



SAINT MARK'S

EPI SC O P A L C A T H E D R A L

— *Minneapolis* —

2021 Annual Report

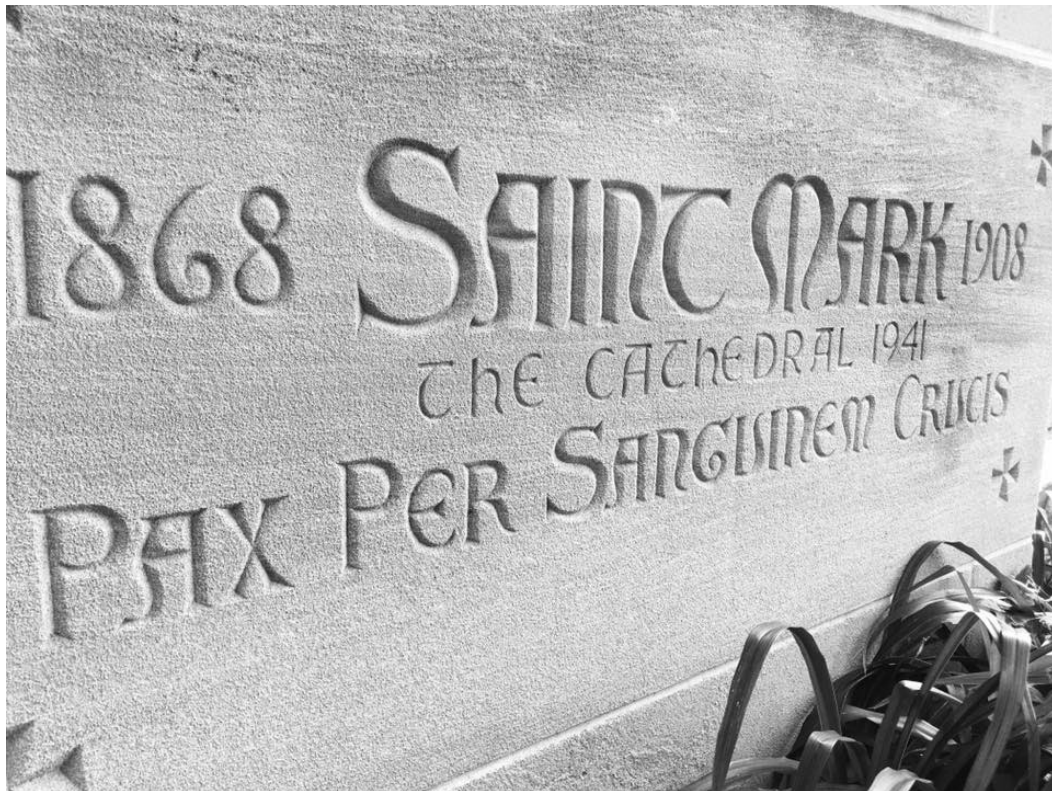


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SAINT MARK'S 2021 LEADERSHIP

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, *Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church*

The Right Reverend Craig Loya, *Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota*

The Very Reverend Paul Lebens-Englund, *Dean of the Cathedral*

The Reverend Tim Kingsley, *Canon Pastor*

The Reverend Siri Hauge Hustad, *Part-time Associate for Liturgical Coordination*

The Reverend Anna Ostenso Moore, *Part-time Associate for Family Ministries*

The Venerable Reverend Rena Turnham, *Deacon and Part-time Associate for Community Engagement*

Raymond Johnston, *Canon Musician*

Mary Lusk, *Canon Community Developer*

Monica Kruger, *Godly Play Coordinator*

Stacey Clatanoff, *Youth Minister*

Kate Thompson, *Business Manager*

Carrie Thomas, *Dean's Assistant and Office Manager*

Tina Kraby, *Campus Services & Welcome Center Supervisor*

Carl Bennett, *Campus Services*

Olivia Greseth, *Campus Services*

Jeff Miskowic, *Campus Services*

The Reverend Terry M. Erickson, *Sacristan and Deacon: Worship and Pastoral Care*

Dr. Helen E. Hansen, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

The Reverend Lowell B. Johnson, *Deacon: Community Connections*

John Satterberg, *Dean's Chaplain*

The Reverend Mary Beth Farrell, *Priest - Shared Ministry Team*

The Reverend Kent Rahm, *Priest - Shared Ministry Team*

Jay Christopherson, *Dean's Verger*

Paul Lakeman, *Senior Warden*

Denise Graber, *Junior Warden*

Ted Sherman, *Treasurer*

Dave Albrecht, *Send/Gather*

Stuart MacDonald, *Stewardship*

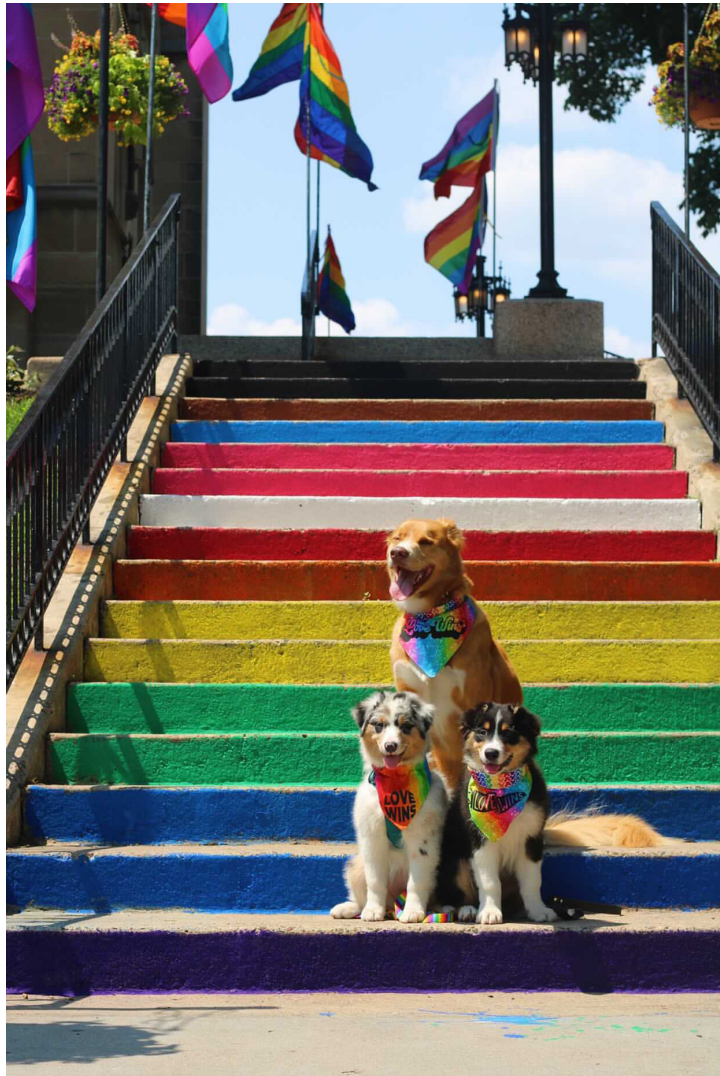
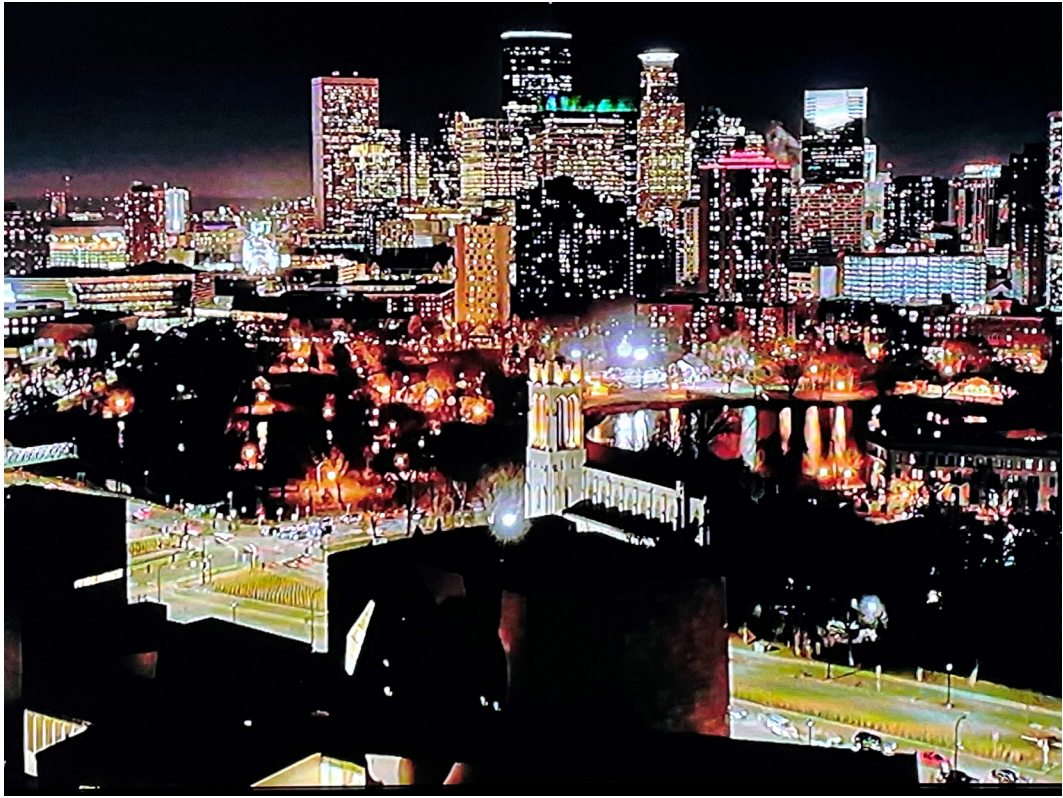
Mike Suhr, *Finance*

Chris Kirwan, *Property*

Dick Nowlin, *Human Resources*

Kerry Childe, *Governance*

Jeremiah Hackler, *Information Technology*



2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral Annual Meeting
January 31, 2021, by Zoom

Senior Warden Paul Lakeman called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m. John Satterberg gave the Opening Prayer, giving God thanks especially for the Cathedral's continuing ministry during the pandemic lockdown.

