stubbs or Kathy Kelly. With the new format, we've had to move some of the children's pews back into Jerusalem Chapel in order to seat the 15-20 children each week.





Fall also brought some curriculum changes for our youth programs. In response to the Ministry Architects' listening sessions and the Formation Summit, Todd Allison, our part-time youth minister, selected "Keeping it Real and Relevant" to be his Sunday morning curriculum. This program creates the space and framework for discussion between our 6-12 graders around the morning's lectionary texts. During Youth Group gatherings on Wednesday evenings, the "God Talks" curriculum provides a multiple week, rotational format for our youth to have meaningful conversations around difficult issues and topics. Each week in the rotation may take a slightly different angled approach to the same topic, and topics then usually change every four weeks. As an outreach opportunity, the youth are also using a few Wednesday nights this semester to assemble 150 sandwiches for the feeding ministries of St. Vincent De Paul. Todd's ministry is supported by two part-time Ministry Assistants who handle communications and social media, lead games, and facilitate discussions. We are grateful for the gifts and presence of Tyler and Amanda Bercher who have reprised these roles this year.

In addition to these two new curricula, our eighth graders are invited to participate in Youth Confirmation Class which uses a resource called "My Faith, My Life." Last spring, Bishop Reed confirmed 10 youth who had completed this program and we currently have 4 youth in the class preparing for their confirmation next spring with Bishop Lillibridge. This year's class is being led by the dedicated ministries of Patrice Oliver, Gary Chambers and Fran Torres-Lopez.

The youth "Renovation Team" has been hard at work continuing to gather and organize volunteers to help facilitate Sunday School and Youth Group. These volunteers are performing three different ministries: Baristas set up and serve coffee and espresso to our students as a ministry of hospitality; Facilitators participate in and facilitate small group discussions for both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings; and Wranglers are serving as greeters who welcome and invite our youth into the Youth Suite.

Liturgy and Adult Formation



The 2015-16 liturgical year has been one shaped by the rhythm of the liturgical calendar and filled with the excitement and energy of St. Mark's. The year began with Advent 2015, highlighted by the Advent Quiet Day: A Journey into Hope, which reminded us of the three advents of God: The first Advent of Incarnation – God with us; the Last Advent of Eschaton – Christ's coming in Glory; and the third Advent – Christ within us. We have lived into this third Advent throughout the past year as we have studied the gospel of Luke. Advent and Christmas included a wonderful Christmas Pageant, Christmas to the Street, Come, Let Us Adore Him, which opened the parish to the community to see many nativity and crèche displays, and the addition of a third Christmas Eve Service.

The Feast of the Epiphany was observed with a special service featuring the St. Mark's choirs. We celebrated baptisms on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, which was our new Associate Rector Rev. Matt's Wise first sermon at St. Mark's. The Epiphany Baby Shower and welcome reception for Matt made it a glorious day. In Epiphany, Rev. Beth led a class introducing Centering Prayer, a practice which resonated with many in the parish, leading to the introduction of a regular time of Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons which began this fall. The Rev. Dr. John Lewis led the Adult Formation classes in an exploration of Paul, Pastoral Care and Epiphanies of Christ, which explored how we live together, care for one another, and recognize the rise Christ in our midst.

In Lent, we began the season with the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show, always a fantastic look at so many of our talented members, especially our youth. In formation, we kicked off the Lenten season with a Lenten Day that journeyed with the Israelites and Elijah to find sustenance in the wilderness of our Lenten time. Sunday formation classes explored five qualities that assist us in preparing for Lent: desire, humility, return, serving, and forgiveness. Wednesday evenings featured a different speaker each week exploring how we Love God and Our Neighbor, and Café Kairos invited us into the time with simple soup suppers.



Holy Week and Easter began with Palm Sunday, complete with Seth the Donkey and the petting zoo. We began with echoing Jesus' steps of triumphal entry into Jerusalem, experiencing the great joy first, then being led to the sorrow of the Cross with the reading of the Passion by the Youth of St. Mark's. Holy Week offered daily services, and as a community we entered into the life of Christ through Maundy Thursday and washing one another's feet; Good Friday and the echoes of the crucifixion; Holy Saturday and the quiet of the tomb, and the Great Vigil, beginning in Travis Park with the lighting of the New Fire, hearing the story of God's redemption by candlelight in the Nave, leading to our proclaiming, Alleluia! as the sun rose on Easter morning.

