



St. Mark's Episcopal Church on October 23, 2015

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2014/2015 Annual Report

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From the Rector

Casting a Vision for Authentic Christian Community: Listening to Members of the Body

It has been a year of generosity, excitement, and getting to know one another. Using a theme of One Body, Many Members we have engaged our core vocation with faithfulness and creativity. Getting to know you in small gatherings in our parishioner's homes has been a special treat and I know Ron has appreciated smaller venues as a more personal way to be introduced to the community. We have heard from our community that our core vocation helps to define who we are and speaks to our deep commitment to sharing our faith in Jesus Christ.

An important theme that emerged in each gathering is that we have real energy to claim our role as a resource for this city and our diocese. We are a parish that wants to model authentic community through discernment. We do this as a parish with a diversity of points of view on almost any topic. Particular elements of our life together that shape our faith and ministry include:

- Strongly affirming our desire to be a place where we feed those who are hungry with real food.
- Expanding our understanding of outreach to include creatively engaging the growth and expansion that is occurring all around us.
- Ensuring we have vibrant and attractive programs for all ages, especially giving priority in the coming year to our children, youth, and young families.
- Supporting one another through fellowship, study, and community life beyond worship.

The articulation of these themes has resulted in tangible results already. At the end of the last year, we asked for people's financial contributions so we could end the year without a deficit. This community rallied and allowed us to end the year with a surplus instead. The vestry discerned that there was sufficient energy in the community to move forward with funding a third full-time clergy position and raising money to address outstanding debt from our renovation efforts. The response was overwhelming and we have pledges in place for the next three years to make both of those goals a reality. We have extended a call to a third priest and look forward to welcoming him with his family in January of this year.

The vestry has undertaken listening and consensus building with energy and engagement. I am grateful for their commitment. The able leadership of Carl Leafstedt and Suzy Tackett as our wardens has been another grace. Along with them I thank heartily Don Lucas, Tina Kuykendall, and Nancy Reed for their able leadership during the transition. I give thanks for Len Briley's leadership as our faithful treasurer for the past four years. He has shepherded us well during a time of change in leadership during which financial acumen has been particularly important. I also give thanks for John McClung who will serve us as treasurer in the coming years. Our guilds and committees are full of strong leadership which energizes the ministry of the whole.



I am so grateful for the efforts of our staff this past year. They embody grace in transition as we have moved into the future, shifting roles and responsibilities with willingness and care. Our assisting clergy continue to make a generous gift of their service to us. On the full-time staff this year we have welcomed Dina Aboul Saad as Director of Communications, Stewardship, and Gift planning and our Organ Scholar, Bobby Stubbs. Our team understands their work to be a ministry, which enables us to be flexible as we answer our calling.

What has been most exciting to see this year is that as we have listened to one another, this parish is willing to support each other with its time, talent and treasure. This is especially remarkable during a period marked with transition and change. We do it well, and I am ever more confident of our future. Transition, discernment and listening to one another are not one time events. They are markers of an engaged and vibrant community. There will be more of it in the coming years and I am excited to see which seeds will bear fruit.

Peace,



So many are responsible for thoughtfully contributing to our liturgy, spiritual formation, music offerings, business infrastructure, communications, and facilities management. A heartfelt thanks goes to the clergy and staff that make day-to-day operations possible.

Parish Clergy

The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton
Rector
The Rev. Carol Morehead
Associate Rector

Making a Gift of Their Service

The Rev. C. Douglas Earle
Assisting Priest
The Rev. Mary Earle
Assisting Priest
The Rev. Dr. John Lewis
Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop
The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson
Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop
The Rev. Linda Ricketts
Assisting Priest

Vestry

Jan Briley, Class of 2017
Beverly Bryars, Class of 2016
Cathy Dawson, Class of 2016
Craig Donegan, Class of 2016
Tina Kuykendall, Class of 2015
Carl Leafstedt, Class of 2015
Don Lucas, Class of 2015
John McClung, Class of 2017
Robert Pollom, Class of 2017

Vestry (continued)

