



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH PHILADELPHIA

THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, February 12, 2023, 10 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. Prayer – The Rector
- II. Greeting -The Rector's Warden
- III. Presentation of the 2023 Budget – The Rector's Warden
- IV. The Rector's Report to the Parish
- V. Questions and Comments from the Parish at large
- VI. Information on Parish Elections
- VII. Concluding Prayer

Mission Statement

Saint Mark's is a community that gathers in faith, serves in love, and proclaims hope, through Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

Saint Mark's is a welcoming church that seeks to grow through spiritual nourishment, evangelism and outreach, bearing witness in the Anglo-Catholic tradition to God's grace in Philadelphia and the wider church.

Values Statement

Saint Mark's is a loving community that values:

- reverent sacramental worship
 - gracious hospitality
 - generous outreach
 - comprehensive Christian formation
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A Prayer for the Church

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst form thy Church to be of one heart and one soul in the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit: Renew her evermore in her first love; and grant to thy people such a measure of thy grace that their life may be hallowed, their way directed, and their work made fruitful to the good of thy Church and the glory of thy holy Name; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (from the Community of the Resurrection)

STEWARDSHIP 2023

The habits of Christian stewardship are not intended primarily to fund parish budgets. The church encourages and nurtures these habits in response to Christ's teaching that sometimes the thing we most need to do is give something away, and to the parables in which he outlined the virtues of the careful and wise steward who makes something for God of the gifts she has been given by God. The church has come to believe that we cannot be healthy if we are not giving generously, and so we work on becoming cheerful givers because it is at least as good for each of us as it is for the church. If we all became the good stewards God calls us to be, the church would not have to do much fundraising.

Generous giving has been characteristic from so many members of the parish, and not less so during the years of pandemic. Generous pledged giving is what sustains ministry in this parish, and it is what will facilitate growth in the parish, since growth often requires resources, and committed, generous members are our most meaningful resource.

As of last week, we have received 203 pledges for nearly \$563,000 of pledged income for the year. These two numbers track very closely with the number of pledges and the amount pledged we had received by this time last year. Of course, in a time of rising costs, holding steady is good, but it means we are actually falling a little behind. And on this side of the pandemic, we want to focus on growth and the need to increase our capacity for ministry, which will require more people and more giving. The two ways we notice growth most obviously is when we see more people attending worship (in person and online) and when we see more people giving. Obviously the two will probably go hand in hand. So, we are praying and working for the growth of the parish: numerically, spiritually, and financially.

Many thanks to all of you who have made your pledges so far this year. It's never too late to make a pledge if you haven't done so yet. You can make a pledge online, or by contacting the Office, by picking up a pledge card from the Ushers' Table at the west end of the church, or by going online to make a pledge on our website.

Thanks are due to Addie Peyronnin, who chaired the Stewardship Committee for a second year in 2022, and to all its members: Jay Blossom, Leslie Delauter, Gaetano Piccirilli, Betsy Fisher Gray, Susan Coote, Terry Moore, Genie Murphy, Doug Yocum, and the Verger, Daniel Russell, who works closely with the committee.

THE 2023 OPERATING BUDGET

The budget of the parish is a planning tool that the Vestry uses to make sure we are funding our mission priorities, practicing good stewardship of the gifts that are given to us, and operating responsibly and sustainably. The Finance Committee, which is chaired by the Accounting Warden, meets monthly to review actual income and expenses against the guidelines of the budget, to make adjustments as we go, and to keep leadership informed. The committee reviews this progress in detail, and shares a summary report, along with a narrative provided by the Financial Administrator. Any Vestry member may review the budget in detail at any time. We aim for a high level of transparency, and we expect to follow the spending outlined in the narrative budget summary below. It has been our normative pattern to hire accountants to carry out an independent audit of our financial books each year, and to share the results of the audit with the entire Vestry.