The Season of Easter was a time of rich remembrance of the gifts that God has given, and a highlight was the Feast of St. Mark's, at which Bishop Reed presided, confirming 10 youth and confirming and receiving 11 adults. The day culminated with the amazing Fiesta Concert of Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde. Early May included the parish retreat held at Mustang Island, led by The Rev. Matt Wise. Adult Formation saw two offerings: the Rector's Forum which explored The Spiritual Journey, and a class exploring our rich musical heritage, Episcopalian Music History 101, led by Trinity University music professor and former Sr. Warden Dr. Carl Leafstedt. The Annual St. Mark's Bookstore Luncheon partnered with Adult Formation to welcome Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, who spoke about her experiences serving those on death row and her fight against the death penalty. She spoke twice, which allowed both members of the St. Mark's community and people from San Antonio and Austin to hear her message of hope.

Pentecost came in mid-May, leading into the long liturgical season known as Ordinary Time. Over the summer, members of the parish led the Sunday formation class, exploring how our faith is expressed through creativity, a class which fed our core vocation of being fed with beauty and creativity. Topics ranged from the hymnody of Charles Wesley to depictions in art of Lazarus to the way faith is shown in the Coptic faith in Egypt.

The Sunday Adult formation offerings expanded this fall, with two offerings each Sunday, including the Rector's Forum and also a class focusing on the same bible stories that a track of the children are studying and topics for families, which grew out of the conversations facilitated by the Ministry Architects visits in the fall of 2015 and winter of 2016.

Mid-week offerings started back up, including a new Education for Ministry class (EfM), weekly Group Centering Prayer, The Gift of Years Book Study, weekly Spanish classes, the art class, the Daughters of the King book study, and a class offering for those experiencing the loss of a loved one, *Life After Loss*, in conjunction with Porter Loring Mortuaries. Our Wednesday evening Eucharist at 5.30pm resumed in August, and weekly Evening Prayer continued each Thursday at 5.30pm.

Building on the community energy around and love for music, the fall also saw a shift from the weekly Sunday afternoon Eucharist to a monthly Eucharist which combines musical programs and Eucharist, monthly on the 2nd Sunday. Offerings include services of Taize, Evensong, and other special music, each followed by a simple spoken Eucharist after a short break.

October also featured a wonderful celebration of the Feast of St. Francis with a Blessing of the Animals following the reading of Jamie Maverick's *Geraldine the Holstein*. Maverick was a long time member of the parish and a well known artist whose recent death led her children to donate some wonderful art to St. Mark's and share the original watercolor drawings of the book in a show that is currently hanging on the 1st floor of the Parish House.

The 2015-2016 year was one of growth, of excitement, of commitment, of community. We are building a strong foundation as we move forward into our future and as we continue to live out our core vocation of feeding and being fed with the Bread of Life.



Treasurer's Remarks



Dear St. Mark's Family:

The audited 2015 financials show strong fiscal discipline on the part of our clergy and staff. Our expenditures stayed within budget. The revenue numbers for 2015 demonstrate the "step up to the plate" attitude of our congregation as a whole. Most notably, we retired \$500,000 of our external long term debt at the end of 2015, based on the completion of our Rejoice and Renew commitments, and the extraordinary response to the Future

Directions appeal. The pay down reduces our annual cash outflow by \$40,000. All the while, our pledges and non-pledge giving to our annual budget remained strong.

Given our aspirations for 2017, which include investing in programs that are a "growing edge" for us - children, youth, young adults, and outreach - along with building on a staffing trajectory that will support a restart of our planned giving program, we seek to increase the church budget by approximately 5%.

I have every expectation that the 2017 budget will reflect both fiscal discipline and our zeal to spread the healing, loving, and saving message of Christ with even greater effect.

I am always pleased to hear from parishioners with questions about church finances. Please feel free to call me at 210-655-6171 or email your questions to finance@stmarks-sa.org.

Yours in Christ,

John McClung

We are committed to presenting financial information in ways our members find useful.