Mr. Lakeman asked Governance Chair Kerry Childe whether a quorum of at least 50 St. Mark's members was present; she confirmed a quorum of 92 members.

Ms. Childe asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by Zoom vote.

Ms. Childe presented the slate of Council officers Paul Lakeman, Senior Warden; Denise Graber, Junior Warden; Ted Sherman, Treasurer, and Council member candidates David Albrecht and Chris Kirwan. Noting vacancies, Ms. Childe asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she moved to elect the Council slate by acclamation. The Motion was seconded and passed unanimously by Zoom vote.

Mr. Lakeman thanked all present for attending and assuring a quorum. He introduced Paul Anton, 2020 Treasurer, to present the 2020 financial report.

Mr. Anton explained that the Cathedral's pandemic lock-down reduced income substantially but did not reduce Cathedral expenses very much. A forgivable \$156,000 Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan, part of the federal pandemic emergency support program, made up for much of the lost revenues, enabling St. Mark's to avoid staff layoffs or salary reductions in 2020. The year ended with a \$76,443 deficit and Cathedral cash reserves well below their usual prudent level. He applauded St. Markans' incredible loyalty: pledge commitments totaled \$915,000 before the coronavirus struck, but as of year's end, 2020 pledge gifts totaled over \$917,000! Without their loyalty, the year would have been much worse financially.

The Cathedral shutdown did allow an opportunity to do needed building repairs and renovations. Despite the shortage of operating funds, St. Mark's Property Committee commissioned and oversaw a number

of major projects, using almost \$1.5 million from special accounts that could only pay for repair and improvement of the Cathedral building itself, without using funds from the regular budget.

2021 will be challenging since we do not know when the Cathedral will be able to reopen for worship and other services. Even with expense cutting and increased grants from the Foundation, a clergy and staff furlough will begin in February and end at the latest by September, sooner if possible. St. Mark's will continue paying benefits during the furlough and remains committed to retaining our excellent clergy and lay staff. With those adjustments, the Council approved the balanced 2021 Budget.

Mr. Lakeman thanked Mr. Anton for all his work as Treasurer over the past two (2) years. He thanked retiring Property Chair Martha Hoover and Clerk Ellen Archibald for their services and looked forward to working with Denise Graber as Junior Warden and Tim Sherman as Treasurer. Council appreciated St. Markans' inputs at the December post-Council Zoom meeting, and will initiate quarterly Zoom meetings to help Council keep in touch with Cathedral members.

Mr. Lakeman turned the meeting over to Dean Paul Lebens-Englund. The Dean thanked his Canonical and lay staff for a good year despite problems arising from the pandemic. Covid-19 has revealed tensions we had not always recognized. He invited everyone to read the written Annual Report for the names of all staff and volunteers this past year. Dean's Assistant Carrie Thomas's learning to manage Zoom meetings, including this Annual Meeting, has been crucial. He especially thanked Paul Anton, David Christopherson, and Martha McCartney for revising our accounting systems and training Kate Thompson, new Business Manager. Thanks to Senior Warden Lakeman and other Cathedral leaders and our members, we maintained our commitments to continue the health and wholeness of St. Mark's in our larger community.

The Dean highlighted goals for the coming year: continuing to work on expanding St. Mark's reach, considering how we can best use our resources to bring people together, and looking to the future and our longterm financial viability. As we yearn to return

to normal, where is St. Mark's headed, how will this moment change us, and what does it mean to follow Jesus in this time and going forward?

Mr. Lakeman thanked the Dean for leading St. Mark's. He cited the Dean's plan for the new audiovisual system, which allowed us to increase outreach just as the pandemic shutdown began. Mr. Lakeman thanked the Council for its support of staff growth and participation in virtual ministry. He thanked everyone for attending and asked Mr. Satterberg to give the Closing Prayer.

Following the Closing Prayer, the Annual Meeting concluded at 12:29 p.m.



BISHOP'S MESSAGE

To All God's Beloved at St. Mark's Cathedral,

Grace to you and Peace from God our Creator and from God's Son Jesus.

When I wrote my report for your annual meeting last year, I had barely had any chance to get to know you. Your worship was almost entirely virtual in my first six months as bishop, and my experience at the cathedral consisted of preaching to a camera across a largely empty nave. While you are once again in a period of virtual worship, much has changed in the last year, and there is clear light at the end of what feels like a never-ending pandemic tunnel. You have met every curve in a tumultuous season with great faith, wise discernment, and a commitment to shining the light of God's love into a city and a world that has been wrapped in a heavy darkness. Your solid and steady leadership has meant a great deal to me, as well as clergy and lay leaders in congregations far and wide across the diocese.

The past year gave me a chance to come to know your dean and staff much better, and I can say with great confidence and complete seriousness that you would be hard pressed to find a better team anywhere in the Episcopal Church. I know from firsthand experience that operating a cathedral church is exceedingly complex, with a lot of moving parts to hold together as you steer it. Supporting the ministry of a bishop is just one of those moving parts, and Dean Paul and the rest of the staff step up to support what we need for the bishop and the wider diocese every single time with excellence, patience, and a contagious good humor. I know they bring that same spirit to everything they do, and it is an immense gift, not to be taken for granted.

The highlight of the past year for me was finally being seated as bishop in the cathedral. You all pulled together a truly grand and joyful celebration that meant so much to me, my family, and the wider diocese. I heard so many people say after that evening that it just felt so good to celebrate something again. Thank you for welcoming me, even a year later than we had hoped, with such a generous warmth and joy.

A solid and closely aligned partnership between a bishop and their cathedral is not something one can always assume. I thank God every day that we have been able to establish a partnership that is marked by mutual joy and a shared commitment to the city and the wider diocese. Because of my many shortcomings, that partnership takes more effort from your end than mine, and I'm grateful to you for it. It is an immense privilege and joy to walk the way of Jesus in this place with you. Our diocese and my own soul are so much better for the way you model what it means to be a vital, thriving cathedral church. Thank you, St. Mark's, and thank God for you.

Grace and Peace,

+CWL

The Right Reverend Craig Loya, X Bishop Episcopal Church in Minnesota

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Epiphanytide/January 2022

Dear Saint Markans & Friends,

As we come to the conclusion of another reporting year, I want to first express my appreciation for the many ways we have adapted to the challenges of Covid-19 and have continued to advance the Cathedral mission in the areas of new member growth, virtual worship & formation, community engagement, racial justice & healing, stewardship & budget development, staff development, and facility improvements. At a time in our common life when major disruptions would understandably undermine progress beyond core corporate functions, I'm heartened to witness the creativity, flexibility, and ultimate durability of our commitment to gathering in community, to changing lives, and to sending faithful disciples back into the world. And, with extraordinary pledging from our congregation, extremely generous underwriting from our Cathedral Foundation, and increasing revenues from our campus leasing arrangements, we are poised to continue this forward progress through FY2022 and beyond. None of this was guaranteed, but, rather, represents the hard work of our entire Cathedral congregation, along with our relentless desire to ensure Saint Mark's strengthens its presence and expands its positive impact within the life of our city, region, state, and diocese. Thank you, each and all. There's good reason to be both proud and hopeful.



I do want to extend a particular word of deep gratitude for our out-going Senior Warden, Paul Lakeman, who concludes his service among us after a three-year tenure, which I largely credit for providing the strong, steady leadership that led us courageously through a major staff redevelopment initiative and guided us smoothly through a major public health crisis and unprecedented local civil unrest and racial reckoning. It would have been easy to curl up and do nothing. It would have been just as easy for him to lose his nerve and do the wrong thing. But, instead, he demonstrated the kind of prayerful discernment and faithful action that did just the right thing, every step of the way. For that kind of leadership and companionship, I'll be eternally grateful. Mr. Lakeman now commits to join me and the Foundation leadership in the essential, existential work of growing the Cathedral endowment for the sake of long-term sustainability, vitality, and innovation. Please join me in expressing your gratitude for his good work on our behalf. Well done, good and faithful servant.

And now a quick word about us, if you'll indulge a moment of personal vulnerability. We are in our eighth year together as Dean and Cathedral congregation. We have done exceedingly good work, all made possible by the clear articulation of hopes, needs, and wants included in the search profile used to call me here in 2014. We are no longer where we were in 2014, however, so the original call, fit, and mandate are appropriately up for honest, prayerful review.

As we celebrate the increased strength and stability of Saint Mark's internal life, realized over these past eight years, it's increasingly clear to me that the hopes, needs, and wants for the next eight years may be very different. So, we need to begin that discernment process this year in order to renew a clear sense of direction and committed action – a clear measure by which I know whether or not I'm doing my job well. While this discernment is certainly built on much of what we do know – what we can see, measure, and report – there's also a tremendous amount of mystery and surprise involved, all part of life in the Spirit. I pray we can be open to whatever that discernment reveals, particularly that which is beyond the horizon of the present moment.