Elizabeth Raney, Class of 2017
Nancy Reed, Class of 2015
Anne Rochelle, Class of 2017
Craig Stokes, Class of 2016
Suzy Tackett, Class of 2015
Jill Vassar, Class of 2016

Staff

Dina Aboul Saad
*Director of Communications,
Stewardship, and Gift Planning*
Todd Allison
Director of Youth Ministry
Priscilla Briones
Accounting Manager
Janet Carrizales
Nursery Director
Joseph Causby, PhD
Organist & Choirmaster
Emmet Faulk
Business Administrator
Erin Hughes
Asst. Director of Youth Ministry
Kathy Kelly
Children's Music Asst.
Marsha Kimura
Music Department Admin.

Staff (continued)

Ruby Merrill
Facilities Supervisor
Pat Hutchison Noble
Community of Care
Amanda Quisenberry
Interim Director of Children's Ministry
Dr. Edwin A. Rieke
Director of Music & Organist Emeritus
Robert Stubbs
Organ Scholar
Callie Sanchez
Children's Ministry Intern
Leah Thomas
Special Events Coordinator

Sextons and Kitchen Staff

John Aranda
Sexton
Cyrus Bellieu
Sexton
Derek Shively
Head Sexton
Richard Maldonado
Chef
Chuy Mendoza
Kitchen Supervisor & Chef

Wardens' Report

St. Mark's has been working through a period of leadership transition in recent years. The retirement of long-time rector Mike Chalk in 2013 set in motion the interim leadership of Ned Bowersox and the subsequent national search that led to the hiring of our new rector Beth Knowlton. For much of the past two and a half years, a central preoccupation of your vestry has been helping the church successfully navigate this transition; senior members of the current vestry will fondly remember having served under three successive rectors during their term of appointment. During 2015, then, together with the rest of the parish, we all breathed a collective sigh of relief to have this important task behind us. Inspired by our new rector's leadership skills and enthusiasm for her work, we began to feel free to turn our eyes to the future.



At our annual January retreat, we welcomed five new members: Jan Briley, John McClung, Robert Pollum, Elizabeth Raney, and Anne Rochelle. We had a delightful weekend of contemplation, spiritual centering, and laying the groundwork for a year of working together. The diocesan retreat at Mustang Island made for a beautiful setting. Rest assured that those of us who felt the need to exercise were able to do so. A resourceful vestry member arranged a special Saturday morning Episcopalian yoga session for the group, led via Skype by a San Antonio yoga instructor. It was quite a sight. Talk about bonding! Neither your Senior Warden nor your Junior Warden (nor several others) felt an urgent desire to contort our bodies at the start of the day. We drank coffee instead. All were content. An important outcome of this January weekend was our mutual agreement to lead all meetings this year by the process of consensus. We learned that we all had a desire to practice a gentle, less hurried form of meeting that opens up space for all to speak. Vestry meetings have been productive and pleasant all year.

Reverend Beth, in her first year, set out to learn the hopes and concerns of parish members through a series of in-home listening sessions. The One Body, Many Menus gatherings offered her abundant insight into the hopes and dreams of our parish for the future. At our May vestry meeting, she presented some initial findings. One immediate outcome? The Future Directions fundraising appeal, which began in early summer and concluded at the end of August. One of the vestry's main achievements in 2015 was launching and managing this short-term appeal that brought in almost \$650,000 in commitments from parish members to fund a third priest and to reduce our debt. It was exciting to see this little mustard seed of an idea take root and grow so quickly. Many hands helped it succeed.

Now, as we exit the calendar year, we are looking forward to welcoming five new members of St. Mark's to the vestry. We'll bid farewell to the five outgoing members, including Don Lucas, Tina Kuykendall, Nancy Reed, and the two of us whose names are found below. In coming months we will also be welcoming our new third priest and continuing to work with Beth, Carol, and the staff of St. Mark's on the important task of expanding and enriching our ministry in San Antonio. Important topics to our church, and to the vestry, will include the recent visit of the Ministry Architects consulting firm and its recommendations for young family ministry; responding to the ongoing work of the Lenten Offerings Task Force; and discerning the right way forward for St. Mark's on the issue of same-gender marriage. In all of these tasks we find ourselves inspired by the spiritual leadership, energy, and administrative talent possessed by our rector. It's been a good year.