Email us at
finance@stmarks-sa.org
with any questions.

2016 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 9/30/16		
75% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$1,294,007	\$1,383,292
Non-Pledge Revenue	\$123,742	\$108,422
Open Plate/Seasonal Giving	\$27,456	\$25,954
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$342,650	\$321,841
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$295,654	\$224,516
Total Revenue	\$2,083,509	\$2,064,025
Total Expenses	\$1,961,641	\$2,029,905
Over/(Under)	\$121,868	\$34,120

\$1,617,346 in 2016 Pledges • 329 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$4,916 • Median Pledge is \$2,600

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT-GENERAL FUND
December 2015

			Annual Variance % Actual to Budget (Dec=100%)
	2015 Actual	2015 Annual Budget	
REVENUE			
Pledge Revenue	\$1,664,650	\$1,820,000	91%
Non-pledge and Open Plate Offerings	\$230,994	\$185,265	125%
Seasonal Giving	\$55,263	\$32,000	173%
Other Revenue (includes parking lot)	\$546,473	\$553,479	99%
Total Revenue	\$2,497,380	\$2,590,744	96%
EXPENSES			
Children's Ministries	\$89,186	\$165,913	54%
Christian Education	\$5,003	\$6,000	83%
Fellowship and Support	\$33,710	\$36,302	93%
Youth Ministry	\$25,095	\$25,000	100%
Music Ministry	\$42,380	\$47,775	89%
Liturgy	\$5,761	\$6,520	88%
Outreach and Apportionment	\$483,266	\$488,272	99%
Food Services	-\$9,849.72*	\$24,900	-40%
Promotional	\$5,812	\$2,600	224%
Administration	\$84,756	\$79,748	106%
Insurance	\$46,621	\$49,500	94%
Salaries and Benefits	\$995,155	\$1,105,673	90%
Parish House	\$581,348	\$592,925	98%
Use of Facilities	\$26,685	\$23,000	116%
Total Expenses	\$2,414,928	\$2,654,128	91%
Total Revenue Over/(Under) Expenses	\$82,452	(\$63,384)	

*Food revenue used as contra account under expenses (\$9K profit)

Stewardship at St. Mark's

The ministry and mission of this place are made possible because of the generosity of our members. Together, we have directed our time and resources toward enhancing and strengthening our programs for Children and Youth. We have expanded formation offerings for young families. Our music program continues to grow in ways that embody our vocation to be a resource to the broader community. Our desire to have more fellowship with one another has resulted in combined worship and fellowship in the season of Advent, and more opportunities to gather outside of church including the resumption of Dinners For Eight. In the coming year, we will continue to build on these efforts.

Pledges are crucial in our effort to plan for our programs. We need each and every gift, regardless of the amount, to make living God's vision a reality.

As a planning document, our budget for 2017 includes a 5% overall increase to enable us to live into the vision we have discerned together. This vision requires the steady support of those who are long-time members and the addition of those who are members, but not yet pledging or giving. Our budget reflects:

- Investment in our programs and activities to equip our congregation to live into our core vocation
- Enhancement of our capacity to attract new members
- A restart of our planned giving program

Outreach is a critical element of our budget; in this we are leaders in our Diocese.

19% of our 2016 budget is spent on outreach - including apportionment which is used to support churches throughout the Diocese and the needy. We additionally allocate outreach grants, provide direct budget support to helping ministries and non-profits, and assist individuals in need. We seek to continue this strong commitment in 2017.



Gifts and pledges make possible the worship, formation, music, community building, and outreach activities of St. Mark's that we participate in together.

Your support is essential as we continue to live into our Core Vocation:

Feeding San Antonio with the Bread of Life.

Planned Giving



The Everett H. Jones Legacy Communion was established in 2009 and is made up of parishioners who have designated St. Mark's in their planned giving documents. We are grateful to those who have already shared their intent with St. Mark's. If you have already included St. Mark's in your plans, and have not yet notified us, please contact Dina Aboul Saad or clergy so that we can include you in the Communion.

8% of our annual revenues come from the St. Mark's Endowment and funds established by estate gifts.