Drafting the budget for 2023 was challenging, even though all our sources of income remain strong. Two factors proved especially challenging in building a budget. First, rising costs because of inflation are noticeable and are beyond our control. Second, we realized that we have experienced an almost invisible income bubble because of the receipt of PPP funds from the federal government in 2021. Since giving has remained strong, the receipt of PPP funds allowed us to bank a cash surplus that year. On the strength of giving and the surplus, we made some overdue salary adjustments, and were able to upgrade one position from part-time to full-time (the Assistant Organist) as a way of increasing our capacity for ministry. However, when a second wave of Covid forced Omicron-related restrictions in church again, efforts to overcome inertia and start to grow again were squelched in late 2021 and into 2022. And it wasn't until fall 2022 that we began to see people reestablishing more usual patterns of attendance, and where the possibility of growth in several areas of ministry (notably families with children) again seems possible, having been stymied by the pandemic and its restrictions. Sufficient surplus funds remain in our accounts to fund some, but not all of the expected deficit for this year.

We did everything we could to curb expenses at the end of 2022 and raise revenue, in order to maximize available surplus funds for use in 2023, and these steps had a significant measure of success. But we will have to find ways to raise additional revenue in 2023 or cut expenditures further because we cannot fund a deficit of any noticeable size. The 2023 operating budget is affected by cuts in several of the few areas in which we have discretion around spending, and some of these cuts will certainly be noticeable, but they should not hamper our capacity for ministry. The Vestry is aware that many of the same structural issues will be in place when we go into 2024, and we know that the remedy to the situation is increased revenue, which points us again toward the need to grow.

This year the Vestry has begun discussing and planning for the introduction of a Capital budget that would run alongside the Operating budget and would serve as a tool to keep track of capital expenditures that are often not included in normal operation budgets and spending. We believe a Capital budget would be a useful tool for planning, accountability, and discipline. And we hope to continue to learn and experiment this year to prepare us for the introduction a Capital budget in some form in 2024.

Saint Mark's has one of the largest budgets of the 134 parishes in this diocese. We are in a position of privilege and leadership in the diocese. This budget is presented with the conviction that God continues to call us to lead and to grow, to strengthen the church, to advance the cause of the Gospel, and to praise the Name of Jesus by our witness and example.

Income

The Parish has three regular streams of income:

Parish Support – \$675,000

which includes income from pledges of annual giving, plate offerings, and special offerings made throughout the year. This might be thought of as Annual Giving and it is this aspect of Christian Stewardship that our Stewardship Team works on each year.

Income from Endowments – \$428,900

which comes from the invested legacies of funds that have been left to the Parish over the years. Most of this income comes from the unitized endowment funds, overseen by the Trustees of the Endowments of Saint Mark's, a separately incorporated and governed non-profit entity. More information about the Trustees and about the endowments of Saint Mark's can be found later in this report. We are also the beneficiary of income from one other trust that is administered by a bank: the Mary Eisenbrey Memorial Trust, the proceeds of which must be used for the relief of the poor of the parish, or the poor of the missions of the parish.

Other income – \$63,900

from things like rent for building use, and fees from extra-parochial weddings. We also receive grants from both the Diocese to help fund the Ministry Residents program and from the Curtis Institute of Music to help fund our Organ Scholar.

Total Income \$1,167,800

Expenses

For planning purposes, the Vestry normally looks at expenses under the following broad categories:

Clergy & Staff Salaries – \$688,567

This category includes the salaries and benefits of the clergy (full-time, part-time, and honorary), the Organist, Assistant Organist, Organ Scholar, Financial Secretary, Verger, Sexton, and childcare providers. This year the budget includes a very modest cost of living adjustment (3%) to staff salaries. The Clergy did not receive an increase.

Contributions – \$67,500

These are contributions made to the Diocese of Pennsylvania for the support of the episcopate and for the mission and ministry of the Diocese. Some of these contributions are mandated by the diocese, another portion of it is voluntary, to support the mission of the church in the diocese. We aim to tithe to the diocese the gifts that are given to us, meaning that our total giving to the diocese represents 10% of our annual Parish Support.