Carl Leafstedt, Senior Warden

Suzy Tackett, Junior Warden

2014 Summary Financial Statement

	Description	Actuals 2014	Budgeted 2014
Revenue			
	Pledge Revenue	\$1,546,095	\$1,670,000
	Non-pledge and Open Plate Offerings	\$268,459	\$164,000
	Seasonal Giving	\$62,505	\$23,450
	Other Revenue (parking lot, weddings)	\$252,339	\$ 252,868
	Endowment/Fund Income	\$264,454	\$199,000
	Total Revenue	\$2,393,852	\$2,309,318
Expenses			
	Children's Ministries	\$154,461	\$164,710
	Christian Education	\$4,719	\$5,800
	Fellowship and Support	\$36,933	\$56,711
	Internal Ministries	\$0	\$300
	Youth Ministries	\$20,296	\$26,500
	Music Ministries	\$41,029	\$39,875
	Liturgy	\$4,643	\$6,900
	Outreach and Apportionment	\$475,928	\$472,036
	Food Services	\$15,470	\$24,700
	Promotional	\$839	\$12,600
	Administration	\$67,696	\$62,700
	Insurance	\$46,703	\$47,896
	Salaries and Benefits	\$883,955	\$930,408
	Parish House	\$569,610	\$556,236
	Use of Facilities	\$21,056	\$21,948
	Total Expenses	\$2,343,339	\$2,429,320
		\$42,767	(\$120,002)

In an effort to better communicate with the parish about church financials, a new email address has been created to which members send questions. Email us at finance@stmarks-sa.org. We are committed to presenting financial information in ways our members find useful.

2014 Parochial Reporting to the Diocese

Total Active Baptized Members	1446
Average Sunday Attendance	385
Total Weekend Eucharists	191
Total Weekday and Private Ucharists	125
Marriages	10
Burials	33

