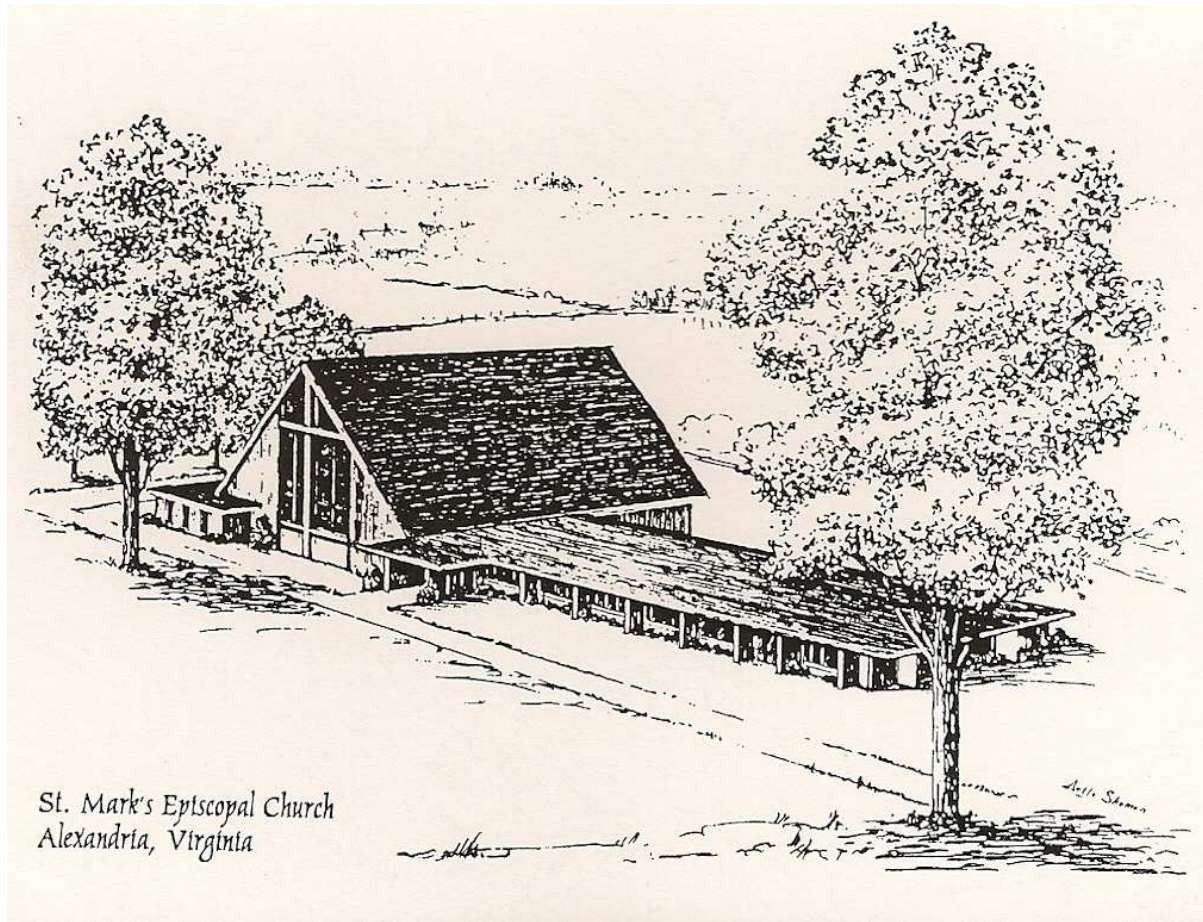


St. Mark's Episcopal Church Alexandria, Virginia



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Alexandria, Virginia

Report of the Annual Parish Meeting

January 23, 2011

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**2011 Annual Parish Meeting
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
11:00 a.m. January 23rd, 2011**

Opening Prayer

The Rev. John A. Weatherly

1. Review of Agenda
2. Appointment of Sara Dillich as Clerk and Tellers(Outgoing Vestry)
3. Approval of 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Report of the Vestry Nominating Committee
Introduction of Candidates (Nominations will remain open for 30 minutes)
5. The 2010 Stewardship Campaign Sara Dillich
The 2011 Budget..... Margaret Haberman
2009 Audit Rob Bluey
6. Reports by Committees
Parochial Report.....The Rector
Parish Associate's Report The Rev. Meredith Heffner

Senior Warden Jim Bailes
Junior Warden..... Mark Spans (By Title)
Adult Christian Education..... Al Dominic, The Rev. Cherian Pulimootil
Serving Ministries
Outreach..... Brenda Huber
St. Mark's Web Page Rob Bluey
Pastoral Care Dottie Gibson
VIC-HOP 2008-9Rosemary Kley
U.T.O. Delta Youngquist
Youth GroupTâm Slobodin
Planning Karen Ashworth
FellowshipKathy Hughes
Worship Committees
Choir, Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Lectors, Ushers
Daughters and Junior Daughters of the King
Other New Business: Diocesan Annual Council Meeting.....Jim Bailes
Other Old Business
Recognition of Outgoing Vestry

Adjournment

Closing Hymn

Christ for the world we sing

Hymnal #537

Blessing and Dismissal

Please join us in Patience Hall for Fellowship.

Institution of the New Vestry Feb. 6th. 8:00 and 10:00 services

MINUTES

St. Mark's 2009 Annual Meeting January 31, 2010

Opening prayer by Rev. John Weatherly

Review of Agenda

Appointment of Registrar and Tellers

Approval of 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion by Dave Geiss to accept minutes, Sheryl Sims seconded, verbal vote in favor.

Report of the Vestry Nominating Committee

The nominating committee was Eulie Campbell, Doug Varner, and Eric Luxner. Some of the bios for the vestry candidates are in report. Rob Bluey stood to be recognized. Dottie Gibson was in Roanoke. Margaret Haberman was not present. Tam Slobodin and Al Dominic. The nominations remained opened for 30 minutes.

Introduction of Candidates

- Rob Bluey
- Al Dominic
- Dottie Gibson
- Margaret Haberman
- Tam Slobodin
- James Weaver

2010 Stewardship Campaign

Found in the Annual Report. Jim Bailes reported that Michael Foughty submitted the report. The budget for 2010 is the largest ever and even though we passed a deficit budget it is only for \$12,000 instead of \$30,000 like last year.

2010 Budget.

The Treasurer's Report was not available and an abbreviated version of the budget was printed in the Annual Report. The vestry will vote on the 2010 budget at Vestry retreat in March and will present it to the congregation. A question was raised about the available funds for finishing the repaving of the parking lot. The answer was that there is money available in the Gibson Hall renovation account to pave the parking lot in the spring.