Music – \$91,500

This area of the budget accounts for two different choirs, the Adult choir as well as the Boys & Girls Choir. There are nine paid singers in the adult choir. This area of the budget also includes scores and instrumentalists, as well as modest stipends for the Boys & Girls Choir. The cost of the Choirmaster and Organists are not included in this area; they are included in staff salaries. This area of the budget was cut significantly from 2022 due to rising costs in other areas.

Buildings & Property – \$65,500

Many costs associated with the regular annual care, maintenance, and repair of the building are included in this area of the budget. This includes modest funding for care of the Gardens, maintenance of the Organ, regular roof maintenance, Rectory repairs, and repair and upkeep of heating and air conditioning systems. The expenses covered by this area are only normal annual repairs. No capital improvements or deferred maintenance projects are covered in the regular annual budget. Even the budget for annual maintenance is lower than it should be for a physical plant as large, old, and architecturally distinguished as ours. Capital improvements can only be funded with additional resources.

Operations – \$27,850

Expenses associated with worship – like flowers and candles, altar bread and wine, new linens, laundry, etc – are included in this area, as are the costs of Parish events and the Stewardship campaign. Line-items allow for the purchase or repair of furniture and fixtures, costs associated with Wi-Fi, the website, and other miscellaneous operational expenses.

Christian Formation – \$6,300

This budget area is chronically lower than it should be, but is also somewhat misleading, since the most important resources we bring to Christian formation are human resources in the form of clergy, staff, Ministry Residents (the cost for all of which is accounted for elsewhere) and volunteers (who are priceless). Costs associated with Choir Camp as well as Camp Mustard Seed are included here.

Administration – \$110,750

Postage, printing, and office supplies are included in this area of the budget. This budget area also includes the costs of property and liability insurance and taxes (yes, we do pay some real estate taxes and payroll taxes). Other professional services like accounting (including an annual audit) are provided here. The cost of our general liability insurance increased dramatically in 2022.

Outreach – \$95,700

The major programs included in this area of funding include the Food Cupboard, the Saturday Soup Bowl, and the Ministry Residents Program. The funding includes a \$25,000 gift to St. James School, as it has for several years. Modest monthly contributions to the Rector's Discretionary Fund are included in this area. Substantial funding in this area is provided by income from the Eisenbrey Trust, which is intended to fund work with the poor of the parish and the missions of the parish, and which is managed by a corporate trustee, Wells Fargo Bank.

Utilities – \$53,000

Costs for heating (our system can run on oil or natural gas; we have been using natural gas exclusively for several years), electricity, water, and gas are included in this area of the budget. We are anticipating a 10% increase in costs of Utilities in 2023 due to rising utility rates.

Total Expenses \$1,206,667

Potential Deficit (\$38,867)

The Barnabas Society

The Barnabas Society was formed by the Vestry in 2018 to recognize those who have included planned gifts in their wills or estate plans, and to encourage planned giving to the parish. Legacy gifts have had a profound and powerful affect on Saint Mark’s, enabling this parish to survive some lean times, and contributing to the practice of ministry here for generations. A legacy gift to Saint Mark’s is a contribution to the future of the church, and making arrangements now for a planned gift in the future is a commitment to the next generations of parishioners who will worship, pray, grow, and serve here.

Saint Barnabas was the cousin of Saint Mark. He is depicted prominently in the iconography of the church interior. The Book of Acts reports that Barnabas “sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” (Acts 4:37). The name Barnabas means “son of encouragement.”

The Prayer Book directs the clergy to “instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable purposes.” (BCP ‘79, p 445)

Planned gifts to Saint Mark’s may be designated to a particular area of ministry or project, directed for investment with the endowments of the parish, or given without restriction for the general purposes of the parish. As a matter of policy, gifts over \$10,000 are not used for general operating expenses.

The Bell Tower, Lady Chapel, Threshold Campaign & Capital Projects

As 2022 approached, the parish leadership had a short-term and long-term plan for project goals and fundraising needs for several capital projects, and we began to implement that plan with the launch of the Threshold Campaign, late in 2021, which was intended to address the short-term goals, and provide planning for the long-term goals. Then in December 2021, an inspection of the masonry of the bell tower revealed significant degradation of the stone and our engineers declared the conditions unsafe, requiring the erection of a sidewalk shed at the base of the tower for protection, as well as scaffolding at the Lady Chapel. This discovery, and the recognition that the

costs of mitigating the conditions in both the Lady Chapel and the bell tower would be very costly, disrupted the plans we laid out, and forced us to turn our attention to these immediate needs.