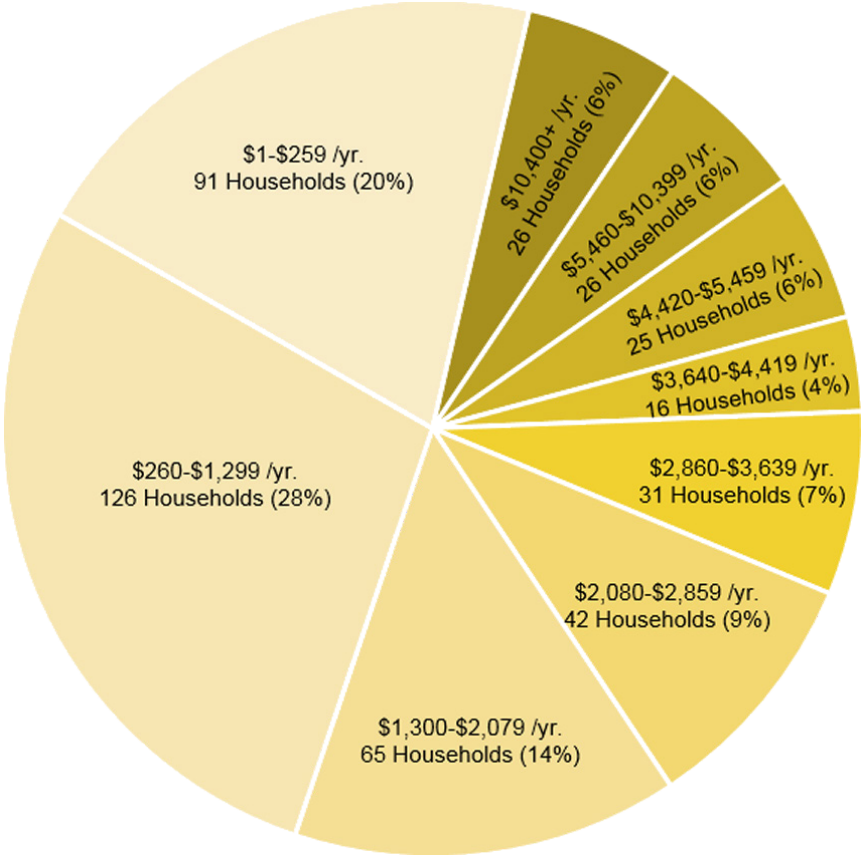


Stewardship at St. Mark's

Stewardship is a year-round discipline that helps us be intentional about what we do with what God gives us. This pie chart illustrates our current giving pattern at St. Mark's. While we are "above average" in terms of the percentage of our members who give, we have work to do in reaching and hearing from those who are not yet active givers.

During the past several months, we've made a commitment as a congregation to enhance our resources in order to meet the needs of our community and to enhance our visibility and ministry in San Antonio. With your help, and the addition of a third clergy, we look forward to:

- Enhancing our pastoral and sacramental support of young families, children and youth ministry, and young adults.
- Developing and enhancing our outreach to the poor by coordinating with St. Mark's members already involved in this aspect of parish life.
- Working with non-profits where we already have a strong volunteer presence.
- Exploring additional ministry opportunities in the city.



Endowments and Funds

At St. Mark's, there are a variety of endowments and funds that have been established over the years that make up a vital portion of the revenue we depend on for our annual budget and for other designated needs. In 2015, the income from these endowments and funds make up over 8% of our revenue.

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 an example of an unrestricted revenue source in that St. Mark's can use the income produced by it to offset any annual operating expenses.

Other revenue sources, like the *Enid Belding Women's Scholarship Endowment* are restricted, by donor intent, for particular purposes. Restricted funds provide income for budget line items like maintenance, as in the case of the *Hall P. and Lillian R. Street Memorial Fund*, or other activities and programs that may not be reflected in our budget, but contribute to our overall offerings to our parish or the larger community, as does the *St. Cecilia Fund* for our Music from St. Mark's offerings.

Below, you will find a list of the endowments and funds we invite you to consider as you think about your estate planning priorities and your legacy goals. Gifts can be made to these endowments and funds at any time. This can be as easy as writing the name of the endowment or fund to which you want to contribute in the memo field of a check to St. Mark's.

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 Communications, Stewardship, and Gift Planning, 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	Priority to Grow in Near Term
St. Mark's Endowment	Income used to supplement revenue for general operating expenses	High
Hall P. and Lillian R. Street Memorial Fund (Endowment)	For the maintenance/repair of the buildings and grounds of St. Mark's	High
Jones Symposium Fund	Provides funds for guest speakers	Medium
St. Cecilia Fund	Supports Music from St. Mark's	Medium
St. Mark's Children and Youth Fund	Funds programs for children and the youth group.	Medium
Wheatly/Camp Capers Fund	Provides scholarships for Camp Capers	Currently Adequate
Carr Theological Fund	Scholarships for Seminarians	Currently Adequate

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

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.

Plans are underway for an informative event in 2016 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.

Music from St. Mark's



Stir up, we beseech you, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of you be plenteously rewarded. (from the collect for Sunday next before Advent, Common Worship)

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. Twice a week, over 100 singers of all ages and backgrounds come together to learn, pray, and sing- all to the glory of God. Our work together is a spiritual discipline, creating space for music to reach into our souls- offering a glimpse of something much larger than ourselves, and grounding our daily lives with the extraordinary.

Our choirs have enjoyed tremendous growth, and a very busy schedule since All Saints 2014. In November, KLRN PBS television recorded our annual service of Lessons and Carols. The ability to reach into the wider community via the medium of television was a new experience for us all; one that has proved fruitful in spreading our mission beyond the city of San Antonio.

November also brought our annual service of Remembrance, where we honored the memory of friends and family members who died during the past year, as well as those who lost their lives in service to our country. This year, we are expanding our Remembrance Day service, collaborating with our neighboring parish, St. Paul's.



Our beautiful liturgies for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter, offered glorious music to assist in our yearly journey through Christ's birth, life, death, and resur-

rection. Of particular note was the Great Vigil of Easter, held at 6am on Easter Day. Our young choristers rose early, arriving at 5.15am to warm-up and prepare for the service; additional motivation was also provided by the Shipley donut corporation!