To that end, I'll be testing some hunches about Saint Mark's future direction, not only in light of the changing landscape around us, but also the changing landscape within. The growth we've realized over these past many years has brought with it tremendous new gifts, passions, and priorities, all of which need to be knit into a renewed vision for our life together. My job AND my greatest joy, is to ensure this discernment and this renewal happens – seeking God's guidance as we move forward, even if that guidance differs from that which first brought us together. This work is slow and deliberate, eschewing easy answers and quick fixes. This work is also tender and courageous, asking that we be open to new revelation that may ask difficult things of us. I want to assure you that I'm open to this work and to whatever God communicates to us through the work. And I pray you can join me in the work, as well, bringing all your hopes and dreams for Saint Mark's with you. 'For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now [we] know only in part; then [we] will know fully, even as [we] have been fully known' (1 Cor. 13:12).

As we move into this new year at the Cathedral, a few key initiatives are on my dashboard for our dedicated attention:

1. Continued attention to our long-term staffing structure, particularly on the worship, program, and pastoral care side of the ledger;
2. Development of a visionary budget to fund Saint Mark's as a transformative community contributor;
3. Increasing endowment and business revenue to keep pace with pledge base in funding a visionary budget;
4. Addressing the question of how best to replace our current deteriorating Nave pews, with an eye toward future mission & ministry;
5. Recommitting to a goal of allocating 10% of annual operating budget (a budget 'tithe') to Community Engagement and related mission partnerships (and eventual goal of all un-designated plate revenue also going to serve the community, above and beyond the 10% budgeted commitment);

6. Discerning and drafting a formal 'leadership mandate' (i.e. parish profile), including goals, priorities, benchmarks, resources/leadership available, resources/leadership needed, 'profile' of a successful leader (skills/knowledge/interests), and a refreshed Dean position description (how work is prioritized, organized, and communicated).

Building strength upon strength, I have every confidence the good foundational work done these past many years has us well-positioned and well-resourced to address the challenges and engage the opportunities ahead of us with faith, hope, and love.

With gratitude for the continued privilege of serving as your Dean, I remain yours,

In Christ,

Paul+, Seventh Dean, Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral



SENIOR WARDEN'S MESSAGE

As we close out a second year of pandemic operation, I want to thank the staff and clergy for their vigilance and energy in keeping our beautiful cathedral operational and focused during an unprecedented time. No one had expected this episode in all our lives to extend this long and I am sure we are all weary of the daily drumbeat of pandemic news.

I do believe, however, that we may be in the final throes of the acute pandemic phase. We may be at a point where we must live with the uncertainty of the virus for the foreseeable future. With personal and organizational mitigation efforts, I have faith that a level of normalcy will return this year so that we can again return to a full choir, singing, and the bustling activity of a thriving Cathedral.

I have been the Senior Warden for three years and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve all of you. To say that it has been a challenge would be an understatement. But all of you have continued to be present whether on-line or in person to keep the mission of the Cathedral focused and on point. That is what has kept me hopeful. Without your spiritual and financial support, we could not have mounted the herculean effort to create a live-stream operation that has broadcast all our services to a population that has been largely home bound by an unrelenting health care crisis. It has enabled us to keep our already close-knit community in touch with one another despite being apart. It also has allowed us to nearly double our normal Sunday attendance from an average of 300 worshipers to 600 on-line and in person. God is at work in our midst.

We also added an amazing number of 75 + new community members in the last year. While many congregations of all denominations have lost members or at least not added any new parishioners, St. Mark's has grown. THAT is truly amazing.

Financially, I must be honest and say that the Cathedral had a difficult year in 2021. Without the support of governmental grants we received in 2020, and a struggling economy that severely limited the ability of our parishioners to make their normal pledge commitment, we ended the year with

an operational deficit. We could have closed that gap (but not totally erased it) if we had chosen to limit our live stream presence and further reduced operational expenses. As a council, we chose to continue the live stream outreach and further focus our mission. We were able to do that thanks to the collaborative support of our Foundation. They have been a steadfast partner in a time of tremendous uncertainty.

Fortunately, 2022 looks significantly better. Your response to the 2022 pledge drive was nothing short of spectacular. As of mid-January, pledge commitments stood at over \$950,000, an increase of over 13 percent from 2021. This is what give me hope and confidence for the future. Thank you for that financial vote of confidence in your Cathedral.

Finally, while we are not finished with the crisis of the pandemic (or perhaps it is not through with us), we can out last it, deal with it and ultimately thrive despite it. There is no other choice. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Junior Warden and Senior Warden for the past four years. It has been an honor. God's peace to you all.

Paul Lakeman, Senior Warden



JUNIOR WARDEN'S MESSAGE

It has been a true pleasure serving as your Jr. Warden over the past 12 months! We have worked through closed doors, open pews and though we are separated again, we are continually one body in Christ and we are stronger than ever. Our Cathedral has seen remarkable growth in membership over the past year and an extraordinary number of folks have joined in and built strong relationships during our online formation events.

One particular avenue I am proud of is the familiarity we have fostered amongst our parishioners. Our staff and leadership teams have worked so hard on many different levels to make sure we maintained a community of connection, learning and serving. This prayerful work has been difficult and delightful. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with this fantastic team and will look forward to another strong year ahead.

Blessings to you,

Denise Graber, Junior Warden



You joined us on-line and we forged a new way of connecting. It was “perfectly imperfect”, and your encouraging words urged us onward as we completed an AV installation even as we started regathering earlier in the year. We learned that this on-line experience casted a wide net and more people than ever joined us for Sunday worship. We also ended 2021 whole financially. That is a tribute to your generosity.

To our Campus Services Team especially, Carl, Jeff, Olivia, and Tina the team accomplished more than we could have ever hoped for during the pandemic.

Your commitment to radical hospitality and community experience is felt in abundance. When safe to do so, we are well positioned to support full ministry operations, new events, and untapped creative and spiritual use of our sacred space. You are the backbone to creating a welcoming environment for our faith family, neighbors, and friends.

To our Administrative Staff and Clergy Team, Mary, Ray, Carrie, Kate, Tina, Siri, Stacey, Anna, Terry, Helen, Lowell, Monica. While the Dean was away on sabbatical the team worked together, implemented new ideas, made adaptations that were crucial to us remaining connected, and pushed Saint Marks's forward on mission, all while keeping our communities' safety at the forefront. I cannot express my gratitude for the entire team adequately.

I consider it a great privilege to serve Saint Marks's Cathedral and to walk with all of you. I look forward with excitement and great hope as we continue to love, pray and work together in 2022.

In Christ,

The Rev. Timothy Kingsley, Canon Pastor

CANON PASTOR'S MESSAGE

“It is not the experience of Christian community, but firm and certain faith within Christian community that holds us together.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dear Saint Markans & friends,

At the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022, I am filled with gratitude. This past year was the most challenging and rewarding of my young ministry. But this community cared for each other, supported each other, and adapted in ways that were almost unimaginable the past two years as Covid-19 became a part of our life.

This year tested us in ways we couldn't fathom. Yet, you adapted with us.

CANON COMMUNITY DEVELOPER'S MESSAGE

Saint Mark's is blessed with abundance. Think of the beautiful stained-glass windows! Think of the sounds of the choir, as they so abundantly fill the spaces! Think of your friends from the pews, think of the many new faces in the pews. And, with our live-stream technology in addition to use of zoom, we are once again blessed to be able to connect members and friends, new and long-term! As some churches are seeing only diminishing numbers, we are blessed that people are finding God here with us, attracted by the words they hear and by the warmth they feel. As you will read again later in this report, around 100 people expressed interest in learning more about Saint Mark's this past year, which is more than double past years.

We are not meant to stand on our own, but to be joined with others in a structure that is greater than its individual parts. We must be joined together if our lives are to have meaning. (From SSJE)

As the Canon Community Developer, I am blessed in my work at Saint Mark's – by the abundance of people who are interested in growing as disciples, whether that is as a new believer or as a life-long practitioner, a long-time follower of Jesus. We are growing together in the way of love. One of the success stories we have is our small group ministry that follows The Way of Love, using the book subtitled “a practical guide to following Jesus.” These groups meet for a specific period of time, and include a wide variety of members, each group with a pair of trained co-facilitators. (Please see WoL member article.) These small groups will continue to increase in number – so keep your eyes open for the information and your heart open for the call to join.

During the 2021 year, I returned to the College for Congregational Development, with a new team, including Tim Kingsley, Denise Graber and Sarah Hoch. CCD has similarities to organizational development in the larger world, but CCD focuses on congregations, and helping them to become more faithful and effective. Surrounded by about 25 other Episcopalians, we began and ended each day with prayers in the beautiful chapel at the retreat center, just outside of Chicago, with lots of classwork in-between prayers. Our team is working on a project that you will hear about in the near future.



Additionally, I was elected from our Central Metro Mission area to the Council of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, where I find it enriching to be involved with about 25 Episcopalians around the state. The work of ECMN Council is to support the work of ECMN, especially focused on management, justice and vitality. During a recent presentation about Vitality in a church: “Faith is a muscle, and you have to develop it; it’s a muscle that you must practice.” Just like anything you are learning or doing, it takes practice!

I am thankful and blessed to have this opportunity to get acquainted and grow with so many of you! Let’s keep practicing our Faith muscles together.