The bell tower will require expensive scaffolding, and work that we expect to cost in the low seven figures. The masonry of the Lady Chapel has been stabilized, so that we could remove scaffolding. But repairs there will probably run to the mid-six figures. Although the building itself is not in imminent danger, conditions will only worsen over time. These two projects have become our highest priority, whether we wanted them to be or not.

We have been awarded grants of about \$350,000 toward the preservation of the bell tower. We are pursuing more funding, and are especially working with state leaders to try to access more funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, while we also pursue other possibilities. We are also actively pursuing funding for the preservation of the Lady Chapel exterior masonry, which we hope will be successful. Many, but not all of the goals of the Threshold Campaign, had to be sidelined as we have addressed these more urgent matters. The pressing need to address accessibility of the buildings and the need for improved and increased space utilization have become no less pressing.

The preservation of our historic and beautiful brownstone buildings can be a challenge, but we regard it as a matter of good stewardship of assets that have served this parish extremely well in the worship of God and care of God's people for 175 years.

Organ Console

The 2017-19 restoration of our 1936-37 Æolian Skinner organ was intended to include three parts: the preservation of the historic organ (funded by the Wyncote Foundation), the re-working of the Nave divisions of the instrument in the west end (funded by gifts from the parish), and a new console. Funding for the console was never identified. In 2022, we received a grant for just over \$350,000 from the Wyncote Foundation to complete this last step of restoration of the organ. We have contracted with Kegg Organ Builders of Ohio to build a new console in the style of Æolian Skinner consoles, and we expect the new console to be installed sometime around the end of this summer.

Church Interior Lighting and Audio-Visual System

In 2022 we completed the installation of new interior lighting for the church and many new elements of an audio/visual system, including new loudspeakers for the church.

Heating Repairs

The Verger manages the ongoing process of repairs to the heating system, which are necessary in a physical plant of historic buildings. The boiler is in need of replacement, but our maintenance firm is coaxing it along to try to delay that need for as long as possible.

The Ministries of the Parish

Emerging on the other side of the Coronavirus pandemic has meant working to overcome inertia in many areas of the life of the church and among the people of God. Our watchword during the restrictions of the pandemic was “engagement” - we strove to stay engaged with one another and to keep one another engaged in the worship of God and the care of God’s people. We are returning now to a more familiar challenge of adopting postures that will enable growth. The following areas of ministry are the highest priorities for growth:

- **Ministries with Families and Children.** This is the area of ministry most affected by the pandemic in many ways. We need to make building these ministries a high priority as we continue to respond to God’s call to grow.
- **Pastoral Care and Small-Group ministries.** Neighbor Care has proved to be a very important aspect of the life of the parish for many people, and has, for some, been the primary point of contact with the parish throughout the pandemic. Neighbor Care can and should be refined and expanded, so that it provides an avenue of fellowship and care to people on a more local level. We should also explore whether an increased emphasis on small-group ministries would provide a pathway to growth.
- **Online Ministries.** The move to live-streaming liturgies and increased use of social media has shown us what a large potential congregation there is out there in the world. We are looking for ways not only to expand the reach of our live-streamed liturgies, but to expand online ministry in general to strengthen ties of fellowship with those from anywhere in the world who are called to be connected with us, and to build community beyond the locality of Locust Street.

Worship and Prayer

The daily celebration of the Mass is the heartbeat of Saint Mark’s. Since the onset of the pandemic we have been on a reduced schedule of only one Mass a day (M-F) at 12:10 p.m. For many years there was also a Low Mass said on weekday mornings at 7:30 a.m. It has not seemed necessary or prudent to re-establish the morning Mass, though it remains a possibility. The Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer are said every weekday too. This regular round of prayer is not attended by great throngs of people, but it represents an important aspect of our ministry of worship and prayer.