Plans are underway for an informative event in the coming year to share and discuss options for making a legacy gift to St. Mark's. This is a great opportunity to hear about a variety of vehicles for accomplishing your philanthropic goals. Another event is being planned for members of *The Everett H. Jones Legacy Communion* to hear about the status of our endowments and funds, as well as about trends and goals among parishes of our size.

Endowments and Funds

Although annual giving, through pledges and gifts, makes up the majority of our revenue, endowments and funds provide a revenue stream that is essential now and can grow over time to accommodate our revenue needs well into the future. This applies particularly to funds that are unrestricted. The *St. Mark's Endowment* is a key unrestricted revenue source that St. Mark's uses to bridge the gap between annual giving from members and total annual operating expenses.

Some restricted funds provide income for budget line items like maintenance, as in the case of the *Hall P. and Lillian R. Street Memorial Fund*. Below, you will find a list of the endowments and funds we invite you to consider as you think about your planned giving priorities and your legacy goals. Gifts can be made to these endowments and funds at any time. Planned giving can be as easy as naming St. Mark's in your will or trust.

There are a variety of vehicles you can use to meet your philanthropic, tax planning, and estate planning goals to benefit St. Mark's. Contact Dina Aboul Saad, Director of Advancement, or contact clergy to discuss your plans and to ask questions. While St. Mark's welcomes new funds that serve our Core Vocation: Feeding San Antonio with the Bread of Life, we invite you to consider giving to an existing fund for which we have a compelling need.

Name	Use	Balance as of 9/30/2016
St. Mark's Endowment	Income used to supplement revenue for general operating expenses	\$1,654,114
Hall P. and Lillian R. Street Memorial Fund (Endowment)	For the maintenance/repair of the buildings and grounds of St. Mark's	\$1,183,710
St. Cecilia Guild	Supports musical offerings beyond the liturgical calendar. These events are excellent opportunities to attract interest from the wider San Antonio community.	\$39,188

All undesignated estate gifts will be deposited into the St. Mark's Endowment. Naming opportunities are available in accordance with our gift acceptance policy. Gifts of \$100,000 or more may be used to create a new fund.

Outreach

The Outreach Grant Committee responsibly allocates outreach funds designated by the St. Mark's Vestry for distribution to San Antonio applicants of 501(c) non-profit organizations, faith-based agencies, and/or church-based outreach organizations. The committee is comprised of 10-12 St. Mark's members appointed by the Rector. Each member conducts site visits with two applicants, and reports back to the committee with information based on the approved decision criteria.

Criteria used to evaluate recipients for 2015/2016 include:

- Alignment with St. Mark's mission and core vocation
- Christian and Episcopalian affiliation
- Site visitations
- Strength of management and board
- Community impact
- Effectiveness in use of funds
- Financial strength

With thousands of hours lovingly volunteered and 19% of our budget spent on various forms of ministry outside our walls, outreach continues to be a deeply important manifestation of our core vocation at St. Mark's. We continue to look for opportunities to partner with our downtown neighbors in making a difference in our neighborhood.

Co-Chairs Jarret Lozano and Flor Hernandez guided their committee through a discernment process that led to the recommendation to the Vestry of funding 13 grants this year. The committee is already hard at work again and in creative and thoughtful conversations about how we might adapt this process so that our outreach efforts might have an even greater impact in 2017.

Assistance League of San Antonio
 Children's Chorus of San Antonio
 Children's Shelter
 Christian Assistance Ministries
 Christmas to the Street
 Christmas to the Street
 Chrysalis
 Communities in Schools
 Diocesan Apportionment
 Good Samaritan Community Services
 Haven for Hope
 Haven for Hope (food for cooking teams)
 I Care San Antonio
 Lifetime Recovery
 Morningside Ministries
 SAMMinistries
 San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic
 Society of St. Vincent De Paul
 St. Paul's Montessori
 Threads of Blessing
 Youth Orchestra of San Antonio



In addition to grants awarded by the Outreach Grants Committee, St. Mark's with your support, provides financial support to Christian Assistance Ministries, Good Samaritan Community Services, SAMMinistries, St. Paul's Montessori, Habitat for Humanity, Haven for Hope (through our feeding ministry), and Christmas to the Street, St. Mark's response to hunger during the holidays. These are all supported directly through our annual budget.

Photos Credits

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