With thankfulness for each of you,

Mary Lusk, Canon Community Developer

GATHER

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

GATHER brings people to the church and welcomes them, TRANSFORM includes the many programs conducted at St Mark's, and SEND is work done in the community. 2021 was a challenging year due to pauses of in-person gatherings, distancing during services, and necessary procedural changes. In spite of those challenges and due to very strong programming and on line presence the cathedral has many garnered new worshipers this year.

I am proud of the diligent work done by staff and lay leaders to create a welcoming and inviting environment despite this year's challenges.

David Albrecht, Gather & Send Commission Chair



We invite, greet, orient and incorporate people in our faith community, into our common life in Christ. And while there is a fantastic team people specifically tasked to do this, it also involves each one of us. The involvement can be a simple acknowledgment of presence, an introduction to another person, a sharing of information, an invitation to participate in an event or in a ministry.

During the 2021 year, we received almost 100 connections from people interested in learning more about Saint Mark's. They may have found us on the web or Facebook; they may have known about our location through the square bell tower, or from the rainbow flag and the current tower lighting – seen as a welcoming beacon. When they enter our doors, they are appreciative of the homilies, and the warm welcome offered.

Newcomers are invited to participate in an information session about Saint Mark's, meeting both new and long-time members. We have been innovative in our gatherings, which have happened on Zoom, in person during the fall picnic and in the Heritage room, as well as gathering chairs around the crossing in the Nave. Even when wearing masks, connections are formed.

The Newcomer to Member process includes opportunity to attend the Episcopal 101 series, which we offer twice a year, with a variety of engaging teachers from our community. During the 2021 year, we welcomed over 30 people as members! I hope that as we return to in-person Worship and other gatherings, each of us will commit to meeting someone we don't know every time we attend a Saint Mark's event.

The leadership and support team for Gather includes: John Satterberg, Lois Satterberg, Sally Cuningham, Gary Weibel, Avalon Eiden, Denise Graber, David Albrecht, along with all those who offer the warm and inviting words of Welcome on Sunday mornings, the team of Greeters, the Hosts of Pilgrimages, a group of Docents, and innumerable other people. Thank you for sharing your gracious and welcoming selves with our community.

Mary Lusk, Canon Community Developer

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY



COMMUNICATIONS

Communication is about stories. I could give you numbers. And numbers can tell a story. Like we sent 320 emails out to a list of over 1700 people last year. And that number grew in 2021, by over 100. and by the end of 2021 our ‘open’ rate was close to 40%, which is exceptional for e-News rates.

Or how about we have almost 2000 followers (people who have chosen to follow us deliberately) on Facebook and just over a 1000 on Instagram. Our reach, which is how many people saw our content, went up by 99.8% on Facebook and 279.3% on Instagram. We had viewers and followers in Canada, Mexico, Nigeria, the UK, Germany, India, Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines, Uganda, & Brazil. And Bemidji!

We shared our stories. People joined us, in-person and on-line. We gathered, on-line and in-person. People were transformed, on-line and in-person.

But when you dig down and peel away the layers, I see my job as getting those stories out to you, the Saint Mark’s Community, for you to share in your lives. And it starts with you sharing the stories with me. So, thank you. I pray we can continue to gather, in-person and on-line, and transform each other, and the world, and share the stories of all we do and are here at Saint Mark’s.

Carrie Thomas, Assistant to the Dean and Office Manager

One of the gifts I have been given by the Pandemic is St. Mark’s Cathedral. I was sheltering-in-place and looked for a church service on-line. St. Mark’s watered my thirsty soul. I wanted more. I can only attend St. Mark’s virtually as my closest living place is 250 miles away. I love being able to worship, interact, and join activities all on-line. On-line allows me to be a good steward of God’s resources, help others and have my soul and spirit fed.

Johannas Jordan, Bemidji, MN

Two of my current volunteer commitments at the Cathedral are as a greeter and as a pastoral visitor. It’s such a joy to see new faces (well, at least half of those faces) almost weekly.

And when I stand at the altar to receive a kit to take communion to one of our members, I find it incredibly moving to be sent forth with your prayers.

I hope you all will find your place to serve with us at Saint Mark’s, as a way to connect with this community.

Sally Cuningham, Member & former Warden

A PRAYER TO GATHER

Gather us Lord,

As we come with the worries and cares of the day,
the things that were not done,
the things we wish we’d said, or not said,
The news of the day and the “to do” lists that keep growing.

Gather us Lord,

May we release what’s not needed for this time,
and leave it at your feet.

Open our hearts to know what is true,
And our ears to hear what is needed.

Gather us Lord,

May we release our need to be right,
And to be seen as good.

Knowing that all that we need and long for,
Is found in You, and in our brothers and sisters.

Amen

mbf+ (1/12/22)

GATHER 'ROUND

As we prepared and planned for the Fall “Gather ‘Round Tables”, we also prayed. We prayed for the Spirit of God to join us at these sacred tables. That we come with open hearts and minds, ready to listen, to learn, to pray, and to fellowship with each other.

We gathered on screens throughout the diocese to hear our Bishop lay out his vision for beloved community through Benedictine Spirituality— followed by discussions of the practices, ways of being, discipline and prayer that are as relevant and powerful today as they were two-thousand years ago.

We then gathered to tell our stories of encounters with God. We heard of heartache and joy, and everything in between. Through the sacred transforming power of stories, bonds were created and strengthened and we became companions on the way.

During November we dove into the Enneagram as a means of understanding ourselves and each other. There were plenty of “Aha!” moments, and appreciation for the many gifts and vocations that make up our community. And in Advent, our hearts were turned outward to offer the Cathedral sacred space as a beacon of light and hope.

As we continue to gather and dwell in the context of this community that understands our need for God and each other, we can become the love and peace that our world is longing for.

The Reverend Mary Beth Farrell, Shared Ministry Priest

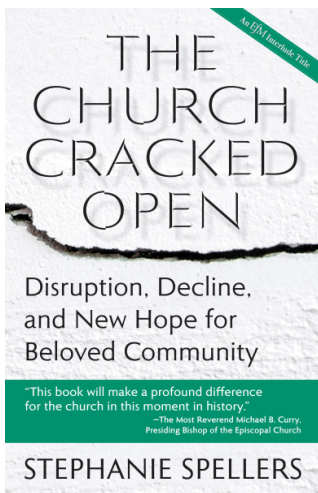


SAAGES

For SAAGES, a group of retired or semi-retired persons, 2021 was another active year featuring a return visit to St. John’s University and the Illuminated Bible, noonday prayer with the monks, and time with David Bresnahan at the Pottery Studio. We got together outside at our Pandemic Picnics, on-line discussing book group selected titles, and inside for a presentation on the carving at St. Mark’s and a year end Advent Party. A number of program events for the current year are already planned. Need further information? Contact SAAGES@ourcathedral.org.

Christine Slater





NEWCOMERS

The goal of Newcomers at the Cathedral is to help people who have expressed interest in St. Mark's get connected to its people and programs so that they can discern if they would like to become members. To this end, two virtual Newcomers' gatherings were held in the first half of the year and three in-person gatherings during the second half. It is very encouraging that during the year about 100 newcomers have requested more information about St. Mark's. Many of them attended Newcomers' meetings and have participated in other programs such as Gather Round and Episcopal 101. We give thanks that 40 new members were welcomed in 2021!

John and Lois Satterberg, Newcomer Team

CATHEDRAL BOOK SHOP

After another year living with Covid-19-19, we were about to ramp up our days in the shop after year-end and now Cathedral is shut down again. We have been able to take special orders, mail many books and calendars, and continue to provide hospitality to guests who want to come into the shop. We have ordered Dean Paul's book suggestions for the Gather Round Wednesday groups. Please think of your Cathedral Book Shop as a place for gifts and cards for christenings, confirmations, ordinations, graduations, birthdays, anniversaries and even memorials. Giving a prayer book or hymnal in someone's memory is a lovely idea. We place the name in the front cover of the book. Please come and visit us or call if we can be of assistance. We always have good ideas!

Cindy Lennie, Cathedral Book Shop Manager



TRANSFORM

CHANGING LIVES

A TRANSFORM OVERVIEW

To Transform - to change lives through Community Events, Worship, Formation opportunities, Music, Art, books - those areas that make Saint Mark's the faith community that we all care for so deeply! My work in the area of transform focuses mainly on "formation" for adults, while supporting cathedral events when they occur. And events did happen this past fall! Our fall picnic with a success: chairs were at a premium, food supply was almost gone, and many new connections were made among members including the community of Abbey Way! It was a great way to begin the program year. A few weeks later, we again gathered outside to celebrate the official "seating" of our Bishop Craig Loya. With thankfulness for our surface parking lot, Sunday mornings in the fall brought more opportunities to connect with one another, learn about many of the ministries of Saint Mark's, and enjoy coffee and lemonade. And our hospitality team looks forward to the time we can gather together again and enjoy the company of one another!



Adult programming, commonly titled "Gather Round", occurs on Wednesday evenings via zoom. Our members joining in, whether weekly or occasionally, appreciate the diverse topics and presenters, and the opportunity to discuss the given topic in a small group setting. In addition, during the past year, we offered a Saturday retreat in Advent in the Cathedral Nave with focus on the Enneagram. When you see someone for several weeks in a little square box on Zoom, it takes a minute or more to recognize that person wearing a mask when meeting in person. Those connections made via zoom are strong and hold up when meeting in person!