Music and Liturgy

The musical and liturgical patterns of the parish have been largely free of pandemic-related restrictions since the fall of 2022. Some small adjustments have been made to musical forces for the calendar upcoming because of some budget cuts. They may be noticeable, but should not be distressing. These budget cuts affect the Parish Choir.

The Boys & Girls Choir continues to be a blessing to the parish and the core of ministry to and with children - where the largest number of kids are the most engaged. Recruitment has been difficult in the last two years, and we are spending more intentional energy in that area.

The Saint Mark’s Singers are under the direction of Assistant Organist Thomas Gaynor. This year we doubled the number of their performances from two to four and have included the Saint Mark’s Singers in some liturgies, which is a fruitful step for the group and for its members.

Adult Formation

Mother Johnson is once again leading a group of adults in preparation for confirmation and reception into the Episcopal Church. Bishop Gutiérrez will make his visitation to Saint Mark's on Sunday, April 23 for Confirmation.

Children's Formation

The departure of the Associate Rector before the end of the year makes for some challenges since the organization and leadership of children's formation lies in her hands. I'm talking with her, and with Ministry Residents, and volunteers about how we will manage these responsibilities in the gap of time during which we have no Associate Rector. I'm confident that we will be able to manage the transition well. We'll also be making plans for Camp Mustard Seed at Grumblethorpe this summer.

Outreach

Outreach ministries have settled down into more regular patterns. We have seen a notable increase in the number of clients coming to use the Food Cupboard - regularly at least 200 a month. The Soup Bowl has returned to in-person service in the Parish Hall at somewhat lower numbers than pre-pandemic (75-100 per week), and we have mostly (but not completely) dropped the hybrid element of bag-lunch distribution. Robbin McCarthy still distributes some lunches on her own, and the Ministry Residents do a small run of bag-lunch delivery each week.

Every Tuesday morning, we make a pick-up of food from a distribution center of Philabundance and drop off about 750 pounds of food for distribution at the Church of the Crucifixion. While there is construction being done at the church the distribution is taking place at a different location nearby.

We fulfilled our pledge toward the capital campaign of St. James School, which established an endowment and funded the construction of a new building. The school asked us to re-structure our giving a little bit so that we could make a \$50,000 contribution to the capital campaign and a smaller contribution as our annual gift. We were happy to do this. The building will be opened and dedicated at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21. All are welcome to attend the ceremony at the school.

Hospitality and Fellowship

The Parish Hall is once again a lively and regular center of hospitality. We have discovered again that we have inadequate space for hospitality, especially after the 9 a.m. Family Mass.

Neighbor Care continues to provide a context in which many people can offer and receive hospitality, and through which fellowship is fostered.

Gatherings for the 20s/30s ministry have continued at a regular pace.

Visitors, Sacraments, and the Pastoral Offices

The staff and clergy try to be diligent in welcoming newcomers to Saint Mark's both in person and online. We know that it continues to be the case that most people will come to a church for the first time because they have been invited by someone to come. And we encourage everyone to think about how important is to invite people to church - please try it now and then!

The regular ministries of baptism, wedding, burials, etc continue to unfold here as they do in the lives of people around us.

Antiracism

The sin of racism continues to be a challenge that the church is struggling to confront. It has been my practice to pray regularly and publicly about this sin and the need for repentance.

On Saturday, March 11, we'll host a conversation between two theologians about how the church is coping with racism. Dr. Sarah Coakley and Dr. Vincent Lloyd will be here to spend a morning discussing the following topics:

- After George Floyd: Are we now increasingly Stuck and Silenced on questions of Racism, both in Church and Society? If so, Why? And What could be Done about this?
- How to go Deeper 1: 'The Issue of *Black Dignity*'. A presentation by Prof Lloyd on his new book, with interactive questions from Prof Coakley, referring also to Prof. Lloyd's earlier work on *Black Natural Law*
- How to go Deeper, 2: Racism and Its Relation to Sin, Desire, Prayer and Perception - Is Theology Integral to both Historic and Contemporary Racism in the USA?