Support Music
from St. Mark's
by contributing
to the St. Cecilia
Fund

The choir season came to a close with our annual Fiesta Concert- a significant way of offering choral and orchestral music to our parish and city, free of charge. The St. Mark's Choir of adults sang Bach's Magnificat, accompanied in Baroque style, by members of the San Antonio Symphony.

In August of 2015, we hired our first full-time organ scholar. This position provides a young musician with on-site training in church music, organ playing, and working with children through the Royal School of Church Music training model.



As we look to the future, continuing to form new partnerships with other local arts organizations, as well as renewing long-standing relationships in the city, is paramount. An outward and visible realization of our core vocation is our 2016 Fiesta Concert performance of Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde.

In addition to our own choirs, we will be joined by singers from St. Paul's Episcopal Montessori School and the Children's Chorus of San Antonio (CCSA). Instrumentalists from YOSA (the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio), and recorder players from The Montessori School of San Antonio will also be a part of the festivities.

As I enter my fifth year as Organist and Choir-master, I would like to express my gratitude to the entire parish for your support and encouragement of me, and of all our musicians. The future is very bright, and I look forward to many more wonderful years of music and community.

-- Submitted by Dr. Joe Causby



Outreach at St. Mark's

Outreach at St. Mark's takes many forms. From a theological perspective, we are called into a ministry of reconciliation and presence whereby we share the reconciling love of Jesus Christ, serving as his ambassadors in the world. Our primary way of engaging this is through the promises of the baptismal covenant. Our outreach is grounded in our own spiritual life and practice. One cannot exist without the other. We are not able to be effective ambassadors of reconciliation and love if we are not actively experiencing that love in our own lives and community that Jesus Christ offers us. The Book of Common Prayer reminds us through the catechism about the ministry of the church, "the mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." This is accomplished through its members as "it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love." -- BCP pages 854 - 855.

From a pragmatic standpoint, we use the term, but do not always clarify what we mean by outreach. Our definition can shape our perspective as to how generous a community we are. Are we talking about money in the operating budget? What other resources do we bring to bear in outreach that are not captured directly in our budget? Is outreach broader than serving the poor? For a conversation about these questions with the vestry, we are using the Core Vocation as a guide.

Core Vocation

Feeding the Hungry with real food
Feeding those hungry for knowledge and meaning
Feeding those hungry for beauty and creativity

We are including a brief sampling which we hope will give you an idea of the good work St. Mark's parishioners are engaged in. The ways in which we engage could not be contained in this report, but in the Messengers for 2016, be on the look out for featured ministries by internal and external as we serve each other and the broader San Antonio community. If you want to be sure a particular ministry receives a spotlight, please contact Dina Aboul Saad at dsaad@stmarks-sa.org or at 210-226-2426.

Outreach Grants Committee



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.

The 2015 grant process was implemented with a couple of notable changes from previous years. Firstly, the Vestry voted to add three organizations that St. Mark's has strong historical ties to directly to the St. Mark's outreach budget: Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM), San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries (SAMM), and the Good Samaritan Center. This change relieves these organizations from having to complete a yearly application. Secondly, the committee voted to allow the grants to be used by the applicant at their discretion, rather than requiring that the grant be tied to a specific project. This change recognizes the fact that the organizations understand how and where best to use the funds.

Criteria used to evaluate recipients includes:

- 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

To share just one story among many, Chrysalis Ministries (formerly known as Bexar County Detention Ministries) is one of the non-profits we supported this year. Their mission is to facilitate the personal, emotional, and spiritual transformation of incarcerated individuals, those formerly incarcerated, and their families. Staff and volunteers provide these individuals and families with religious services, support groups, and educational classes in 10 adult and juvenile detention and treatment facilities, and at the outreach center: Family Renewal Center.

These worthy organizations are in desperate need of volunteers to do everything from clerical work and serving food, to rocking babies or providing spiritual guidance. Choose one that speaks to you and volunteer!