The leadership and support team for Transform includes: John Satterberg, Kent Rahm, MaryBeth Farrell, Linda Brandt, Jan Bros, Mary Ramsbottom, Denise Graber, Gary Weibel, Avalon Eiden, Kimberley Darnall Johnson, Emily Hoch, John Horchner, Brandon Baker, Way of Love Group Facilitators and many more people who support the programs that offer transformative experiences to our community. Thank you for sharing your time and talents in this way!

Mary Lusk, Canon Community Developer

THE WAY OF LOVE

I have participated in two Way of Love groups here at St. Mark's. I have found them to be both spiritually uplifting and personally comforting. Although we only meet biweekly on Zoom, the format and the content both make one feel part of a caring group. We use the study guide "Way of Love, a Practical Guide to Following Jesus". This is my second time through this guide yet, instead of duplication, I have been able to go more deeply into the teachings. For those who, like me are otherwise isolated, this group offers personal, meaningful connections with parishioners I had not met before.

Kathie Whelchel, Member

PASTORAL CARE

On Pentecost, May 23, our Eucharistic Visitors resumed visits. Even though 2021 was a short year for visiting, the team made over 157 visits. Some of these visits were to support individuals and their family members at the end of life. These visits provided solace, support, and the opportunity to consider funeral plans.

The Circle of Prayer has received thirty-six requests this year. Give the assortment of requests, more than half come from the global community. We have examined the diversity of requests and examined nature of prayer for a much broader community, we have clarified for ourselves the differences between intercessory prayer and petitionary prayer and gained clarity on our prayer mission. We have examined our current prayer practices and how we might enrich them. We have reminded ourselves of the value of focusing on the prayers and the teachings of Benedict to guide our prayer ministry in matters of racism, oppression, the marginalized, and isolated.

Our Calling Ministry has sustained its work. We have eighty people we call. Approximately nine callers communicate with those individuals who are not likely to stay in touch with the Cathedral community through electronic means.

The Card Ministry Team has sent three hundred cards to parishioners facing sickness, loss, distress, or loneliness and to maintain pastoral contact.

The Encouragement for Caregivers group is in its third year. It meets the first and third Mondays of the month on Zoom. Its work continues to deepen. Members have walked each other through loss, grief, struggle, and transition. The group has welcomed new members sustains each other with prayer, scripture, conversation, and storytelling.

Helen Hansen, PhD. Pastoral Care Coordinator



WELCOME CENTER AND CAMPUS SERVICES

Covid-19 restrictions have colored my first full year as a Welcome Center Supervisor, but it has given me a unique opportunity to truly meet people, get to know them and learn about the campus in a way that a normal year would not have allowed. I am grateful for the work we have been able to do during this time and to be able to meet the needs of our community, internally as well as at large. It has also given us time to put together new processes and a great team in Campus Services that are busy ensuring we are ready for the day we can all worship and celebrate together again.

We are proud of our beautiful campus and gifts we have to give to others.

Tina Kraby, Campus Services/Welcome Center Supervisor

“St. Mark’s has provided us the ability to keep our group alive and running, both in person and on-line, as a hybrid AA meeting for the LGBTQA+ and greater recovering community. They have been kind, caring, over and beyond helpful, and provide us a warm and welcoming home for our Fellowship – we are lucky to be with them!”

Recovery Group

“I am very grateful to have been able to rent space at St. Mark’s for my violin studio during the past year! I lost my in-person teaching spaces during the first year of the pandemic and needed a place to be able to work. The studio space is beautiful, and having my students give their recital in the nave was a very special experience for them.”

Catherine Himmerich - Tenant

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

LITURGY

I usually start this report reminding all of us that Liturgy is the work of the people! Well, these days, liturgy is the work of the people and a whole lot of technology! And we are so Blessed to have that technology available to us. It allows us to worship together in our own sacred space.

Our technology has allowed the faithful all over the world to participate in worship with “Their” cathedral in Minneapolis. Eucharistic services, choral offices, prayer gatherings and more. We have had the privilege of offering final celebrations of life with the Burial Office liturgy broadcast via the cathedral channel on Boxcast for family the world over, coming together, participating, grieving, sharing a lost loved one

This year’s report is going to be short. We have learned together, we shared and mourned and celebrated and broke bread. We may not have physically tasted that bread, but maybe we have learned from that.

Richard Rohr wrote:

“The mystery of the Eucharist clarifies and delineates Christianity from the other religions of the world. We have many things in common, but Christianity is the only religion that says that God became a human body; God became flesh (John’s Gospel puts it like this 1:14). Our fancy theological word for that is the Incarnation, the enfleshment. It seems that it is much easier for God to convince bread of what it is than for God to convince us.

He did not say, “Think about this,” “Fight about this,” “Stare at this;” but He said “Eat this!”

A dynamic, interactive event that makes one out of two.

If we did not have the Eucharist, we would have to create it...

When we start making the Eucharistic meal something to define membership instead of to proclaim grace and gift, we always get in trouble; that’s been the temptation of every denomination that has the Eucharist.

Too often we use Eucharist to separate who’s in from who’s out, who’s worthy from who’s unworthy, instead of to declare that all of us are radically unworthy, and that worthiness is not even the issue. If worthiness is the issue, who can stand before God?

It all comes down to confidence and gratitude.”

I think that explains the joyous character with which we so often celebrate the Eucharist. We are pulled into immense gratitude and joy for such constant and unearned grace.

It doesn’t get any better than this!

Well, if we are to offer the gifts of Jesus without membership, without who’s who or where - because we are all in the same place...caring for each other, then this blip of not standing next to each other in a pew is a good learning experience.

I give thanks to the Choral Section Leaders who offer us a sense of “Normalcy” with their music.

I give thanks to the Audio and Video technicians who have taught us so much and help keep us connected.

I give thanks for the Cathedral Vergers who lead us in nuance (usually unseen) based on our protocol of the week, history, and traditions.

Our Lectors, Intercessors, Ushers and Altar Guild who have had to jump thru more hoops to manage their ministries than most circus gymnasts would ever have to jump through! I give thanks.... And they still come back!!!

And those who offer their voices to a homily or a prayer or a Blessing...I give thanks.

Richard Rohr again:

“The Eucharist is telling us that God is the food and all we have to do is provide the hunger.”

We are hungry, and we stay together and feed each other in new and inventive ways. Thanks Be to God!

The Rev. Siri Hauge Hustad, Associate for Liturgical Coordination

SACRISTAN



The Cathedral Sacristan assists the Associate Liturgical Coordinator in all aspects of liturgy planning. With similar restrictions in place as last year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, my greatest challenge was the visual appearance of our cathedral during worship and other events such as weddings, funerals, pilgrimages, and concerts. We have been able to create an inviting visual presence of our sacred space for those participating on-line as well as those attending in-person when protocol permitted. We continue to be blessed with donations of memorial flowers each week that add to our worship experience. The manner in which we keep the cathedral's appearance is an expression of our devotion to God and our community.

PILGRIMAGES

It is a pleasure and privilege to welcome visiting pilgrims to St. Mark's, and to further the goal of being a welcoming space in the community. Many visitors are seeing St. Mark's for the first time, and marvel at the stained glass, sculptured stone and more. Some take copious photographs during their visit, and all come out saying "this is such a beautiful church." It is a bright spot in these darker times.

Jim Arnold

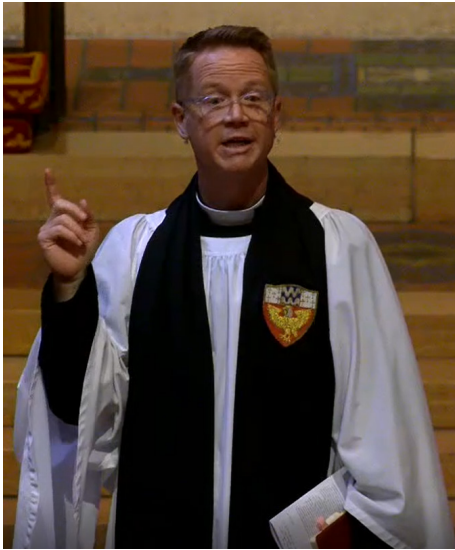
I am truly grateful for our Altar Guild members who continue to care for our sanctuary. This year I am happy to report that we have five new Altar Guild members. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry is welcome.

Healthy liturgy depends on the preparations by many, including the liturgists, musicians, priests, deacons, vergers, acolytes, Altar Guild, and sacristan. We all do our part to make each liturgy meaningful to those attending as well as a heartfelt offering to God.

The Reverend Terry Erickson, Sacristan and Deacon:
Worship and Pastoral Care,



MUSIC



It's been a long year. Keeping each other safe has been our priority, but we are very fortunate that we have been able to continue making music here at the Cathedral.

My thanks go to all who have sung at our services – Liz Pemberton, Kristi Bergland, Christiana Howell, Sue Druck, Rachel Farhi, Steve Pearthree, Bryan Waznik, Thore Dossdall, Rick Moon, Charles Hackman, and Ryan Werdon. Other than a brief period when the numbers seemed to be decreasing we have been limited to 4 socially distant voices: it's not easy to perform under those conditions but our singers have done a wonderful job!

I would also like to thank the congregation – the temptation to rip off the masks and belt out the hymns has been overwhelming, but your self-control is greatly appreciated!

The Music Series events have been very enjoyable. We were able to welcome back a live audience and our online views continue to grow.

Huge thanks to the performers, the A/V team, and those who choose to listen to our offerings. Your support, financial and otherwise, means so much to us all.

Good health and best wishes to you all!