Racism is a problem in the church (and in America) because it is a sin. The church's ministry is to help us confront our sins and repent; to seek forgiveness and reconciliation; and to rely on the unlimited grace and love of God as the source of our hope. A Eucharistic community is especially well-suited to apply itself to this ministry: to gather as Christ's Body, being fed by Christ's Body, to serve Christ's Body, recognizing that it is our sin that prevents us from interacting with each other more perfectly as Christ's Body.

We are committed to continuing to confront the sin of racism in our own hearts, in the church, and in our society with the intention of calling one another to repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation. And we are confident that only Christ has the power to affect the gifts of grace that we need to overcome the effects of racism in our lives and in the world.

The Clergy, Staff & Volunteers of Saint Mark's

Recently, the Vestry and I spent some time talking, thinking about how the church is staffed and whether the church is sufficiently staffed for this current moment, and what the future staff and clergy needs of the parish are likely to be. As context and demands change, staffing needs could change too. And while we don't see any imminent changes in the coming year, we think we should keep our eyes on not-too-distant possibilities of the future.

In part, this conversation is predicated by the imminent departure of Mother Brit Frazier to take up the leadership of a parish in the Diocese of Fond du Lac. Please gather on Sunday, March 5 following Choral Evensong & Benediction for some fellowship at the Rectory when we can send Brit and Mark off with our love and blessing. We want to thank them for being with us as part of our parish family, and we want to thank Brit especially for her ministry here and the way she has shared her gifts with us.

We have put off advertising for someone to fill this position in order to give ourselves some time to discern what kind of person we may be looking for. By mid-February, we will be ready to begin initial advertising to fill the position. I do fully expect for there to be a gap of a couple of months at least between the time Mother Frazier makes her departure and the time we fill the position. This will put some strain on the staff and the other clergy, but we will manage.

It is not only during times that we are shorthanded that I am grateful for the ministries of my clergy colleagues, Mother Nora Johnson and Father Stephen Moore, both of whom exercise leadership in specific areas of parish life, and on whom I am extremely dependent. I'm grateful also to Father Gordon Reid, who is often with us to be of help. Father Nicholas Phelps is no longer able to participate in active ministry, but we are always glad when he can be with us.

Our musicians are led by the marvelously talented Robert McCormick, whose gifts at the organ never fail to inspire us, and whose leadership of the choirs is the object of renown! Thomas Gaynor has earned the affection and respect of us all, especially the more than thirty singers he meets with each week leading the Saint Mark's Singers. And Isza Wu has been a welcome addition in the organ loft as our Organ Scholar from the Curtis Institute of Music.

Daniel Russell makes an enormous contribution to the operation of this parish in the three main areas of his responsibilities, etc of which could be a job in and of itself. He handles communications, matters to do with Buildings & Property, and manages the Sacristy and its related work. His ministry is a great boon of fruitfulness to the parish.

We are very fortunate indeed to have Mary Campbell managing our finances. Her expertise and institutional knowledge serve us extremely well.

Jason DeLaRoi, the Sexton, continues to bring his good nature and hard work to Locust Street, and he wears more hats than any of us realize. We are grateful for his good work!

This year's cohort of Ministry Residents has not only formed a happy community in the Rectory and the church, but have made important contributions to the life and ministry of the parish too. It is a blessing to have these young people working with us and among us in the day-to-day operation of the parish.

The Ministry Residents are part of the diocesan Servant Year program. The Ministry residents for 2022-23 are:

Hyacinth Iversen
Dakota Bennett
Michael Castro

The 175th Anniversary of the Founding of Saint Mark's - 2023-24

The first meeting of men (they were mostly men at the time) to discuss the establishment of Saint Mark's took place in June of 1847 just down the block from where the church now stands. On the Feast of Saint Mark, April 25 of the following year, the cornerstone of the church had been laid, and on October 21 of 1849 the first service was held on the site in the unfinished building. Please take note of these upcoming dates:

- April 25, 2023, at 7 p.m. – 175th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the building.
Choral High Mass for the Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

- February 9, 2024 - A festive gala dinner to celebrate the life of the Parish, held at the 23rd Street Armory
- April 25, 2024 - Culminating celebration Mass on the Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist with the premiere of a new Mass setting commissioned from David Hurd for the occasion.

There will be various other opportunities to celebrate, as well as some exhibitions, publications, and general merriment as we celebrate this milestone in our life together in Christ.

The Endowments of Saint Mark's

The Endowments of Saint Marks began in the 1884 with a gift of \$700. Between 1889 and 1909 the "Jubilee Fund" - established for the preservation of the buildings and other purposes of the parish – grew to a principal value of almost \$90,000. In 1934, all such capital funds that were under control of the Vestry were placed in the fiduciary trust of a newly formed corporation, the Trustees of Endowments for Saint Mark's Church. The Trustees, who are self-governing, still maintain the management and fiduciary responsibility of the funds in their care.

One additional fund, The Mary E. Eisenbrey Trust is not managed by the Trustees, but by Wells Fargo Bank. The income from this fund must be used for the relief of the poor of the Parish or the missions of the Parish.

For 2023, the Trustees agreed to distribute funds at a rate of 4.45% of the total return of the average balance of the endowments for the past twelve quarters. The rate of distribution is a slight reduction from last year. At the end of 2022 the Endowments (not including the Eisenbrey Trust) had a market value just over \$8 million, the value having dropped noticeably, in line with market trends. Strong portfolio performance allowed the Trustees to reduce the percentage of distribution while making cash distributions of about the same amount as last year.

The Trustees of Endowments are:

Joe Caruso (President), John Church*, Fred Epting, Richard Lerch*, Mary Jane Barrett, Isabelle Benton, Kim Williams

* denotes a member of the Investment Committee

2023 VESTRY ELECTIONS

What does the Vestry do?

The Vestry is responsible for the temporal affairs of the parish. This means that the Vestry provides leadership in three important areas. The first is the stewardship of resources: people, property and finances. The second is in articulating and facilitating the mission and ministries of the parish with attention to things like growth, outreach, community fellowship and financial health. To do so, members of the Vestry work in cooperation with the Rector, other clergy, and other lay leaders to foster good relationships with the whole parish and the diocese. Third, the Vestry provides leadership through their own discipleship as fully participating members in the life of the parish. Regular Vestry meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of

the Vestry meetings are always available in the church on the Ushers' Table after they have been approved (i.e. the minutes of the January meeting are available after they have been approved at the February meeting). There are twelve members of the Vestry who each serve a three-year term. With the exception of the Rector's Warden, Vestry members may not serve more than two consecutive terms without at least a year's hiatus. Normally there are four vacancies in a given year.

Running for the Vestry Timeline - 2023

Friday, May 7	List of eligible voters posted on the Ushers' Table, in the Parish Hall, and on the parish website.
Friday, May 26, 5 p.m.	Nomination forms (with signatures of 20 eligible voters) must be turned in to the Secretary of the Vestry or returned to the Parish Office.
Friday, June 2	Ballots will be mailed out to all eligible voters.
Monday, June 12, 5 p.m.	Ballots must be received in the Parish Office. (You may drop ballots in the collection plate on the previous two Sundays or return them to the Office by hand or by mail.)
Tuesday, June 20, 6:30 p.m.	Stated Meeting of the Vestry and election of Officers

Eligibility to vote for members of the Vestry (from the By-Laws)

“Section 3. To be eligible to vote for members of the Vestry in Parish elections, one must be a communicant in good standing in this Parish as defined by the national canons of the Episcopal Church. A list of all persons qualified to vote under this section shall be posted in the church building by the Secretary at least thirty (30) days before the election, and the Rector shall resolve any question as to anyone's eligibility to vote no later than twenty-four hours before the ballots are mailed.”