We had an outstanding Audit Committee who performed the audit. Their report was presented to the Annual Council meeting. The vestry is now responsible for making changes recommended by the audit committee.

Reports by Committees

Parochial Report

Printed in the Annual Report. We are required to report the number of Eucharists we perform each year both at St. Mark's and The Fairfax. We list the baptisms and confirmations with Bishop Jones and Bishop Johnston. We also list our celebrations of holy matrimony and celebrations of eternal life.

Associate Rector

Rev. Meredith Heffner has now served a full year as associate rector. She helps to preach and teach, lead Women of Spirit. Her primary responsibility is to serve the needs of the children. She said she is thrilled to have access to Gibson Hall and that the Sunday school classes have moved into the classrooms. The children go to children's chapel first and then to their classrooms. The Youth group has done many events: CROP Walk, ski trip, mission trip to Arizona. We held a junior counselor training week before Vacation Bible School. Camp Edge VBS started with a pool party, a gleaning trip to Winchester, and attendance at the Bishop's Town Hall meeting. Looking ahead, she is excited by large number of families that are coming to St. Mark's. She is looking for creative ways to serve them. She reported that the Youth group folded clothes at Groveton's clothes closet, went on a Wintergreen ski trip, helped with the pancake supper, and is planning to go on another mission in Swan's Quarter, NC.

Rev. Heffner reported that we still have some needs. We need adults to serve with the youth. There is a huge group of 6th-12th graders, a good group of 4th-6th graders. Good group of preschoolers. The 1st-3rd grade group needs more support. She encouraged families to invite friends to come to St. Mark's. She expressed her thanks to the Women of Spirit and all the Sunday school teachers by name. She also noted her thanks to Rev. Cherian Pulimootil, Seminarian Jimmy Abbot and Rev. John Weatherly for helping with children's chapel. Thanks to Eric Luxner for his work as chair for Children's Education.

Eric Luxner reported that the nursery is well staffed. St. Mark's will need Sunday school teachers for the spring session. Rev. John Weatherly said the nursery attendant, Pacita Mushrush, has been trying to adopt her brother's children in the Philippines.

Senior Warden

Jimmy Bailes said his report was printed in the Annual report. He wanted to highlight some exciting things that have happened over the last year. He said that Outreach is so important at St Mark's that Sr. Warden was asked to oversee it. He said we are blessed with so many people working towards outreach. He tried to thank everyone in his report and apologized if he missed anyone's name.

Junior Warden

Karen Ashworth explained that the Junior Warden is sometimes called the "people's warden" or "building warden." This year, we had no flood in the basement due to an Eagle Scout project that put in a drainage ditch outside. She wanted to thank all those persons who climbed ladders, washed windows, replaced ballasts in light fixtures, raked leaves, set thermostats, swept, and brought things for coffee hours. These tasks often gone unnoticed but they are so important and are appreciated.

Children's Education

Eric Luxner reported earlier.

Adult Education

Doug Varner said that there were so many programs ongoing it was hard to read the list aloud. He suggested people come at 9:15 to join in the program. He also invited the congregation to attend the Lenten program with All Saints Sharon Chapel. Rev. John Weatherly thanked him for the Lenten program and the DOCC program in the fall. Rev. Weatherly also thanked Doug's sister for her bagpipe playing at the Mackenzie's reception and Karen Ashworth for organizing the reception itself.

Outreach

Rosemary Kley was not present.

The Reports from UTO and Outreach fund were printed in the Annual Report.

Steve Mitchell spoke about VIC HOP, the supplemental homeless shelter that operates during cold weather. Rising Hope United Methodist church opens its parish hall to 25 homeless people every night. St. Mark's provides food, and a psychiatric social worker and a visiting nurse once a week for four weeks. Steve said it is an important ministry. We share Thursday night duty with Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church.

He said we need volunteers to staff the shelter one night in February and in March. Three people are needed to spend the night and cook a hot dinner. We give the shelter clients breakfast bags to take with them in the morning.

Fellowship

Spearheaded by Eulie Campbell. She said there are a lot of newcomers coming to St. Mark's.

Planning

We updated the parish organizational plan to reflect the changes in the leadership of the church, the strong vestry, and the new missions. The new parish organizational plan outlines all the missions of the church and the people who are responsible for performing them. The standard operating procedures for each group have been collected. Both documents are available in the Parish Office.

Worship

The congregation was asked to pray for Juliana Spans and her parents

After the appointed time, the nominations for candidates were closed.

A motion was made to vote for slate of candidates, it was seconded and passed unanimously with a verbal vote.

The new vestry members were introduced to the congregation. Rev. Weatherly reported that next week we will have the installation of new vestry members and officially thank the outgoing members.

Continuation of Worship Committee reports

The reports from the coordinators for the LEMs and acolytes are in the packet.

Susan Byers spoke on behalf the choir. She noted that the choir has only a few members. She asked for singers to join the choir.

Daughter of the King and Jr. Daughters of the King

Mary Jane Stockstill reported that the Jr. DOK were busy in 2009. Mary Stockstill and Mary Jane Stockstill finished their directress time. Beth Scholz will be the directress in 2010.

New Business

The final day of the Diocesan Council meeting was cancelled on Saturday because of the snow. Doug Varner and Marifer Cruz represented St. Mark's at the Council Meeting. Marifer spoke about the budget approval process and the clergy that will serve as the new "vestry" for the bishop. Doug spoke about the Friday morning recognition of the installation of Bishop Shannon of Virginia. He talked about the \$5 million Diocesan budget, and his impression that our money is being managed very well. Bishop Julio Murray from Panama spoke at the meeting. Rev. Lauren Stanley also spoke and said "pray for Haiti, don't go to Haiti."

The new vestry orientation meeting will be in early February. During the vestry retreat later in February, a consultant will come from Diocese to help the St. Mark's vestry plan how to benefit from our rector's sabbatical. Our rector is going on sabbatical because he received a grant from the Lilly Endowment. It pays for clergy take 3-4 month sabbatical to study, reflect and rest. Rev. Weatherly said he felt it was a good time to take a sabbatical because the congregation has finished a 10-year building plan. Revs. Meredith Heffner and Cherian Pulimootil have become part of the congregation and the congregation is now blessed with strong leadership. He planned to use the time to refresh and re-energize himself with a new vision of what God's vision is for him. His work in peacekeeping mission in Bosnia allowed him to meet with chaplains from N. Ireland. He looked forward to talk to people in conflict zones and learning how they keep peace and reconcile their differences.

Seminarian Jimmy Abbot was taking his ordination exams and plans to be married to Maggie Chisholm shortly afterwards in Texas.

Tia Murchie-Beyma thanked the congregation for allowing the Girl Scouts to meet at the church and use its facilities inside and out. On Girl Scout Sunday, the girls will serve coffee hour as a thank you.

Rev. Cherian Pulimootil talked about how when he and his wife, Ann, came to St. Mark's the attendance at services was about 80 people. Last week more than 100 worshiped at St. Mark's. He remarked how well used the church's facilities are. He said this happens because of the dedication of our priest, Father John. He noted that Rev. Meredith brought her own dedication. He reported that the vestry listens to proposals and discusses them in a friendly manner and comes to conclusion. He proposed a great thanks to Father John, Rev. Meredith, and the vestry.

Michael Pumphrey spoke and echoed Cherian's words. He said how he felt lifted up at St. Mark's because it is a warm, supporting, loving parish. He is a Navy chaplain and his wife Elizabeth Biddle moved back to U.S. and Alexandria. They were looking for a church family and found it with St. Mark's. He is being deployed to Afghanistan in a few months to serve at a military hospital in Kandahar. He said that it made him feel good that this warm, loving parish family will be here to support his wife during that time.

The recognition of Outgoing Vestry will be held on the next Sunday.

It was reported that San Marcos has been a part of St. Mark's for 20 years.

The motion to Adjourn was made by Jim Bailes, seconded by Karen Ashworth. The motion passed with a verbal vote.

Closing Hymn
Blessing and dismissal.

RECTOR'S REPORT - ST. MARK'S ANNUAL MEETING 2011

Dear Friends and Members of St. Mark's,

It is my joy to be able to share with you this Annual Report of our common lives here at St. Mark's over the past year of 2010. I hope that you will agree with me, that we have been truly blessed in countless ways. There is much to be thankful here, and again I am grateful for the many lives and hands that have been hard at work in our community. I believe that our ministries and outreach this year reached new purpose and generosity. We have funded many events, and supported one another in our journey in Christ. I am personally grateful for the opportunity to take my first sabbatical and enjoyed traveling through Ireland and New Hampshire with my family. For this I thank the Vestry, Wardens, Emily, Meredith, Cherian and of course, the Lilly Foundation.

This year we will face new challenges, and with your Vestry and clergy we will review our ministries and opportunities at our retreat the end of February. It is my hope that we will identify those things that we do well and should sustain, and those things we could improve. Having purchased our replacement pews we hope we do not have any further capital expenses for the year. Many of you gave a special pledge in the fall to help us pay off the principal of the mortgage, freeing interest payments down the road.

There is one thing I hope we never take for granted, and that is our community in Christ. Living at Corrymeela in Northern Ireland last June, I was reminded what hard work it can be build peace with our neighbors. Pride and arrogance have no place in this Body of Christ. Our purpose is to catch people with the love that God gives us, and to bring people to Jesus. Forgiving our enemies, blessing those who curse us, loving those who hate us, healing others even when we ourselves are wounded, feeding others even when we have little or nothing to offer, and doing justice, all the while testifying to the one who makes it possible for us to do the impossible. Building a place of worship and going there to share in God's great gift of himself, freely sharing with one another the goodness of God. True community takes time and effort and care, and praise God; we have great nourishment for the journey. Thank you for sharing your feast with all the world.

The Rev. John A. Weatherly
Rector

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

Parish Associates Report, 2010

2010 was another great year at St. Mark's! Our children and youth ministries are thriving, as we continue to share the Good News of Christ with our young people.

In Sunday School, our pre-k end elementary aged students continue to use the Living the Good News curriculum. This is a lectionary-based series that allows us to teach our children from the same readings their parents hear in worship, emphasizing especially the stories of Jesus and his ministry. This curriculum also offers us the opportunity to teach the children about the church calendar, as we make our way from one church season to another. Furthermore, the younger students meet for Children's Chapel on the first Sunday of the month, where they have the opportunity to experience the Gospel in a different way.

The middle school and high school students are working through Jennifer Gamber's *My Faith, My Life*. This book provides a clear framework for understanding the church, at both a spiritual and organizational level. Our goal is to provide our youth with a consistent theology and sense of mission.

Our youth group kicked off the year with their annual ski trip to Wintergreen. In the spring we participated in the Crop Walk and attended the Diocesan Day of Service. We spent a lot of time raising funds for our mission trip. Together, we have been able to teach our youth that we can all be God's hands on this earth - by supporting each other with our prayer, presence, and treasure. Thanks to all of you, we raised enough money in 2010 to apply over \$4000 directly to our 2011 mission trip to Puerto Rico (July, 2011). Fundraising details can be found at the end of this report. In July, the youth traveled on their mission trip to Onancock, Virginia, where they participated in various ministries organized by Youthworks. They helped lead a vacation bible school, and participated in light home repair projects. They have been on enough trips together to have a real sense of what they're looking for in mission and outreach. I'm delighted to report that for them, building relationships is of the utmost importance - whether with other missionaries, or with the folks for whom they are working. What better way to discover God than in coming to know his other beloved children? I am proud of our youth and the many ways they put their faith into action.

In August, thanks again to our fearless leader Ann Sparks, we held our Teen Week and Vacation Bible School. Teen Week was almost as well attended as VBS! During Teen Week we prepared our teenagers to be VBS junior counselors. They studied the VBS scripture, learned the VBS songs, and discovered creative ways to teach God's story to the youngsters who attended VBS. It is in part thanks to them, as well as to our adult helpers, that our VBS was such a success.

This fall, we took a large group to S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat). This is an organization in Washington, D.C. that serves meals to the homeless every day of the week. It's one of the few organizations that allows us to bring a large number of 13 year olds to volunteer! I find this experience invaluable especially as we attempt to teach our youth that we are all God's children, and no matter what our circumstances, we each deserve to be treated as such.

We ended the year with our participatory Christmas Pageant. Thanks to the youth, who narrated and carried the primary roles, and to all of you - for embracing your part in Jesus' story. It was a grand way to end the year.

Thank you as well for your support during Fr. John's sabbatical. During his absence, a group of us went to Shrine Mont for our parish retreat. We talked about "Telling our Stories" and I heard some wonderful tales of St. Mark's. Also in August we began our Healthy Families program. This was a real learning experience for me - not only in program management, but more importantly in the way we can pull together as a community to help others.

I continue my other duties-helping with worship and preaching on Sundays and at The Fairfax on Wednesdays; leading Adult Education classes; providing pastoral care; and facilitating our Women of Spirit book group. I am so grateful to be able to serve God in these ways, and to be part of such a wonderful community.

In closing, a special thanks to our vestry liaison for education James Weaver, and to all of the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teachers: Ann Sparks, Suzie McDonald, Barbara Foster, Linda Williams, Spring Plihcik, Sheila Weaver, Mary and Mary Jane Stockstill, Lara Shine, Eulie Campbell, Irrsula Mpouma, Barbara Scott, Pat Hoppe, Anne Brink, Jackie Cerio and Rosemary Kley. Also, thanks to our nursery workers, Pacita Mushrush and Beth Scholz. You are a blessing to us, and we couldn't do the things we do without you.

In closing, thanks especially to Fr. John and Rev. Cherian for their support of me and my ministries, and to our administrator Emily Cole for her exceptional work. St. Mark's is blessed with a fabulous staff, of which I'm grateful to be a part.

Every day I pray that the Holy Spirit be known among us, and I will continue to do so into the new year. God bless each of you in 2011 and always.

Faithfully,
 The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner
 Associate Rector

Mission Trip Fundraising Report

The people of St. Mark's have supported our mission team in so many ways - with prayer, hard work, and financial contributions. The following report shows the funds we were able to raise to cover our 2010 mission trip to Onancock, Virginia, and costs we incurred. We are grateful to all, including the Social Saints, for helping us meet our goal and for supporting our youth in this mission.

Expenses:

Youthworks	\$4506.00
Ground transportation (van rental and gas)	\$1046.82
Supplies for building projects	\$146.36
Lodging and expenses at Chincoteague	<u>\$903.45</u>
Total Expenses:	\$6602.63

Income:

Confirmation voucher reimbursement from Diocese (2)	\$400.00
Grant from Diocese Of VA	\$500.00
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	\$538.00
Spaghetti Dinner	\$1115.00
Mother's Day Breakfast	\$367.00
Car Wash	\$632.00
Missionary contributions	\$4000.00
Fundraising letters	\$1420.00
Misc. gifts	<u>\$270.00</u>
Total Income:	\$9,242.00

Balance carried forward from 2009	<u>\$2000.00</u>
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Balance:	\$4,639.37
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PAROCHIAL REPORT FOR 2010

Sunday Celebrations of the Eucharist	104 (Snowed out twice!)
Weekday Celebrations of the Eucharist	57
Sunday Office of Morning Prayer	1
Baptisms	7
Celebrations of Holy Matrimony	3
Entered Eternal Glory	2

Communicants (Attend at Least Three times a Year, or Homebound)

210 Adults, 47 Young people under 16

Transferred in:

Georgia Stromer from Hickory Neck Church, Toano, VA
 Kim, John, Gabrielle and Olivia Pritchett from St. Clement's, Alexandria
 Terese Tyner from St. Andrew's, Sedona, AZ

Transferred out:
Patricia Knott to St. Mary's, Daytona Beach, FL
Georgia Stromer to St. Peter's, Altavista, VA

Baptisms

Jennifer S. Smith	April 11
Bonnie Rose Smith	April 11
Gabrielle J. Pritchett	April 11
Olivia G. Pritchett	April 11
Linda M. Stacy	August 8
Ethan R. Luxner	October 3
Paul Cherian Sweet	November 7

Bishop Creighton's Visit Nov. 21st

Confirmed	David B. Hardy and Sweeny Appiah
Received	Eric A. Bryda
Reaffirmed their Baptismal Vows	Ashley Pearson and Terese V. Tyner

Entered into Holy Matrimony

Daniel E. and Elizabeth "Bibi" Ukoli-Hines	January 1
Alan and Katherine Norman	May 30
Mark and Heidi Hainsey	June 3

Entered into Eternal Glory

Anne A. Brown	January 9
Margaret Miller	February 7
Betty V. Shaffer	March 14
Angeline Clark Rafferty	April 26
Janice R. Drabick	June 4
Catherine Wheelehan	November 13

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

We have accomplished so much over the past couple of years here at St. Marks. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as Senior Warden during this exciting time. Thank you to each of you who work so hard to make sure that St. Mark's continues to move forward.

First and foremost we completed the renovation of Gibson Hall so our Sunday school has an area that they can be proud of. Since the completion of construction, with Rev. Meredith's help, we have seen a noticeable increase in the number of children (and parents) in our congregation.

Even though the economy has been pretty rocky over the past couple of years, we have been able to keep moving forward. We have seen our pledges increase; we have paid down some of the principle on our mortgage; we have repaved our parking lot for the first time in decades; and we have replaced our old pews with new ones that aren't falling apart. We are truly blessed!

Fr. John went on his sabbatical last summer to get the break that he deserved and, thanks to Rev. Meredith and Rev. Cherian, we were able to keep moving forward. I also want to say a special thank you to Emily

Cole, our parish administrator, for keeping everything in the office going so smoothly! She makes everyone else's job so much easier.

We have some challenges ahead, but I am confident that our amazing clergy and the excellent new vestry will keep us moving in the right direction. Again, I want to thank you for having faith in me and allowing me the opportunity to serve as Senior Warden for the past two years. It has been a great experience and I am so honored to call St. Mark's home.

J. Bailes,
Senior Warden

Pew Fund

Income: \$6,905

Expenditures: \$5,000 for pews, \$517 for transportation, \$850 for 10 kneelers, \$1,046 to repair floor

Total expected expenditures: \$7,413

WORSHIP

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

The St. Mark's Lay Eucharist Minister (LEM) community continues to serve faithfully every Sunday. This group of dedicated men and women assist in making our Eucharist and other services a meaningful worship experience. Their primary focus is to assist in the distribution of the sacramental wine at the Eucharist but they are prepared to step in to assist the acolytes and clergy as needed. LEMs are also available after the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Eucharist to bring communion to shut-ins.

At the 10:00 a.m. service, the "lead" LEM will generally vest in a white alb and process with the choir, acolytes and clergy. The "second" LEM assists with the second chalice and comes to the altar from the congregation just after the Lord's Prayer. The symbolism for both roles is one of shared ministry – the LEMs are a visual and symbolic bridge between clergy celebrant and the laity. As the 08:00 a.m. service is smaller, we usually have only one LEM. The 10:00 LEMs have traditionally integrated their schedule with the resident seminarian, in assist that person in maximizing his or her liturgical training and experience.

We have maintained our faithful group; however, we always are seek more volunteers – it is an ideal ministry for those who want to contribute but can only make time on Sundays and Holy Days. We will train anyone who would like to serve in this special way at the altar. Barbara Scott is the LEM coordinator for the 08:00 a.m. service; Jan and Larry Moyer are the LEM coordinators for 10:00 a.m.

In 2010, we added Bonnie Wilkins as our Home Visiting Eucharistic Minister.

Intercessors

The intercessors are group of persons whose ministry is to lead the prayers of petition for the needs of the world or Prayers of the People during many of the services. They lead these prayers from their pews. Currently, the intercessors lead the prayers approximately one time in a three-month period. The convener of this group is Jeanne Shafer. Jeanne is always looking for new people to join this group. Anyone interested in joining this group should speak with Jeanne. She can be reached by phone at (703) 719-0045.

Acolytes

The acolytes are a group of youths who assist in the 10:00 AM worship services by carrying the Crucifix or candles during processions, lighting and extinguishing the candles, receiving the collection and other

items offered, and assisting with the preparation of the Altar for the Eucharist. Currently, the eighteen young parishioners who serve as acolytes are Kevannah Campbell, Kristina Campbell, Tyler Chui, Frida Cruz, Will Hayes, Jon Hayes, Grace Heffner, Zachary Heffner, Kate Larson, Will Miles, Ben Miles, Ben Slobodin, Leah Slobodin, and Tâm Slobodin,. This group is supervised by Delsa Chui. Acolytes must be in the third grade or above and be able to follow the service in the Book of Common Prayer. Any youth interested in joining this important ministry should speak with Delsa Chui.

Gracious Greeters

St. Mark's has always been known for its friendly greeters who welcome one and all attending its services. Newcomers are directed to various locations which are unfamiliar to them, such as: Nursery, Sunday School groups, etc. Greeters include Wilhemina Scott-Boyle, Nell Brill, Dottie Gibson, Maryann Greer-Carpenter, Rosemary Kley, Dick and Mary Stockstill, and Wally and Terry Tienken.

Altar Guild

A group of dedicated women and men make up St. Mark's Altar Guild. Special thanks to several husbands and family members who provide on the scene support throughout the year. The Guild's ministry is to serve through preparing the altar area and sanctuary for weekly worship services, weddings, funerals and other occasions as scheduled. They combine efforts with the flower guild and plan with the worship committee.

New members are always needed and training is provided. Working in teams allows experienced members to train new volunteers. It is not unusual to find men serving on altar guilds at other churches and they are welcomed and encouraged to join the workers at St. Marks.

Flower Guild - 2010

Maureen Ison is looking for a Chair for this group for 2011. The members of the Flower Guild are: Elizabeth Biddle, Nell Brill, Eulie Campbell, Jackie Cerio, Dottie Gibson, Kathy Hughes, Sidoux Mitchell, and Linda Williams.

On the fourth Sunday of each month contribution envelopes for the Flower Fund are included in the Sunday bulletin.

2009 balance: \$2,771.66

2010 balance: \$2,922.36

The Josephine Bakhita Senior and Junior Chapters of the Order of the Daughters of the King ("DOK")

For His Sake -- The Josephine Bakhita Chapter was formed and received its charters on Oct. 10, 2004 and Oct. 9, 2005, respectively, taking vows to pray, serve, and evangelize. Our chapter members have organized prayer retreats, visited the sick and shut-in, organized caroling, gifts to the troops, food baskets for the homeless, and have supported the Rector and parish by assisting with Sunday School, Bible study groups, pastoral care matters, and by serving on, and supporting, various parish guilds and ministries. The chapter also participates in annual diocesan and provincial DOK meetings within province III.

Members: Pamela Smith, Pres.; Treasurer, Sarah Hardy, Therese Chaplin, Sheryl Sims, Irrsula Mpouma, Mary & Mary Jane Stockstill, Donna Anderson, Terese Tyner, Linda Williams, Kathy Hughes, Wilhelmina Scott-Boyle, Eulie Campbell, Beth Scholz, Helen Sutton, Sarah Mpouma, Amber Wihshi, Kevannah & Kristina Campbell, Marifer & Frida Cruz.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sheryl Sims

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Education

The Adult Forums continued through out the year enriching our church life. Each forum meets around 9:10 a.m. soon after the eight o'clock worship and ends just before the ten o'clock worship and thus providing the opportunity for all who would like to attend it in the parish hall. The topics for discussion include the lectionary readings, the Prayer book, the liturgical seasons; at times, a series of presentation either led by special invitees or the clergy.

Though these meetings are informal, they attempt to fulfill a genuine need for our personal spiritual formation and development. We, the Episcopalians, claim the importance of a three-legged stool, namely, Scripture, Reason, and Tradition to build up our faith. The forums are just the right kind of set-up not only to understand the Scriptures but also to explore them, informed by the traditions of the church.

Secondly, the forums are great opportunities to come together as who we are and with whatever differences that we acquired or learned in order to express our solidarity, united together as one in Christ, to fulfill His prayer for all, "that they all may be one."

The adult forums during this report year included such topics as:

- Discussion on the Q-Series and the origins/root of the New Testament
- Discussion on the Creeds and their origin.
- Conversation on dealing with Secular Humanist.
- Reminiscenced with Rev. John Weatherly on his Sabbatical to Ireland. John captured lot of picturesque scene to match and savor.
- Discussion on Episcopal Church work/relief in Haiti following the devastating earthquake.
- Discussion on global relief work, feeding the hungry
- Video presentation on the humanitarian angle of North Korean refugee situation

Thanks to all whose participation and leadership made them a success and a special thanks to Dr. Al Dominic, the forum's vestry representative in organizing them. A remark often heard has been 'wish many more could attend and get the best out of it!' However, that challenge is not without a solution if we plan ahead our time to attend both the common worship and the Adult Forum as we come together at St. Mark's on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully,
Rev. Cherian

FELLOWSHIP

Social Saints

In 2010, the Social Saints put on three dinners. The first two were the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner and the Spaghetti dinner in the spring. All of the profits from these dinners were donated to the Mission Trip fund for the youth trip in June. Normally we have a shrimp dinner in September, but refrigerator logistics and a lack of cooks forced us to cancel it. We gave an ice cream social from the individual members of the Social Saints to the congregation to apologize for the lack of shrimp! In November we had the lasagna dinner. The proceeds from that and previous savings will be donated for kneelers for the new pews. All of these dinners were well attended and we thank you for your support.

Submitted by Ann Sparks

COMMUNICATIONS

Website and Facebook

St. Mark's launched a redesigned website in March, thanks to the work of parishioner and webmaster Sheryl Sims. The new website, located at <http://www.stmarksalex.org>, is built from a template supplied by the Diocese of Virginia and improved navigation and content management. The website includes weekly bulletins and announcements, parish news and upcoming events. In addition, St. Mark's expanded its presence on Facebook, the popular social network with more than 500 million users. The parish now has more than 50 active users on its page, which offers regular updates on happenings at the church. Click the "like" button at <http://www.facebook.com/stmarksalex>.

Newsletter

St. Mark's newsletter, *The Open Door*, was published five times in 2010 – January/February, March/April, May/June, September/October and November/December. Sara Dillich, the editor, gathers articles from parishioners and staff on a variety of topics. The newsletters included letters from the Rector and articles from the Associate Rector, news of parish events and issues, reports on outreach opportunities, treasurer's reports, parishioners' birthdays and anniversaries, parish prayer lists and parish calendars. Administrative support is provided by Emily Cole in the parish office and the Holy Folders prepare the newsletters for mailing. Increasingly, we are considering all-electronic distribution, except for those who prefer a hard copy.

PARISH OUTREACH

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care committee is made up of members of St. Mark's congregation. The purpose of the committee is to be supportive to members of St. Mark's. This support is shown by providing food and transportation for members when it is needed. The food is kept in the freezer at the church so that when there is an emergency or a need the clergy know that provisions are there. In addition, there are special times when this support is needed and the clergy ask for this kind of assistance. The transportation may be for doctors' appointments or driving for other needs.

Submitted by Dottie Gibson

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

It has been a pleasure being the chairman of the Outreach Committee this year. Because St. Mark's is committed to many outreach activities, I was faced with many challenges in planning, publicity and the recruitment and retention of volunteers. As with any organization, there is a core of volunteers who do most of the work. To reduce the workload of key individuals, more effort was placed on creating committees to handle the details of individual outreach missions. To learn more about coordinating volunteers, I attended the Volunteer Coordinator Boot Camp at Volunteer Fairfax. I recommend that all Outreach chairs and clergy attend this quarterly training course.

One thing I learned from Volunteer Fairfax is that we needed to define our outreach mission for St. Mark's. To do so, we first needed to measure the interest of the congregation in supporting the existing missions of the church. I wrote and published a survey I both on-line and in paper form to inform St. Mark's members of the outreach efforts of the church and measure their interest in supporting those missions. We received 35 completed surveys. The results of the survey were published in the Open Door newsletter and the church bulletin.

The results of the survey showed that the members of St. Mark's were interested in supporting the Outreach programs the church offered. However, the way that members were interesting in supporting the

programs varied. In many instances, the number of volunteers who are actually willing to go and work might be low (as with the Send a Kid to Camp program) but conversely, the number of people who are interesting in financially supporting the program is very high. Other programs (like the CROP Walk or UCM food pantry) have a relatively high percentage of people who have no interest, but a correspondingly high amount of people who want to volunteer. In the case of VIC HOP, there was more interest in preparing breakfasts and dinners than for spending the night at the shelter.

To tap into the volunteers and donors who expressed interest in the many outreach programs we began publicizing volunteering opportunities. Greater emphasis was placed on short-term volunteer opportunities, drop in volunteering, family and couple volunteering. A Volunteer Fair was held on Sunday in the beginning of June to recruit volunteers for all areas of church operations (choir, acolytes, and outreach). An Outreach Menu was created to present newcomers with a choice of volunteer opportunities. New volunteers were contacted based on the response to the menu. Recruitment was also accomplished through e-mail requests for help.

Here is a report on the activities of the individual Outreach programs supported by St. Mark's

Homeless Shelter Support

1. Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for Homeless Adults

At present, donations to Loaves & Fishes have provided food for the temporary residents of the Kennedy Shelter on Rt. 1. In the past, St. Mark's also has collected clothing and toiletry items for the shelter residents. **Sidoux Mitchell and Rev. John Weatherly regularly respond to requests from the shelter to buy large quantities of milk. No other effort has been made with this program.**

2. Mondloch Family Shelter

At present, donations to Loaves & Fishes have provided food for temporary shelter residents. In addition, St. Mark's has also collected school supplies and raised money to send children from the Kennedy Shelter to Fairfax County day camps. **St. Mark's provided financial support for the Send a Kid to Camp program through the Rector's discretionary fund. No other effort has been made with this program.**

3. Ventures in Community Hypothermia Overflow Shelter (VIC HOP)

In conjunction with other churches in the area, St. Mark's has supported this winter-time homeless outreach program. Teams of four volunteers have spent the night (along with a trained social worker) to supervise adults in this drop-in shelter. The volunteers also serve dinner and breakfast to the temporary residents. **Rosemary Kley has headed St. Mark's support of this program. In January 2010 St. Mark's was committed 4 nights during the winter. It was difficult to recruit overnights but there was enthusiastic support for providing breakfast bags. As a result, in 2011, St. Mark's committed to only 2 nights. Volunteers were easy to find to cook and serve meals and provide breakfast bags, but it has been difficult to recruit "overnights" again.**

Outreach to Children in Our Community

1. Fairfax County's Healthy Family Program

In the past, St. Mark's has cooked and served dinner several times a year to families participating in this program sponsored by Fairfax County's Department of Social Services. **This program was an outstanding success. Nearly 80 volunteers participated in cooking, serving, or cleaning up after the 13 weekly dinners. Special attention was paid to the cleanliness of the church kitchen and safe food handling techniques. Monies for the program came from the**

Loaves and Fishes fund. This fund must be replenished for the upcoming year. St. Mark's has committed to supporting the program in August-November 2011.

2. Send a Kid to Camp

St. Mark's has held several fundraisers to support this Fairfax County-based program for children living in homeless shelters. The money raised provides scholarships for children to attend 2-week long day camps. **No volunteer stepped forward to organize fundraising for this event.**

Interest from the St. Mark's Knitters fund was used to support this program.

3. Salvation Army Angel Tree

St. Mark's volunteers have staffed an Angel Tree table at a local mall during the Christmas season. The volunteers assist donors in selecting an angel that details the needs of a low-income child (or senior). The volunteer then accepts the gifts that have been purchased for the child.

Bonnie Brown Wilkins stepped forward to bring this program to St. Mark's. She met with tremendous support and distributed more than 50 angels to St. Mark's parishioners and their work colleagues. Bonnie also delivered the bags of collected toys and clothing to the Salvation Army volunteers for distribution.

Feed the Hungry Programs

1. UCM Food Pantry

Each week, St. Mark's collects canned food, baby diapers, and formula for the UCM food pantry. In the past, volunteers have contacted UCM to find its area of greatest need and publicize it in St. Mark's bulletins. Parishioners have brought their donations to the church. Other volunteers have brought the food to the UCM food pantry. **To boost canned food donations, Rosemary Kley promoted several food drives including Souper Sunday in February 2010 and the Canned Food Christmas Tree in December 2010. Also, a paper bag food drive was started in October/November 2010. Volunteers and church staff have delivered hundreds of pounds of canned goods to UCM's food pantry.**

2. CROP Walk

Each year, the CROP Walk-a-thon raises money for local hunger relief efforts. The UCM and Koinonia food pantries both benefit from this nationwide fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to publicize this event and recruit walkers. Walkers need to solicit donations and walk the route. The coordinator sends the donations to the CROP Walk organization. **Rev. Meredith was the coordinator of the CROP Walk this year and members of the St. Mark's Youth Group were the majority of the walkers representing St. Mark's.**

Things that should/must be done next year:

- Still need to define our Outreach Mission. Need to invite all "stakeholders" like San Marcos, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other groups that use the church to participate in the discussion and clarification of the church's outreach goals.
- The Outreach Chair (and others church leaders) would benefit from attending Volunteer Coordinator Boot Camp at Volunteer Fairfax next April.
- We need to upgrade our Fairfax County Health Department permit to become a Food Service establishment. The potential for food borne illnesses is very high with the "cooking from scratch" we do for the Healthy Families program. We need to be stringent in following health department guidelines for food handling, serving and storing.
- At least two people need to study and become certified Food Service Managers. One FSM must be on duty whenever we cook for the Healthy Families program. The vestry has already approved

the expenditure for FSM training materials and examinations as well as the fees for Health Department permits.

Faithfully submitted by Brenda Huber, Outreach Chair

Loaves and Fishes

Contribution envelopes for the Loaves and Fishes fund are included in the bulletin on the third Sunday of each month. These donations pay for food donated to and meals prepared for Mondloch House and the Kennedy shelter. They also paid for dinners prepared for the Healthy Families program which took place once a week at St. Mark's from August through November.

2009 balance: \$3,915.73

2010 balance: \$3,058.71

STEWARDSHIP

The 2010 Annual Canvass Campaign for the 2011 budget was initiated October 24th and ended on November 14th. Members of the Vestry made personal appeals for pledges of financial and non-financial contributions at Sunday services during the campaign. Stewardship messages were include in the Sunday bulletins in October and November and in the September newsletter; and Stewardship was the topic of discussion at an Adult Education session during the campaign. The Vestry thanks Eric Murchie-Beyma, Maddie Murchie-Beyma, Lara Shine, and Douglas Varner for helping St. Mark' celebrate God's abundance by providing music after the 10 am service during the Campaign.

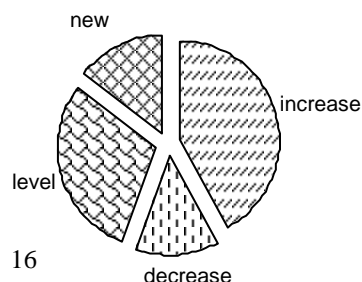
The successful completion of the Gibson Hall Renovation in 2010 allowed the Vestry to focus on the theme of the 2010 campaign, "Building our Foundation". Accordingly, the congregation was asked to consider including additional contributions in their pledges to allow for accelerated payment of St. Mark's mortgage. To-date, 81 pledges, totaling \$247,485, for support of St. Mark's operations, and 11 pledges, totaling \$12,500, for support of the mortgage fund, have been received. The chart below shows annual canvass statistics for 2011 pledges in comparison to previous years. The Vestry especially thanks all who pledged to the operating fund the mortgage fund, or both, ensuring the success of St Mark's mission: "Opening the doors of Christ's love" for 2011.

Submitted by
Sara Dillich, 2010 Stewardship Chair

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Pledged	\$219,001.00	\$226,595.00	\$249,060.00	\$247,485.00
# of Pledging Units	74	74	77	81
Avg. Annual Pledge	\$2959.48	\$3030.00	\$3269.21	\$3055.37
Avg. Monthly Pledge	\$ 246.62	\$ 252.50	\$ 272.53	\$ 254.61
Avg. Weekly Pledge	\$ 56.91	\$ 58.27	\$ 62.87	\$ 58.75

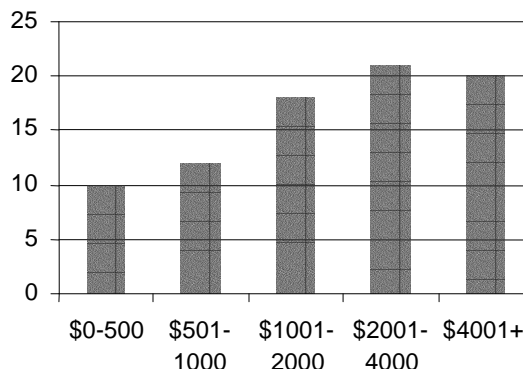
Pledge Status

Increased pledge	34
Decreased pledge	11
Level pledge	24
New pledge	<u>12</u>
	81



Annual Pledge Amount Ranges

\$0-500	10
\$501-1000	12
\$1001-2000	18
\$2001-4000	21
\$4001+	<u>20</u>
	81



FINANCIAL

Rob Bluey led the Audit Committee with the help of Charlotte Brown, Sara Dillich and Tom Gorman, who completed work on the 2009 audit of St. Mark's. The committee inspected the financial position of the church in accordance with the audit guidelines of the Diocese of Virginia. The final report, as well as the committee's recommendations on policies and procedures, was approved by the Vestry, was submitted to the Diocesan office in October. The guidance and help of Margaret Haberman, Jim Bailes and Emily Cole during this effort are gratefully acknowledged.

Submitted by Rob Bluey

Treasurer's Report

St. Mark's Budget CY 2011

January 1 – December 31, 2010

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledge Offering	\$252,235.00
Other Offering	19,000.00
Other (incl. building use)	41,750.00
Total	\$312,985.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Staff	\$209,945.00
Office/Admin	9,750.00
Building Operations	67,300.00
Worship	2,150.00
Education	2,250.00
Meet/Lay Development	1,200.00
Parish Life	3,950.00
Lilly Fndn. Exp.	0.00
Outreach	17,640.00
Evangelism	1,000.00
Other	5,500.00
Total	\$320,685.00
Net Income	\$-7,700.00

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledge Offering	\$257,109.50	\$248,460.00
Other Offering	22,040.57	15,000.00
Other	90,873.64	58,360.00
Total	\$370,023.71	\$321,820.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Staff	\$198,142.89	\$202,965.00
Office/Admin	12,070.43	9,575.00
Building Ops.	87,536.78	73,500.00
Worship	2,815.44	1,950.00
Education	1,234.94	2,800.00
Meet/Lay Dev.	1,861.14	600.00
Parish Life	2,326.01	3,900.00
Outreach	15,000.00	15,000.00
Evangelism	947.05	1,750.00
Lilly Fndn Exp.	25,661.23	13,780.00
Other	0	8,000.00
Total	\$347,595.91	\$333,820.00
Net Income	\$22,427.80	\$-12,000.00

VESTRY ELECTIONS

The nominees for the St. Mark's Vestry include:

Charlotte Brown

I am a native Groveton, Virginian and have been a St. Mark's member since early 1950s. My sister and I still live in the house that my parents built in 1952. I worked for the Federal government for more than 30 years and retired from the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2004. Since 2004, my retirement life has included remodeling our home, reclaiming our gardens, researching and documenting several family genealogies, researching Groveton and St. Mark's history, and initiating the recognition of St. Mark's and Groveton for the 400th Jamestown Celebration. Additionally, I am the current President of the Groveton Civic Association (GCA) for the Groveton community.

Eric Bryda



My name is Eric Bryda, and my fiancée Ashley and I first attended St. Mark's on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010. We had just moved into our house on Groveton Street a month earlier, and day we made a list of all the Episcopal churches in the surrounding area, thinking we would go to each one once and then decide which one we liked best. St. Mark's was our first stop. We felt so welcomed and right at home St. Mark's that we never did go anywhere else. In our first year we attended several of the Wednesday night sessions held here during Lent, volunteered for the Healthy Families Program and the church clean-up day this past fall, and served breakfast at S.O.M.E.

I was born and raised in the Cleveland area, and I have lived in the Washington DC area since 2003 when I moved here to attend graduate school. In 2005, I began working as an economist for the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the Department of Commerce, where I am currently employed. I have a B.A. and an M.A. in Economics and an M.S. in Accounting. In my spare time I enjoy taking long road trips, reading, running, and weight lifting. I was formally received into the Episcopal Church here at St. Mark's on November 21, 2010. I am extremely honored to have been nominated to serve on the Vestry and look forward to the experiences this greater involvement in the life of St. Mark's will bring.

Janet Goodspeed

Janet Goodspeed was born in 1961, spending her childhood in Connecticut and southern New Hampshire. One of seven children, she grew up in a happy, close, Catholic family. She went off to college at Spring Hill - a small Jesuit college in Mobile, Alabama. She was active in Youth Ministry and the Student Chorale. Intending to major in Marine Biology, her plans changed and she graduated in 1983 with a major in Humanities (Theology, History, and English.)

Shortly after graduation, Janet became a religion teacher in a Catholic high school in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She taught in parochial schools in Pascagoula and Mobile before moving back to New England in 1988, where she continued teaching in Lynn, MA. She married in 1991 and over the next few years became the mother of two sons, Brian and Kevin. For 3 years she served as the Director of Religious Education for her parish in Ashland, MA. In 2000, she returned to teaching, now as a Montessori educator. In 2001, Janet and her sons moved to Goffstown, NH. While there she joined the Episcopal Church community of St. Andrew's. She and her sons moved again in 2003, coming to Alexandria. She joined St. Mark's in April, 2009. Janet currently teaches 6 – 9 year old children at a public Montessori school in Oxon Hill, MD. She enjoys being a seamstress for friends and family, is an avid reader, and is very happy to be part of the welcoming church family of St. Mark's.

Thomas (Tom) Michelli



Tom has attended St. Mark's for almost three years. He is a resident of Woodbridge, Virginia and the proud father of two sons: John who recently graduated with a BA in Religious Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University and Connor who is a junior at the College of William and Mary studying biology.

In professional life he has had various senior positions with commercial firms including Director of International IT Operations, and Director and Chief Information Officer, Europe, Middle East and Africa for a global real estate firm and Chief Technology Officer for Fortune 100 firm. In 2006 he entered federal civilian service where he progressed in various leadership roles including Director of Intelligence and his current role as Executive Director of Enterprise Solutions (J-64), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He leads a global 4,000-person information technology and data services organization responsible for delivering logistics mission success through IT solutions sustainment, service management, delivery, operations and improvement. He was inducted into the United States Senior Executive Service in March 2010.

In addition to his civilian full-time employment, he has over 27 years with the U.S. Army Reserves and Army National Guard. He was commissioned in 1984 after graduating from Franklin University and the Ohio State University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. He currently holds the rank of Colonel and serves as the Assistant Chief of Staff G6/Chief Information Officer for the 200th Military Police Command. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a major in Finance from Franklin University, Columbus, Ohio; a Master of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas; post-baccalaureate certificate in Information Systems from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia.

Sheryl E. Sims



It's been my privilege and blessing to have been an active member of St. Mark's since 1992. Believing that one should make use of the gifts that God has graciously given them, even if it leads one out of their comfort zone, I have made it a point to serve St. Mark's in some capacity since joining our wonderful church. I served on the Vestry from approximately 1993/4-1996 as the co-chair for the worship committee. In addition, I've been a licensed Lay Eucharistic Minister since about 1993 and have served as a lector, assisted with Sunday School, and am St. Mark's unofficial photographer. As the founding member of Senior and Junior Daughters of the King chapters at St. Mark's, I've held various chapter, diocesan and province leadership positions. I served as the co-editor of St. Mark's newsletter and am currently serving as St. Mark's webmaster. In addition, I served as the chair the pastoral care committee, the Stained Glass Window Committee, and have been a volunteer chaplain at Alexandria Hospital. Graduating from the four-year Education For Ministry course, I have also served on several Seminarian Support Committees, one of which I served as Convener. Last year, I served on the discernment committee for a seminarian candidate for San Marcos, and have completed the DOCC program, and attended the Diocesan Vocational Deaconate Discernment Retreat. I have a BFA

Degree in Environmental Design from the University of Houston, worked for DoD for several years, and have been a legal secretary for a large DC law firm for many years.

My most important role, however, is that of mother to Amber Wihshi, who is 14-years old, and to whom I strive to nurture a growing faith in God and love for Jesus. Despite the demands of being a single parent, I try to model my Christian faith as well as my love for St. Mark's by my participation in various St. Mark's activities so that she, too, will grow up loving and serving the Lord as well as her church. My other interests consist of being a welcoming member of St. Mark's to newcomers, connecting with our present/extended parish family where I can, participating in various Bible/religious studies; writing, photography, painting, scrapbooking, quilting and the participation in area rock/mineral clubs. With God's help, and your prayers, I look forward to another opportunity to serve St. Mark's and assist our clergy during the coming year.

Gary Smith

Gary Smith was born in Hauppauge, NY. Gary bounced about the East Coast as a Naval Officer until settling in the Washington DC area in 1999. Gary has worked as a nuclear engineer, a technical consultant and manager for private industry, and as a managing technical director for our Navy's next cruiser. He's a proud supporter of the Boy Scouts of America as a former/current Eagle Scout.

Together with his wife Jennifer and their daughter Bonnie, they live in Alexandria, Virginia. They've been members of St. Mark's for just over a year and a half. They love the family, fellowship, and spirit of St. Mark's church.