Raymond Johnsnton, Canon Musician



SPIRITUAL PRACTICES – GODLY PLAY FOR ALL AGES

Godly Play has gathered people weekly using Zoom throughout the 2021 programming months. In the Fall Godly Play joined in the weekday evening opportunities of the cathedral and enlarged our invitation to include people of all ages. A small group of varied ages and circumstances gathers, finding fellowship and joyful growth as shown in the following stories.

Monica Kruger, Godly Play Coordinator

Being a new parishioner at St. Mark's Cathedral I was very interested in what programs and activities the Cathedral offered. Being an on-line congregant only I was also looking for those activities that were available on-line. I was excited to see Godly Play listed as an on-line offering. I quickly signed up and after attending my first meeting I knew it was something I wanted to continue. It was a good way to meet some of the people from St. Mark's, people of all ages. I enjoyed the gentle way the stories unfolded and the recognition and care given to each participant. The props and the stories gave new information and perspective about familiar Bible stories. The "I wonder . . ." questions led to good discussion and various points of view. Attending Godly Play helped me deepen my knowledge and understanding of the Bible and the Episcopal Church. It is a model of respect for all that I hope to reflect.

- Johannas Jordan

This is the 3rd year we've gone to the Godly Play program and the 2nd year for virtual Godly Play. At this point, our family, especially the children, are used to Godly Play in Zoom format, and can easily follow the outline of each session. It was comforting to participate in familiar spiritual practice for the kids. We still think Godly Play is one of the best options available for nurturing the faith development of children.

This year's Godly Play pivoted from a Sunday School program for kids to Godly Play for all ages. With more people joining, Godly Play helps us connect as a community while connecting us with God. Besides, I myself get to be more engaging in the program as an adult instead of being more a facilitator to the kids like before. I got to experience Godly Play more personally and appreciate the teaching method more.

As a parent, I find reading the biblical stories to the kids is relatively easier, but teaching faith is much harder. What Godly Play does is more like teaching a child to learn how to think and speak in the Christian language through experience of the presence of God. Step by step, we can see how the program helps give them the ability and the means to build their faith foundation.

-John Zheng and Dex Liu

I joined several zoom sessions of Godly Play a couple months ago and found a warm circle of St. Markans listening to Bible stories. The storyteller's voice is warmth itself and she brings the stories to life as she moves the little figures around. I had never been very interested in prophets, but she made these stories meaningful, especially when asking whether we have prophetic voices today. And when I heard her say that God gave us "Ten Best Ways to Live" I had to smile and say, yes! I thought about that a lot. It says to me that God does not command us; God invites us to the way of love.

-Ann Pannier



FAMILY

In 2021, my hope was to foster moments of connection for parents with each other and with our faith at home, while acknowledging that parents were particularly taxed. That has included seasonal mailings, walks around local lakes, moms' Zoom group, mailing beautiful prayer blankets from Saint Mark's knitting team to all new babies, co-hosting the quarterly bishop's series for parents and caregivers, and baptism preparation. What energizes me are moments where God feels close. Two of our members share their moments below.

The Rev. Anna V. Ostenso Moore, Associate Priest for Family Ministry

My oldest was just one at the start of the pandemic. When he was two, I struggled to explain Easter to him – is it possible to simplify the sacrifice of Jesus' death on the cross and the glory of the resurrection in a way that a toddler would understand, without minimizing the weight of this story? We settled on calling Easter "Baby Jesus' second birthday," as birthdays carry particular celebratory weight in our home. And of course, the next logical step in a 2-year old's mind? "Mommy, we bake cupcakes for Baby Jesus' second birthday." And so, this is how Ravi and I found ourselves sitting outside the cathedral on Easter Sunday, blanket spread out, having a picnic, playing MatchBox cars, and passing out cupcakes to the bishop, other clergy, and any other soul brave enough to trust the potentially infection-laden cupcake offered by my thrilled little boy. An unusual, and childishly perfect way to celebrate the Risen Lord.

-Sarah McIntire



November 7, 2021 – this day was a big and special day for me. For 33 years I have been looking and looking for what I really believe and what I really want. On this day I stood in SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL CHURCH, and I felt incredibly blessed. God has saved my life since the day I engaged with him. I listened Gospel of the Matthew many times to learn what I can do to better follow God. The short baptism ceremony filled up my soul; I was really shocked by how much love was around me in that moment. A new life chapter has started now, it really touched my heart because I was alone to fight this world for many years. And now I'm a full son of God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

-Vicen Dai



YOUTH



2021 found us continuing to be outside as much as we could in January and February with youth group bonfires, masked field trips, and a few in-person confirmation classes and prayer events. As spring rolled around, we were able to start planning a bit for our much anticipated confirmation service. We celebrated our Seniors graduating with gift baskets and yard signs!

Over the summer we simplified and shortened Summer In The City. We helped with outside projects at our ministry partner Emerson Spanish School again and planted bushes and flower gardens around our lovely cathedral campus.



A group of high school and college age young people road tripped down to the Missouri/Arkansas border to explore the Ozarks fresh air. We were able to self-contain ourselves and still explore, have fun, reconnect, and pray together. It was a very Spirit filled trip reminding us of our cherished beloved community.

Fall brought Sunday youth groups back – with masks and distanced. We finally were able to confirm the 2020 class during regional confirmation. We were also able to have our first lock-in in two years in November. They were even happy to go to the 8am service the next morning! As we rolled into Advent, we learned about the healing of mindful meditation and how the Advent story still plays out today.



Again in 2021, we changed the ways we met, communicated, and gathered...many times. Youth Ministry didn't stop, it just changed a bit. We continue to honor the changes we have gone through, the losses, our resilience, the uncertainty...and we still look for HOPE and share that hope and the Light of Love of Christ whenever we see it with those around us.

Stacey Clatanoff, Youth Minister



Summer in the City



Confirmation

SEND

CHANGING THE WORLD

It is my privilege to be the SEND Council Member for Saint Mark's. GATHER brings people to the church, TRANSFORM is the many programs conducted at Saint Mark's, and SEND is the work we do outside of the building in the Community. Despite Saint Mark's 'going virtual' and not gathering in person from time to time due to Covid-19, Community Engagement has been very strong. This month 30 or so Saint Markans are completing a yearlong commitment to the ACTION project (A Commitment To Inclusion in Our Neighborhoods), which has been a fantastic journey. I am proud of the diligent work done by staff and lay leaders to create an environment where community engagement is so readily available.

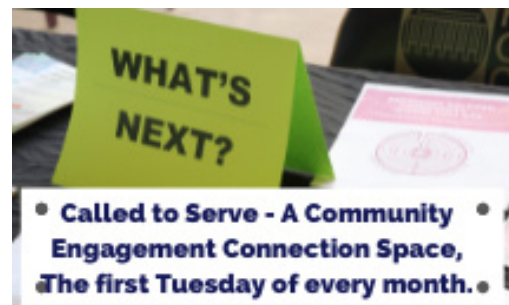
David Albrecht, Gather & Send Commission Chair

A SEND OVERVIEW

We continue to equip Saint Markans for the work God has called us to, as individuals, as a congregation, and as a cathedral for the diocese and in the city of Minneapolis. Resourcing and 'right-sizing' the work to pace with growing 'demand' continues to be a challenge, especially during the second year of the pandemic and as Saint Mark's restricted/designated funds for the work have dried up. Discernment continues in balancing healthy and sustainable commitments for the good of the local community, as well as in the financial sense for the cathedral community. Additional funding resources are being explored so that our ministries may continue to flourish. We continue to stretch ourselves beyond charity and relief and continue to move more courageously and deeply into advocacy and justice.

In 2021, we were able to continue funding our core commitments of charity/relief and social justice advocacy. Following the 2020 Racial Justice Audit of our leadership bodies, the Saint Mark's Racial Justice and Healing Team was created this past year. A group of Saint Markans also continued its work, begun in October of 2020, with the ACTION Project, a yearlong ecumenical journey alongside other downtown congregations willing to make "A Commitment To Inclusion in Our Neighborhoods" (acronym: ACTION) through listening, reflection, and action. The Minnesota Council of Churches is expanding this project and there will be expanded opportunities for more cathedral members to participate. In 2022, we'll take a deeper dive into the work of dismantling racism and white supremacy (see separate report on Saint Mark's Racial Justice and Healing ministry). In the fall of 2021, 'Called to Serve: A Community Engagement Connection Space' was introduced as a monthly virtual experimental and vocational exploratory space. Grounded in prayer and through casual conversation, cathedral staff, clergy and members help cathedral members to identify and connect their gifts and passions with God's mission of Beloved Community, through various local charity and relief opportunities as well as advocacy and social justice efforts, whether it be through an organized cathedral effort or with other community organizations, across ECMN, as part of local ecumenical and interfaith efforts, or even in our own neighborhoods. Support for the Wells Foundation and its work continues with congregational support through Saint Mark's community engagement. Learn more about our SEND/Community Engagement ministries at Saint Mark's here.

The Venerable Rena Turnham, Archdeacon and Associate for Community Engagement



SAINT MARK'S RACIAL JUSTICE AND HEALING MINISTRY

In 2017, the Episcopal Church announced a long-term, multi-year commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in the initiative, "Becoming Beloved Community." Embracing this call in 2019-2020, Saint Mark's began its own process of "truth-telling" through a "Racial Justice Audit" of our leadership--Clergy staff, and Council. The Audit's findings led to the commissioning of a Racial Justice & Healing (RJH) Team in May 2021.