For purposes of voting the by-laws imply that one is to be an adult communicant in good standing. Per Canon 17.1 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, we define an adult communicant in good standing as some who

- is 16 years of age or older
- has been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church
- received communion at least three times in the previous year
- is faithful in worship
- is a financial giver of record in the previous year

Southwark Deanery Representatives & Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Saint Mark's also needs two representatives to the Deanery and three delegates to the Diocesan Convention. These are not Vestry positions.

The Diocese is organized into regional areas, called “deaneries.” The clergy from each deanery meet monthly. A larger group of representatives, including lay people, meets quarterly, more or less. The deanery representatives' responsibilities include attending the Southwark Deanery meetings four times during the year. They represent St. Mark's and vote for deanery representation on the Diocesan Council. They also vote for the dean of Southwark Deanery. Meetings are held at various parishes in our area. The deanery is presented diocesan business prior to convention in the form of

resolutions. The deanery also discusses specific concerns and problems of its member churches and ways that it can help to resolve those issues. The representatives report back to the Vestry, as necessary.

Diocesan Convention is the gathering of representatives of all parishes and organizations in the diocese to carry out its legislative work. The delegates to the Diocesan Convention usually meet on the first or second Saturday of November to debate and vote on the resolutions of convention including the budget. The delegates report back to the Vestry, as necessary.

If you have any questions about being on the Vestry or about the other positions, please ask any Vestry member or member of the nominating committee. The nominating committee is normally appointed by the Rector in February. If your name does not appear on the list of eligible voters and you think it should, a mistake may have been made. Please contact a member of the Vestry or speak with Father Mullen.

The Vestry elects its own officers, with the exception of the Rector's Warden, who is appointed by the Rector, per diocesan canons.

The Vestry 2022-23

Jay Blossom (Rector's Warden), Joshua Castaño (Accounting Warden), Joshua Cojerean (Secretary), Kevin Hook (Treasurer), Susan Coote, Davis Dure, Brad Garfield, Martha Johnson, Emily McGraw, Addie Peyronnin, Amelia Schmertz, Steve Carson*

*died in 2022

Committees - 2023

The Finance Committee - Joshua Castaño(Chair), Jay Blossom, Isabelle Benton, Mario Crociata, Kevin Hook, Brad Garfield

The Stewardship Committee - Terry Moore (Chair), Addie Peyronnin, Jay Blossom, Leslie Delauter, Gaetano Picirilli, Doug Yocum, Anna Marchini, Susan Coote, and Betsy Fisher-Gray, new members to be added in 2023

The Buildings & Property Committee - David d'Ambly (Chair), Bob Brano, Ron Emrich, Norman MacArthur, Walter Peterson, Andrew Donaldson-Evans

The 175th Anniversary Committee - David Marshall (Chair), Angela Bilger, Janet Distel, Martha Johnson, Genie Murphy, Addie Peyronnin, Louise Rees, Amelia Schmertz, Mike Wherley, Kim Williams

The Outreach Committee - (chaired by the Rector), Efram Harkins, Robbin McCarthy, Flan Park, Ken Pearlstein, Bob Gray, Hyacinth Iversen

Parish Clergy & Staff - 2023

The Rev. Sean E. Mullen, *Rector*
The Rev. Brit Frazier, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Nora Johnson, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Stephen Moore, *Priest Associate for Pastoral Care*
The Rev. Nicholas B. Phelps, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Canon Gordon Reid, *Assisting Priest*
Robert McCormick, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Daniel Russell, *Vergers*
Thomas Gaynor, *Assistant Organist & Choirmaster*
Isza Wu, *Organ Scholar*
Mary Campbell, *Financial Secretary*
Jason DeLaRoi, *Sexton*
David Stoverschlegel, *Assistant for Children's Formation*
Dakota Bennett, *Ministry Resident*
Michael Castro, *Ministry Resident*
Hyacinth Iversen, *Ministry Resident*

The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary;
And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold, the handmaid of the Lord;
Be it unto me according to thy word.
Hail Mary, etc...

And the word was made flesh;
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary, etc...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God;
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ announced by the message of an angel to the Virgin Mary, so by his Cross and Passion, we may be brought unto the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Amen.

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