-- Submitted by Karen Snyder, Outreach Grants Committee Chair

Enid Belding Women's Scholarship Endowment

The Enid Belding Scholarship Fund was established to help provide a college education for worthy young women of St. Mark's. Current trustees include myself as well as Jeanne Reesman and Sara Sherwood. During my time on this committee, I have seen these scholarship funds make an impact on the lives of many of our members. Women have obtained bachelor's degrees from all types of universities in a variety of disciplines, and others have earned master's degrees in education, ministry and sciences. A young woman recently completed her law degree, and another is pursuing a doctorate in music. Prior to serving as a trustee, I was a beneficiary of this fund as I pursued my doctorate at Texas A&M University. The Belding scholarship was instrumental in helping me fulfill my degree requirements—I count this among the many blessings I have received from our community at St. Mark's.



2015 Outreach Recipients
Christian Dental Clinic of San Antonio
Chrysalis Ministries
The Children's Shelter
Morningside Ministries
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
The Children's Chorus
Pay it Forward Ministries
Assistance League
Youth Orchestras of San Antonio
(YOSA)
Children's Bereavement Center of
South Texas
Haven for Hope
Communities in Schools
Voices de la Luna

The Finance Committee determines the total amount of funds we can distribute each year. For the 2015-2016 academic year we have committed \$26,000 to applicants. The number of women applying for the scholarship has steadily increased, which is very exciting! The tough part of this increase is that as more women are in need of scholarship funds, our average dollar amount per scholarship has decreased in recent years from a high of \$3,100 in 2011 to \$1,740 in 2015. Women who meet the scholarship academic conditions may reapply for the scholarship each year, so we expect a large number of women applying for the funds in the foreseeable future.



Helping these women beyond just their first year in college helps them in not only beginning but completing their studies. Although this fund is not currently able to fund all the necessary costs of attending college, we do know it has made a difference to those who have received funds- whether being able to take 2 summer courses to advance their degree, have books covered for the year, or a summer internship aboard, its reach cannot be minimized.

2015 recipient Cory Wade said, “ With this aid, I have been able to attend college and peruse my dream of becoming a special education teacher, without having the burden of financial stress

I pray that one day I will be able to show my future students the same compassion and selflessness that the donors of this scholarship and the community of St. Mark’s have shown me.”

-- Submitted by Rosalind V. Alderman, Belding Trustee

St. Mark’s Haven for Hope Volunteer Network

In June 2015, St. Mark’s Haven for Hope Volunteer Network was introduced to provide a means for members of St. Mark’s to connect with other people and to access information, with the goal of efficiently offering diverse, satisfying volunteer opportunities that fit with St. Mark’s mission statement and core vocation. This will include activities of Haven for Hope and its partners directly or indirectly related to its near downtown campus.



The Book Fair became our first volunteer network opportunity, arising from our long time feeding ministries for Haven. A notice was put in the Messenger and eNews over the summer to invite members to donate books for a Book Fair at Haven.

We received over 900 books in less than three weeks!

At the August 30th Ministry Fair, a dozen people expressed an interest in this activity. So on October 13 we gathered to deliver the books to Haven, put them on display in the chapel at the Courtyard, and give them to anyone interested in reading. It was a wonderful opportunity to remind us all what an important role books play in our lives, and especially so for those who have few personal possessions. It was a blessing for all of us to spend time with the residents. We expect this will be the first of many opportunities to utilize the volunteer network.

If you’re interested in learning more, please contact Patsy Jordt at patsyjordt@sbcglobal.net or 210 827-1949 or Pat Bridwell at pbridwell@att.net or 210 621-8288.



-- Submitted by Pat Bridwell and Patsy Jordt



St. Mark's Episcopal Church on March 8, 1915

Photos Credits

Beth Knowlton (p2) courtesy of Natalie Nation Matthews

Wardens (p4) courtesy of Patrice Oliver

Sanctuary (p6) courtesy of xxxxxx

Joe Causby and Bobby Stubbs (p8) courtesy of Patrice Oliver

Christmas Pagaent (p8) courtesy of xxxx

Choir (p9) courtesy of xxxx

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