The RJH Team has included the Rev. Tim Kingsley (Canon Pastor), Mary Lusk (Canon Community Developer), and Monica Kruger (Godly Play); David Albrecht (council member) and Denise Graber (junior warden); plus, lay members Emmanuel Wilson, Brian Childs, and Mary Ramsbottom, the latter two serving as co-chairs. The Venerable Rena Turnham (Archdeacon/Associate for Community Engagement), Chelsea Stanton (deacon intern), and John Satterberg (Dean's Chaplain and RJH Team Chaplain) and the Rev. Mary Beth Farrell (RJH Team Chaplain) provide vital support.

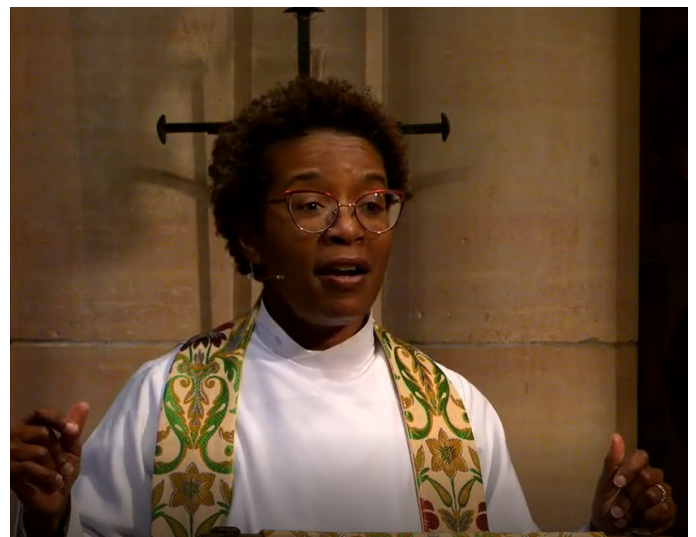
Meeting monthly June through December, the RJH explored the Audit's complex findings, unveiled in survey results and confidential interview excerpts. To do this "work," Team members prayerfully opened themselves to a range of racial justice concerns—personal, institutional, and structural. With God's help, we grew in our ability to discuss with authenticity and vulnerability both our sadness and our deep aspirational longings for inclusivity, welcome, and racial justice in our faith community and world. For many of us, participation in the year-long ACTION project (October 2020- October 2021) with other Saint Markans and other denominational representatives helped us listen with new ears, learn with our hearts, and prepare for even greater engagement and action in our efforts to dismantle racism and white supremacy.

In late autumn, CMN Missioner for Community Engagement and Saint Mark's Cathedral member Rachel Babbitt inspired the RJH Team through visioning and other exercises. This has helped us to begin synthesizing our work and anticipating future directions. The RJH Team will soon finalize some

recommendations to the Council and congregation for "next steps" in 2022. We invite you to add your voices, energy, insight, and faithful witness to this work.

Meanwhile, we look forward to the congregation's common reading of Stephanie Spellers' *The Church Cracked Open* and to continued inspired and fearless preaching on these topics. And we look forward to gathering in the Adult Formation offering we created for late January and February, "Becoming the Beloved Community Where We Are: Shared Conversations Toward Racial Justice and Healing."

Mary Ramsbottom, Saint Mark's Racial Justice and Healing Team Co-chair



*The Reverend Canon Stephanie Spellers, the Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation, author of *The Church Cracked Open*, preaching at Saint Mark's in 2021.*

CHARITY AND DIRECT SERVICE

Charity brings immediate relief those in our human family who are suffering on any given day. Direct service is the 'hands on' work of joining God in the service of our neighbors, rolling up our sleeves and meeting people across lines of difference.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement

Less than a month after the U.S. evacuation of Afghanistan, Saint Markans began to explore how to actively support a refugee family and help them build a safe and stable life here. We partnered with the Minnesota Council of Churches and agreed to sponsor a family. Teams of volunteers eagerly signed up to help furnish and stock a new home, drive the family to school, health, and enrollment appointments, support the family financially in the early months and be a welcoming presence in their lives.



On December 2, the Zadran family of 8 arrived in Minnesota and our team went into action. We have been a constant and welcome presence and seen the amazing, gracious, and generous spirit that strengthens our humanity. Gifts have come from as far away as Holy Trinity in International Falls and children who drew welcome cards. This is an ongoing outreach, and all are welcome to participate with their talents and gifts.

Lindsay Strand, Afghan Refugee Resettlement Team Leader



Community Aid Network of Minnesota (CANMN)

In a new partnership with the cathedral, CANMN's operations and distribution site relocated to Saint Mark's in the fall of 2021. CANMN is a volunteer-led mutual aid organization serving the residents of Minneapolis. CANMN works to build mutual aid bonds with Minneapolis neighbors, organize volunteers and redistribute resources to ensure everyone has the means for dignified survival. CANMN's work provides peace of mind, increased food security, overall stability to the families of Minneapolis. Saint Mark's is providing space as an in-kind donation. Saint Markans have opportunities to support CANMN through onsite volunteering and donating goods. This partnership with CANMN adds to and is a complement to the other organizations we support at Saint Mark's, such as Groveland Food Shelf, The Dignity Center, the Student Resource Center at Minneapolis College, and Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center. Supporting CANMN is one way to love our neighbors actively and visibly as we sacrificially offer space and other resources. Learn more about CANMN and our partnership here.

The Venerable Rena Turnham, Archdeacon and Associate for Community Engagement



NEW LOCATION:
ST MARKS
519 OAK GROVE, MPLS

DISTRO DAYS:
MON 12-2
THURS 5-7

**CANMN HAS
MOVED!**

FREE!



**FOOD,
HYGIENE PRODUCTS,
CLEANING SUPPLIES,
DIAPERS,
AND MORE!**

**Serving
community**

AND

**Accepting
donations**

**Mondays
12-2PM**

**Thursdays
5-7PM**

at

**St. Mark's
Episcopal
Cathedral**

**519 Oak Grove St
Minneapolis, MN
55403**

ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Saint Markans engage in social justice ministries and actively work with local faith-based community organizing partners in advocating for public policy at state and local levels on issues related to shelter and affordable housing, gun violence prevention, climate justice, and immigration reform/serving the undocumented. Cathedral members continue to be invited to engage as informed and active citizens who follow Jesus and the Way of Love.



Saint Mark's Climate Justice Team

Our stories include a visit to the Line 3 site organized by Steve Gove; contributing to one of the Theology of creation care adult forums; Dana Dickson coordinating planting trees at Theodore Wirth Park with the North side Family of Trees group,; and Ann Pannier coordinating of a list of 14 things we can all do to make a difference for God's Creation here.

We met with Saint Mark's Endowment committee in support of policy changes they are making to direct our Endowment funds to Environmental, Social and Governance selective investment funds.

One of Saint Mark's Youth: Lola Brown was selected as a delegate by the National Church to COP26. Lola presented a highly inspiring module on Adaptation at the Nov 9 session with Presiding Bishop Curry. We hope to have Lola involved as we move into our own 2022 work.

In a renewed focus area, we engaged a Sustainable Energy Systems consultant to review and monitor our energy usage in the Cathedral Buildings. Their work is ongoing and coordinating with our Property Committee to recommend areas for investment in support of our Creation Care goals. We have received a grant from the City of Minneapolis to help us implementing Solar panels on some of our roofs and are considering geo-thermal heating and cooling.



Sample artwork from the Climate Evangelism Grant Project

Lastly, this past year we completed the work of our Episcopal Church Creation Care Grant (\$8600) Evangelism Project. We partnered with MN Interfaith Power & Light with help from Episcopal Church in Minnesota to train and encourage lay leaders at six parishes to create teams to lead their congregations to respond to climate crisis. Nine leaders at six parishes completed the training. Seven leaders at four parishes went on to create teams, specific action plans, and to pursue those plans with their congregations. Through these action plans 80 or more people across the four congregations and their neighborhoods were impacted by this project. The six parishes involved were All Saints, Northfield; Christ Church, Woodbury; St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul; St. Luke's - St. James, Minneapolis; St. Luke's, Rochester; St. Nicholas, Richfield. We will continue to support and network with these congregations.

We are continuing to work our plan with objectives that are Life-giving, Liberating, and Loving to change our habits and choices, advocate for climate action, and continue our Spiritual growth and understanding as we carry out God's work to care for His creation.

Joe Ward, Saint Mark's Climate Justice Team Leader



The Wells Foundation

The Wells Foundation was started in the late 1800s as the Wells Settlement House by Saint Markans to serve the needs of immigrants in the neighborhood. After the house was sold, the money was invested in an endowment, with the money to be used for grants to social service nonprofits. All board members of Wells are members of Saint Mark's.

Our main activity is to give grants to neighborhood nonprofits, but we also have hosted a number of Sunday forums featuring some of our grantees. We hope to have a number of these forums in person, public health conditions allowing, in 2022.

The grants from Wells Foundation for the 2021 grant cycle totaled \$100,000 to 19 nonprofits. Find the full listing grants posted on our website, wellsfound.org.

This spring, we will have a photo exhibit of our grantees in the Gallery.

Our warmest thanks to our faithful board members for their work and service this past year: Inez Bergquist, Molly Bott, Lee Brant, Barbara Hanson, Dean Paul Lebens-Englund, Harriet McCleary, Dave Nickel, and John Nuechterlein. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Bill Nelson, who died in 2021, a faithful board vice president and previous president of Wells in the 1990's.

We were pleased to add board members Linda Schubring and John Ramsbottom in 2021, as well a new president starting January 2022, Martha Hoover, who previously served on the Wells board as treasurer.

We sincerely thank our donors for their contributions during the year, and to Saint Mark's, Dean Paul Lebens-Englund, Dave Albrecht from the Council and Archdeacon Rena Turnham for their faithful prayers and collaborative partnership.

Learn more about the Wells Foundation at wellsfound.org/.

Inez Bergquist, Wells Foundation Board President,
2016-21

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE

In the year 2021 Minneapolis College awarded Lionheart Scholarships to twenty three students in the amount of \$20,000.00. The qualifying students had been directly impacted by homelessness or were from the north Minneapolis area.

Since the partnership began in 2016 Saint Markans have contributed over \$120,000.00 to the Lionheart Scholarship fund benefiting more than seventy students. Most of those students were the first in their families to attend college. For many students English was not their first language. Donations may be made to the Lionheart fund from the Dean's Christmas Appeal letter or during the year through the link on the St. Mark's website.

Since the pandemic began Lionheart Scholars have continued to keep up with the challenges of coursework, raising families and working. Many work either full-time or part-time jobs.

Every November the St. Mark's Lionheart Committee hosts a party for the Lionheart Scholars so we can personally offer our support to them and listen to their stories. Each Scholar is doing their best to complete their degree to better themselves, their families, and contribute to the wellbeing of their communities. Some Scholars complete their degree in two years and enter their chosen field, while others may transfer to four year colleges for additional coursework and training.

In addition to Scholarships the St. Mark's Community Engagement Team supports requests from the Student Resource Center of Minneapolis College for special needs.

For further information in regard to the Lionheart Committee and volunteer opportunities at Minneapolis College please contact me.

The Rev. Lowell Johnson, Deacon for Community Connectons.

ADMINISTRATION

RESOURCING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

SAINT MARK'S FOUNDATION

The Saint Mark's Foundation Board has recently begun a campaign to increase the endowment of Saint Mark's from approximately \$5 million in 2021 to \$10 million by the end of 2026. Saint Markans will be asked to contribute to help build the endowment to a level where it will be more able to continue to support the Cathedral in the future.

The Foundation is a separate tax-exempt entity that has managed the endowment of Cathedral Church of Saint Mark since 1996 and acts as an important resource for the Cathedral. It supports the Cathedral in three main ways:

Annual Operating Distributions: Each year, the Foundation provides roughly 4.5% of its assets to help fund the operations of the Cathedral. The distribution was roughly \$180,000 in 2021.

Loans: In 2018, the Foundation loaned the Cathedral \$110,000 to make needed renovations to bring the 425 House up to saleable condition. The loan was repaid from the proceeds of the sale in 2019.

Grants: When the Cathedral has extraordinary needs, the Foundation makes grants to the Cathedral. In 2021, it made two grants, \$100,000 as part of a multi-year grant supporting a transition to expanded Cathedral staffing and \$120,000 to deal with unexpected financial stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants are also planned for 2022.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Saint Mark's members who oversee the investment of its assets. The Board employs an investment advisor, RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets LLC, to help them place funds with a broadly diversified group of professional investment managers and to periodically rebalance the portfolio as market conditions change.

In 2021, The Board undertook two major initiatives. First, the Board did a total rewrite of its Investment Policy Statement, a document which had not been

altered in more than a decade. Some of the changes were simply to bring the policies into alignment with current market practices. However, the most important alterations were to include explicit statements that Foundation assets were to be invested in line with certain Cathedral values and within strict guidelines for socially responsible investing practices. (Anyone wishing a copy of the Investment Policy Statement may request one from the Cathedral office.)

Second, the Board, with the help of the investment advisor, made a comprehensive audit of all its investment managers regarding their investment practices to ensure that they comply with our new investment policy guidelines. In several cases, managers were replaced with other management firms whose practices coincided more closely with our guidelines for socially responsible investing.

Over the last decade the operating expenses of the Cathedral have grown but the assets of the Foundation have not grown, largely because the Foundation has made numerous special grants to the Cathedral. Hence, the annual operating distribution from the Foundation has become a smaller and smaller percentage of the Cathedral's operating needs. In fact, only the extraordinary investment returns of recent years have kept the endowment from shrinking.

Recognizing that this situation is not sustainable, the Board has decided to embark on a campaign to double the size of the endowment from \$5 million to \$10 million over the next five years. This is a necessary step to maintain the Foundation's ability to support the Cathedral's yearly operations and to respond to extraordinary needs when they arise in the future.

The current membership of the Foundation Board is Fred Moore, President, Paul Anton, Vice-President, and Board Members, Richard Helling, Cindy Lennie, Penelope Pate Greene, Paul Schelin, and Brian Myers. Dean Paul Lebens-Englund and Cathedral Treasurer Ted Sherman attend as ex officio members.

Saint Mark's Foundation closed the year with total assets of \$4,927,784 and a total return on investments of 12.7% for 2021.

Alfred P. (Fred) Moore, President, Foundation of the Cathedral Church of Saint Mark

PROPERTY

In 2021, the Property Committee finished off final punch list items relating to our recent capital investments in the library, the new AV system, the new electronic sign and other projects. We also have engaged with a consultant to help us with an analysis of our property's physical condition. In the coming months we will be conducting an analysis of the Cathedral building and systems in an effort to diagnose any short-term needs and long-term opportunities for the Cathedral. In the coming year, the Property Committee plans to work with other stakeholders across the Cathedral community to build a long-term capital plan for the Cathedral property that maintains the assets we have and utilizes the property to its fullest potential into the future. The Property Committee Chair would like to thank Martha Hoover, Marcia Morris, Sarah Nowlin, George Ewing and Kathy McGill for their hard work and their commitment to the Committee and to St. Mark's.

Chris Kirwan, Property Chair

GOVERNANCE

The Governance Committee examines ways to improve the work of the Council and its committees to support the church's mission by word and deed, provide effective organization and planning, and manage resources and finances.

Last year, we reviewed the governing policies and bylaws of the Cathedral; this year, we submitted recommendations to the Council for revisions, which were approved (and must now be submitted to the Bishop for final approval). Last year also saw our first virtual Annual Meeting, which was highly successful.

We worked with the Canon Pastor and Cathedral staff to update the Cathedral's IT resources and capabilities to protect Cathedral information and make appropriate information more readily available to Cathedral members, visitors, and others; we also improved the Council's technology capability to enable faster collaboration, as well as create the capability for members to participate even when not physically present.

Kerry Childe, Governance Committee Chair

STEWARDSHIP

The pledges for 2022 currently total \$950,000 compared to \$836,000 in 2021. We have 290 pledge units in 2022 compared to 280 in 2021.

We have 47 new pledge units totaling \$59,000. We continue to reach out to the approximately 50 former pledgers.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee meets monthly to review and monitor the Operating Financial Statements for both Revenues and Expenditures along with the Balance Sheet. Our primary purpose is developing the Budget after consultation with the Stakeholders including Clergy, Administrative Staff and the Treasurer. The Council approved our proposed 2022 \$1,866,000.00 Operating Budget at their meeting January 20th.

The Cathedral has and continues to experience the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic during these challenging, uncertain times. Our primary accomplishments were the development and implementation of a 3 Year Budget, reconciling of the Restricted Funds, consolidation and creation of Account Codes.

Committee Members are Ellen Archibald, Bill Carpenter, and George Ewing who have served for several years. Iris Key and Sten Johnson recently became members. David Christopherson served as the Internal Auditor. Ted Sherman Treasurer, Paul Lakeman, Senior Warden, The Reverend Timothy Kingsley, Canon Pastor, and Kate Thompson, Business Manager, continue to attend and participate at our monthly meetings. It is a blessing to have this Committee, and I am most grateful for their devotion and expertise as I complete my Council 3 year term.

Mike Suhr, Finance Committee Chair

TREASURER

It will come as a surprise to no one that we continue to operate in a challenging environment. This reality was evident in our 2021 financial results, which registered an operating loss of \$163,000 for the full year.

Cathedral staff have displayed incredible resilience and a commitment to prudent financial management during this period, and for this I would like to thank them on behalf of the Council and the entire St. Mark's community. I'm also grateful for the generous support of the Foundation, which has been essential to support our ongoing operations, in particular because unlike in 2020, St. Mark's did not receive assistance from the federal government.

Working with staff, Council, and Mike Suhr and the Finance Committee, we did see some wins this year - in particular the implementation of a three-year strategic budget process and the rationalization of our accounts associated with restricted funds.

For 2022, the Council approved a budget with a modest operating gain, on revenues of \$1.865 million and expenses of \$1.847 million. This reflects ongoing cautious management of expenses, continued generous support from the Foundation, and a truly remarkable increase in stewardship commitments in the fact of ongoing economic turbulence.

Beyond 2022, the strategic budget process has provided clarity in one key area. It will be essential that St. Mark's expand revenue streams such as income from rentals and events, in addition to relying on traditional sources such as stewardship, planned gifts, and Foundation support, if we are to maintain financial stability and thrive and grow over the long term. Other faith communities of our size and stature have shown that this can be done in a way that leverages their assets financially while staying true to their missions, and I'm confident that this can be done successfully at St. Mark's given our location, our world-class AV and live-streaming capabilities, and the beauty of our building and grounds, and of course our greatest resource – all of you.

Ted Sherman, Treasurer

	2021 Results	2022 Budget
Revenue	\$1,650,631	\$1,865,975
Expense	\$1,813,173	\$1,847,975
Operating Net	-\$163,242	\$18,000

THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS THE MISSION OF GOD

1. Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. Teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. Respond to human need by loving service
4. Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth