

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
330 E. 16th Street
Upland, California 91784

114th Annual Meeting
January 28, 2024



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AGENDA

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Circling through earth so all may grow.
Vanquishing fear so all may give. Widening grace so all may live. AMEN.

Call to Order	Rector
Opening Prayer	Kimberly Cortner, Jr. Warden
Welcome and Introductions	Rector
Appointment of Clerk	Kay Alexander
Declaration of Quorum (Minimum of twenty-five members in good standing)	Clerk
Minutes of the 113th Annual Parish Meeting (May be dispensed with by a majority vote of those present)	Clerk
Elections 2027 Vestry: Bill Brooks, Lisa Drew, Ed Muehlbacher, Paul Stapp 2025 Vestry: Ken Drew Convention Delegate: Kathy Walker Convention Alternates are appointed in the Fall. Please contact the clergy if interested. (Outgoing vestry: Carol Morgan Sr. Warden, Newcomer Ministry; Dean Billman liaison for Stewardship; Marcia Godwin Assistant Treasurer; Sharon Muehlbacher liaison for Buildings & Grounds)	Rector
Annual Reports from delegates, committees, and ministries are available online. Hardcopies are available at each table.	
Financial Report	Marcia Godwin, Finance Chair
Presentation: Lay Leadership Licensing Program	Kimberly Cortner, Deanery Registrar
Highlights of 2023	Carol Morgan, Senior Warden
Rector's Report	Rector
Remembering	The Rev. Sally Monastiere Daughters of the King
Closing Prayer	Dean Billman
Adjournment	Rector
First meeting of New Vestry in Room 16	

MINUTES OF THE 113TH ANNUAL MEETING

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
January 29, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM by Rev. Keith Yamamoto. Current vestry members were introduced including Carol Morgan, continuing on as Sr. Warden, Kimberly Cortner, Karin Brown, Sharon Muehlbacher, Nick Adams, Dean Billman, Barbara Nalbach, and Marcia Godwin. Derek May, retiring as treasurer, and Vicki Levario, retiring as vestry clerk, were introduced. Kathryn Barbour was introduced as the new vestry clerk. Ken Drew introduced as the new treasurer.

Vicki Levario appointed as clerk for the annual meeting.

Quorum for the meeting was declared. Motion made to dispense the reading of the previous year's minutes – M/S/A.

Senior warden report given by Carol Morgan. Highlights of 2022 were reported (see attached).

Junior warden report given by Kimberly Cortner reporting on the search for the music director search, upcoming partnership with the Kaleidoscope Institute, (see attached).

Finance report given by Marcia Godwin, chairperson of the Finance Committee. Overall status of the financial condition of the church was discussed including the Federal programs now available for churches.

Rector's report was given by Rev. Keith Yamamoto. The transition of St. Mark's Preschool to Head Start was explained. The partnership with the County of San Bernardino has taken longer than expected. The remodeling/renovations necessary for Head Start using the facilities was explained. New revenue streams are being explored by a designated taskforce to support the church financially. Head Start is not a replacement of our preschool but rather a new outreach being established. St. Mark's Preschool will close January 31, 2023 (see attached for further information).

Election of new vestry members: Gail Dean and Kathy Osterkamp were elected as new vestry members. Kathy Walker, candidate for convention delegate elected. M/S/A

Remembering those who have been baptized and have passed in the previous year was led by Rev. Sally Monastiere, Discerner Rodney Hume-Dawson and the Daughters of the King.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Submitted by:
Vicki Levario, clerk

VESTRY CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

BILL BROOKS

When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Marks:

1999 – Christ Church, Ontario, 2016 – St. Mark's Church, Upland.

What I love most about St. Mark's:

The congregation, the choir, social activities, pastoral team.

My involvement at St. Mark's the broader church, local community and beyond:

Christ Church – usher, greeter, presentation at adult forum, workshop design and implementation.

Gifts, skills, areas of interest and networks I have to share with St. Mark's:

Co-producer and co-host of a talk show, trainer of trainers, Budget analysis, Newsletter editor, Needs assessment, Workshop design and facilitation.

Other information I would like to share:

I love cats and playing the piano.

KEN DREW

When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Marks:

I started attending an Episcopal church in 1977 and moved to St. Marks in 1982. I was confirmed in the Episcopal church, at St. Mark's, in about 1984.

What I love most about St. Mark's:

The thing I love most about St. Mark's is the music. The church has been my family ever since we came here.

My involvement at St. Mark's the broader church, local community and beyond:

I am currently in the choir, a counter, a sexton, treasurer, and youth group assistant. I have served as treasurer a total of 9 years and twice on the vestry for a total of 8 years.

Gifts, skills, areas of interest and networks I have to share with St. Mark's:

I have an education in accounting and have been able to apply this to the church financials. In the past I have used my computer skills to assist with contribution statements.

LISA DREW

When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Marks:

I have been an Episcopalian all my life. I grew up and was married in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pomona, and transferred my membership to St. Mark's in November, 1982.

What I love most about St. Mark's:

My husband and I were drawn to St. Mark's because of its vibrant Christian education program for children, youth, and adults. We stayed because of the spiritual leadership of the clergy and the congregation's dedication to outreach. St. Mark's continues to be my spiritual home because we support and strengthen each other as we strive to grow closer to God and to be Christ's ministers in a broken world.

My involvement at St. Mark's the broader church, local community and beyond:

I have served on the Vestry twice before, both times as Stewardship chairperson. I served on the Hearing God's Call and Kaleidoscope Institute process committees. I have been a children's chapel leader, a middle school and high school Sunday School teacher, and am currently a co-advisor of the youth group. I also worked in St. Mark's School for 28 years as a middle school teacher and school counselor. I am a choir member, a bread baker, and a sexton. I facilitate the birthday card ministry and am president of the Sancta Sophia chapter of the Daughters of the King. I will assume the position of secretary for the LA Diocese' Daughters of the King executive board in September. I was a volunteer coach, referee, and board member of the Upland Region 32 AYSO for ten years and was a School on Wheels tutor at the Foothill Family Shelter for two years.

Gifts, skills, areas of interest and networks I have to share with St. Mark's:

My strengths are my organizational skills and dedication to detail. My passions are stewardship, Christian formation, and outreach. I enjoy singing, knitting, reading, and teaching.

ED MUEHLBACHER

When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Marks:

Sharon and I have attended St. Mark's for the last thirteen years. I was baptized as an infant and confirmed outside of the Episcopal Church. I was received into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop in April 2021.

What I love most about St. Mark's:

I knew early on in participating in Sunday services that St. Mark's was a special place. I could feel the warmth, loving and non-judgmental environment. I really enjoy the thought-provoking sermons and interactions with other parishioners. St. Mark's commitment to the Haiti Partnership, the Foothill Family Shelter, and the other outreach programs shows the heart of the church.

My involvement at St. Mark's the broader church, local community and beyond:

I have been a member of St. Mark's Coffee Hour for the last five years and the Men's Coffee for the last two years.

Gifts, skills, areas of interest and networks I have to share with St. Mark's:

I am retired after a 36 year career with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. I have many years of experience in leadership, organization, problem solving, and task force roles. I could bring this experience, as well as my life experience to the Vestry. I learn quickly and believe that I could contribute to our parish community.

Other information I would like to share:

I'm an avid do-it-yourselfer.

PAUL STAPP

When I became a member of the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Marks:

I was baptized as an Episcopalian in 2002 and our family attended Holy Trinity and St. Benedict's Parish in Alhambra for many years. We started attending St. Mark's about 7 years ago.

What I love most about St. Mark's:

I like the sense of community and welcoming spirit and the dedication of its members. I enjoy Re. Keith's sermons and that he challenges us to be better Christians and people.

My involvement at St. Mark's the broader church, local community and beyond:

EB and I currently host as part of the Coffee Hour group. I am also now a member of the Building and Grounds, Newcome, and Digital Ministries. I am a Biology professor at CSU Fullerton and have volunteered for a variety of environmentally-based activities in the area, including our local Boy Scout troop and at the Bernard Field Station in Claremont.

Gifts, skills, areas of interest and networks I have to share with St. Mark's:

I enjoy working with my hands and outdoors. I like to think that I am organized and can think through problems. I like helping.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

DELEGATE TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION BIO: KATHY WALKER

I have been at St. Mark's since 1987, I was an Aide at the school for several years, and have served on many committees. I am currently on the Buildings and Grounds committee, St. Fiacre- the garden guild, Liturgical Arts, the Altar Guild; I sing in the choir, I am the music librarian; in addition I assist the head of security, I maintain the archives for the church, and I am a counter.

I have several hobbies, gardening, astronomy, fly fishing, reading, and knitting. I love opera and most types of music. I hike in the local mountains and like to travel. Recently I spend several days taking care of my grandchildren.

I have been a delegate to convention for many years and have enjoyed the opportunity to serve St. Mark's in this capacity immensely. It is a wonderful experience because you get a deeper sense of the larger church, and you meet people from all over the diocese. I love how we this diocese is changing and I want to be a part of the change. I find a deeper sense of spirituality when and after attending the convention. I would love to serve St. Mark's as a delegate to convention again and again.

Submitted by Kathy Walker

CONVENTION DELEGATE REPORT 2023

128th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Theme of this year's Convention was "Love in Action". The speakers and committees addressed applications of the theme to climate change, social justice, affordable housing, finance, and much more.

We met in Riverside again this year, such a welcoming town. Merchants in the downtown area asked if we were with the convention. It is always good shopping and eating in Riverside, of course including the exhibit hall with all of the vendors.

Bishop Taylor's address "We are woke and proud of it." "Being woke can take many forms, whether we are woke to the condition of people different from us or the danger posed by climate change to the Creation that people of all conditions share." He addressed the ongoing wars in Israel-Palestine, Ukraine, affordable housing and much more. Through the efforts of many people, including Bishop Taylor, St. James' Church in Newport Beach was reinstated to full parish status.

Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Melissa McCarthy spoke about climate change and the efforts of the diocese to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. "The diocese has begun an environmental reformation."

Dr. Lucy Jones, the one person we turn to after an earthquake, is the Senior Warden at St. James's Church in South Pasadena and was one of the speakers. She started out by quoting Robin Williams about all the reasons to be an Episcopalian, "we don't handle snakes, we don't check our brains at the door and we get free wine and get to believe in dinosaurs." She said God chose evolution to create us. Dr. Jones sermon about was about climate change and what our world will look like in the future if we don't do something about it now. "If left unchecked, climate change really will destroy the world. Significant parts of our world will be too hot to sustain agriculture. A billion people would need to migrate in order to find food."

The panel on Multicultural and African Descent Ministries discussed the challenges and joys of their ministries. Rev. Al Rodriguez, Rev. Fennie Hsin-Fen Chang, Rev. Bradley Hauff and the Rev. Ron Byrd were the participants.

Dr. Robert Ross was the Margaret Parker Lecturer. Dr. Ross is the recently-retired president and chief executive officer of The California Endowment, a private statewide foundation established in 1996 to address the health needs of Californians. He also chaired the Los Angeles County Task Force on Alternative to Incarceration "developing a roadmap for the county to reform criminal justice system."

Rev. Michael Bell spoke at a workshop and to the general assembly about affordable housing and where in the diocese it is being done. So many churches in our area are either completing building or in the beginning phases of construction.

St. Stephen's Hollywood has launched a Firefly electrician training program for young women. It is a two year program meeting monthly. The program is funded by a grant from the Los Angeles Girl's Friendly Society.

Resolutions: All of the Resolutions passed.

1. To form a companion relationship with the Diocese of Taiwan.
2. To adopt the General Convention Resolution 80th anniversary program honoring Florence Li Tim-Oi in a diocesan wide celebration. She was the first woman priest in the Anglican Communion.
3. To ask the General Convention that the Philadelphia Eleven be added to the Lesser Feasts & Fast Calendar of the church year.
4. To adopt that the First Sunday in Advent be established as Holy Family Services, Adoption & Foster Care Sunday.

And of course the budget was presented by Canon Andy Tomat, available on line at www.diocesela.org/convention/budget

This is just a brief glimpse of what goes on during convention. Please go to the diocese website and look for NEWS. Keep scrolling until you can listen to all of these speakers and what they had to say. It is very hard to convey the essence and intensity and the spirituality of the convention. <https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/>

Keep scrolling through and if you haven't already done so subscribe to The Episcopal News. You can learn so much about what is going on in our diocese, the wider church, and the world. There are many ways you might want to become involved.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Walker

DEANERY 6 ANNUAL MEETING

Deanery Six Annual Meeting
October 22, 2023, 3:55 PM

Those present; Rev. Susan Scranton Grace Glendora, Rev. Fennie Chang, Janice Lee St. Thomas Hacienda Heights, Rev. Judy Heffron, Patricia Holt, Bryan Bennett St. Paul's Pomona, Rev. Jay Tillitt St. Peter's Rialto, Rev. Keith Yamamoto, Dale Biggs, Kathy Walker, St. Mark's Upland, Dana Radcliff St. John's La Verne, Susan Payne St. Ambrose, Dean Linda Allport Bloy House,

Welcome and call to order by President Dale Biggs.

The Agenda was accepted and the minutes from the October 2022 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Payne gave the treasures report there is 6082.42 in the banks account.

President's Report: Dale Biggs thanked everyone for their hard work and said that he had very much enjoyed the collaborative deanery events and hoped that they would continue.

Program Group on Missions: Lovely picture of Violet with her mothers. Updates could be found through the Episcopal News

Diocesan Council: Rev. Jessie is finishing a 3 year term. Money up to \$1500 was approved for the rental of space and showing of the film The Philadelphia 11, was approved by the

Deanery Executive Council on October 12. The film will be shown on. 4th at 10 Am at the Laemmle in Claremont.

Deanery collaborative events: Nov. 10-11 Diocesan Convention in Riverside, Dec. 2 Advent Quiet Day at Christ Church Ontario, Dec. 10 Deanery 6 blue Christmas, Advent Soup Suppers Dec. 6 at St. Paul's, Dec 13 at St. John's, Dec. 20 at St. Mark's

Elections: Representatives to Diocesan Council Lay and Clergy. Mother Judy Hefferon volunteered to be the Clergy Rep. Still looking for a Lay rep. Deanery Youth Delegate Lilli Edeson from St. Ambrose. Treasurer Bryan Bennett, St. Paul's President Carol Morgan St. Mark's. All elected by acclamation.

Motion to add Carol Morgan and Bryan Bennett as new signers on the Deanery 6 account at Chase Bank. MSC

Bloy House Partnership: Dean Linda Allport spoke about the collaboration with Deanery 6. "This program will offer practical, customized courses to train lay leaders in your churches for the licensed lay ministries of preacher, worship leader, and pastoral leader as well as the governance roles of warden, treasurer, and vestry/BC member." This program will start after Easter in 2024 in either April or May. This program will help all churches in transition and will be finished by mid-June.

Dean's report Rev. Keith Yamamoto: Thank you to all of the outgoing officers and welcome to the incoming officers. Thank you to Rev. Jennifer Hughes and Rev. Jessie Smith for organizing the showing of the film Philadelphia 11. It was wonderful being at the 60 anniversary of St. Thomas' Hacienda Heights. Thank you Rev. Fennie. Deanery 6 has a wonderful opportunity to embrace lay leadership through this collaboration with Bloy House.

Mother Judy closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjourned at 4:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Walker

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Last year, St. Mark's continued to make a strong return after the challenges of the pandemic. You can find full reports from various parish groups in the Annual Report. I offer some highlights here.

A major focus this year was the work of our finance team, which made incredible strides in clarifying, simplifying, and cleaning up our financial processes. They also worked to reduce our expenses for everything from photocopiers to telephones.

Leaders of guilds, taskforces, committees, work groups, and the Vestry participated in the Kaleidoscope Institute's series where we contemplated the use and flow of our Holy Currencies of Time, Place, Leadership, Relationship, Wellness, Truth, and Treasure. As a result of this work, two new ministries, Youth for Christ and Venue Rentals, were "incubated". Other ministries were able to refocus their work to align with our mission.

Several parishioners attended the annual Diocesan Convention in Riverside to represent our parish as delegates and as exhibitors of diocesan organizations.

Parishioners attended the diocesan Creation Care Summit at St. Paul's Commons and brought back ideas for creative ways to become a stronger advocate for saving our planet.

Dine-out fundraisers continued to bring in money to support our fun fellowship events. We gave our cooks the night off and supported St. Mark's at the same time.

We hosted Bishop Franklin Brookhart, who officiated at a baptism, three confirmations, and one reception. His visit coincided with our St. Nicholas Brunch. I think the bishop might have thought we threw that wonderful party just for him!

We held our first Ministry Leaders' Forum to discuss the wellness of our leaders as well as Sabbath time and succession planning in our ministries. We need to care for our ministry leaders since they do so much for us.

We held two Vestry Q&A forums to listen to concerns from the congregation and to give updates on current issues in the parish. These opportunities for two-way communication are essential for maintaining transparency between the vestry and parishioners.

A venue rental taskforce was started to make our beautiful facilities available for rent to the community for special events such as weddings, parties, and meetings. We hope to be able to generate additional revenue for the parish while serving our neighbors. If you know someone who would like to rent a room, please contact the office.

We established a parish master calendar in our Breeze church management system. All church events and facility rentals will be posted in Breeze under the Events tab. If you want to schedule a meeting or an event, check the calendar in Breeze first for the availability of your selected room.

Sadly, St. Mark's Preschool closed last year after 60 years of service to our community. But, happily, the staff from the preschool opened a new school at Angels Academy in Upland. We are so glad the legacy of our preschool continues.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve St. Mark's as Senior Warden for the last two years. I can honestly say that our parish has a strong, talented, and caring vestry and Rector who have made important and challenging decisions to further the mission of our beloved parish. I thank all the guild, committee, and taskforce members who have been the glue that keeps all the parts of St. Mark's running smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morgan, Senior Warden

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Buildings and Grounds Committee held meetings on zoom throughout the year on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. The committee is responsible for the management and maintenance of the church property, as well as the maintenance of the rectory.

Buildings and Grounds projects completed this year include:

- The complete replacement of piping in the rectory.
- The replacement of the water main from the street to the rectory.
- Clean-up of the water damage in Room 29, including the removal of carpet, drywall, and scrapping of bricks. Air samples were taken to confirm that there are no hazardous levels of mold in Rooms 29 and 30, and the storage room behind them. The library ramp will be removed early this year. This is necessary because of the condition of the ramp, but it will also help to provide clarity on the source of leakage into the building.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has provided input and support for the continued discussions with the County of San Bernardino for Head Start. The Committee is also working with the Senior Warden, Carol Morgan, to find alternate revenue streams for the church. Our large property allows this group to consider many options. Community outreach has continued this year with Al-Anon and Compulsive Eaters Anonymous meeting weekly in Room 16.

The Red Cross continues with its blood drives on campus. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped with those events.

A special thank you to the Buildings and Grounds Committee who work so hard to manage and maintain our beautiful campus: Dale Biggs, Kathy Walker, Kate Flannery, Chris Watson, and Paul Stapp.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Muehlbacher
Buildings and Grounds Liaison, Vestry

FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL EVENTS

Susan Mackall Coordinator, Betty Farrell Co-coordinator
Active Ministers: Kathryn Barbour, Myrna Dole, Sylvia Ochoa, Connie Williams, Ellen Skivington, Melissa Diaz, Barbara Nalbach, Laura Schinler, and Judy Hartman.

The past year has indeed been a vibrant and fulfilling period for the St. Mark's Episcopal Church community, thanks to the active role played by the Fellowship Ministry in fostering a sense of togetherness and joy. Our Winter Fellowship Events kicked off in **January** with the Annual Meeting Breakfast, coordinated by the Fellowship Ministry for the Vestry. Moving into **February**, it was decided to celebrate the Annual Shrove Tuesday Event on Sunday during the Hospitality

Hour, honoring the tradition of pancakes with a variety of sweet toppings. As this festive event came to a close, there somber tone for the Lenten journey began. In the same month, the Fellowship Ministry coordinated the Ash Wednesday Starbucks Coffee Hospitality during the Ash and Dash early morning drive-through service, with two dedicated members generously donating Starbucks coffee to enhance the experience.

March brought the Lenten Season, during which the Fellowship Ministry coordinated one of the Deanery's Lenten Soup Suppers. There were delicious and varied pots of soup, salad, bread, and cookies donated by the Fellowship Ministers.

As **April** unfolded, the Pot Luck Easter Brunch provided a joyous opportunity for St. Mark's community to come together to enjoy a meal, and celebrate Jesus rising from the tomb. The event was complemented by St. Mark's Great Easter Egg Hunt, where the grass area buzzed with the excitement of children hunting for Easter eggs. There was an opportunity for children to have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny at the photo backdrop created by the Fellowship Ministry.

As Mother's Day approached in **May**, the Fellowship Ministry continued to spread love and appreciation by organizing a Mother's Day Brunch during the Sunday Hospitality Hour, honoring the mothers of St. Mark's.

The summer events commenced in **June** with an Art Show, celebrating the life of our dear departed artist, Marion Steese. St. Mark's Parish Hall was turned into an art exhibition showcasing not only Marion's art but also parishioners creativity, and beautiful art from Haiti.

June also saw the Fellowship Ministry honoring Grads and Dads during a hot dog BBQ, hosted during the Sunday Hospitality Hour, recognizing the achievements of graduates and fathers alike.

The summer months of **July** and **August** were dedicated to preparing for the upcoming busy holiday season.

In **September**, the Parish Hall transformed into an Ice Cream Parlor for St. Mark's annual Ice Cream Social, offering a sweet atmosphere with delicious toppings and an array of treats. It was a wonderful afternoon of fun, fellowship and Ice Cream.

October brought St. Frances Day, and the Fellowship Ministry, along with Nancy Kinney, coordinated a vegetarian pot luck after the Blessing of the Animals Service. It was a beautiful spread of various vegetarian dishes.

The month also marked the preparation for St. Mark's Annual Trunk or Treat, a meticulously planned event involving numerous volunteers, special event permits, and a festive atmosphere. After the approval of Buildings and Ground, St. Mark's Fellowship ministers, Betty Farrell, Kathryn Barbour and Myrna Dole, painted numbers on the black top to aid parking of the participating trunk or treater's vehicle.

The community response was overwhelmingly positive, with over 350 trunk-or-treaters enjoying the Halloween festivities. Medals were given out to participants who won the trunk or treat trunk decorated trunk contest.

Many of the Trunk or Treaters enjoyed dancing to the sounds provided by DJ Professor. Fulfilling St. Mark's Mission Statement as a community of grace, hot dogs, chips and water were handed out to the Trunk or Treaters free of charge. It was St. Mark's gift to the community. All the food/drink items were donated by St. Mark's Parishioners.

As winter approached, **December** found the Fellowship Ministry playing a crucial role in decorating the Parish Hall for the combined Bishop/Santa Visit and the St. Nicholas Catered Brunch. This event infused the space with a winter wonderland theme, a snow

globe backdrop, and a space for children to visit with Santa. The hall was filled with fellowship and holiday cheer.

The Brunch, catered by California Cook Out, was made possible with donations and Apple and Dine Out fundraisers.

Decorations, drinks, and desserts were contributed by St. Mark's parishioners. Concluding the year, the Fellowship Ministry coordinated the Advent Soup Supper for the Deanery in December. Parishioners donated soups, salad, bread, and desserts, providing an opportunity to bring the community together in reflection and anticipation of the Christmas season.

In summary, the Fellowship Ministry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church has been instrumental in orchestrating a diverse array of events throughout the year, fostering fellowship, celebration, and community engagement. The commitment and creativity of the ministry members have undoubtedly contributed to the vibrant and welcoming atmosphere that defines our church community. However, as we look forward, there is a need to focus on recruiting and retaining new ministers to ensure the continuation of these exceptional events.

Respectfully Submitted By, Betty
Farrell

FINANCE

We appreciate our parishioners for their financial commitment to St. Mark's. The Breeze database has improved our ability to compile and share information. We have 57 pledges for the operating fund so far -- average of \$3,600 per household. Typically, two-thirds of operating income comes from pledgers. We also have 17 pledges for the building fund and 6 for other programs. We will be sharing additional information during the annual meeting. Thank you for participating in our stewardship campaign! We accept pledges and revised pledges at any time.

The Vestry, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, and others have devoted countless hours to reorganizing our finances. We are prayerfully making progress towards a sustainable and growing St. Mark's. We had to draw down savings by about \$125,000 in 2023. We have a projected deficit in the \$100,000 range for 2024, which can only be covered by receiving Employee Retention Credit funds. We are awaiting the receipt of funds from the IRS and have been working with our payroll provider to fully recoup all the funds for which we are eligible. The 2024 budget includes both cost savings from restructuring and increases due to inflation.

We have had steady financial support while also facing challenges with the closure of our school and preschool. We continue to give thanks for the generous donations for paying off our building loan in 2022 and saving \$85,000 per year in loan payments. Our negotiations with Head Start recently resumed and we are exploring opportunities for electric vehicle charging/solar installation and special event rentals. These efforts are complicated and take time to come to fruition.

Key items for this year included:

- The difficult closure of our preschool at the end of January. Several teachers have opened Angel's Academy at St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church.

- Replacement of rectory plumbing
- Implementation of no-fee online giving through Zelle
- Hiring of a new music director
- Submittal of a grant application to the diocese for some of the costs related to water intrusion in the lower level of the library
- Negotiations with San Bernardino County Real Estate Services
- Increased dine-out fundraisers (thanks to Stewardship Committee)
- Review and restructuring of services. One of our two copier leases has now expired.

While my term on vestry is over, I will be continuing to work with Rose and Ken to complete restructuring and updating our financial practices. This has been difficult but necessary work. Thank you for your support of our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Godwin, Vestry Member, Finance Committee Chair, and Assistant Treasurer

Please see our proposed budget on the following page.

St. Mark's 2024 Adopted Church Budget (Operating Fund)

Description	2023 Budget	2023 Projected	2024 Budget
Income			
Church Contributions	\$282,000	\$301,333	\$289,000
Designated/Operating	\$530	\$4,234	\$2,380
Other Income	\$8,150	\$655	\$1,150
Transfers from Savings	4,000	100,000	4,000
Total Income	\$294,680	\$406,222	\$296,530
Expense			
Rector	\$119,085	\$116,910	\$120,932
Other Staff Costs	\$89,547	\$80,266	\$85,998
Outreach	\$34,816	\$40,432	\$35,301
Office Supplies/Srvcs	\$32,630	\$32,950	\$23,950
Membership Incorporation	\$3,550	\$3,600	\$3,500
Worship	\$8,060	\$13,589	\$8,150
Parish Life	\$3,100	\$2,100	\$3,100
Christian Education	\$1,600	\$306	\$1,600
Maintenance/Utilities	\$93,996	\$104,615	\$94,076
Finance & Stewardship	\$33,600	\$37,400	\$36,700
Total Expense	\$419,984	\$432,168	\$413,308
Net Income	-\$125,304	-\$25,946	-\$116,778

Budget does not include contributions designated to special funds and outreach (Haiti, Flowers, etc.)

St. Mark's 2024 Building Fund Budget

Description	2023 Budget	2023 Projected	2024 Budget
Income			
Contributions	\$35,000.00	\$28,620.17	\$24,286.00
Dec. Contributions to be deposited in Jan.		\$1,415.00	
Total Income	\$35,000.00	\$30,035.17	\$24,186.00

Expense			
Repairs & Maint.*	\$85,000.00	\$24,722.30	\$24,286.00
Total Expenses	\$85,000.00	\$24,722.30	\$24,286.00
Net Income	-\$50,000.00	\$5,312.87	\$0.00
Fund Balance, Dec. 31		\$57,896.46	

*Primarily rectory plumbing replacement. The Building & Grounds Committee is finalizing a list of priority needs, including a large number of deferred maintenance projects that would require funding beyond the budget. There are some bills pending and it is prudent to keep a reserve in case of emergencies.

STEWARDSHIP

The St. Mark's Stewardship Committee works to encourage parishioners to share their treasure and talent with our church community. This year, our Rooted in Abundance pledge campaign reminded us that we indeed have more than enough and when we share what we have, our entire community benefits. We have received a total of 56 pledges totaling \$233,450, down from last year's total of 65 pledges totaling \$249,103. Our goals for 2024 include working to educate church members on the importance of pledging a donation and how each pledge affects our annual budget, as well as continuing to organize a variety of fundraising activities that our members enjoy.

Submitted by Melissa Diaz

WORSHIP

We opened the year with relaxed recommendations for corporate worship. Masking was still strongly encouraged by those serving people face-to-face in close proximity—for example, hospitality hosts, ushers, greeters, Sunday School teachers, and Eucharistic ministers. Unvaccinated persons and those who are immunocompromised were especially encouraged to wear masks indoors, particularly when in small rooms with minimal air circulation.

There was no service at St. Mark's on Strove Tuesday (Feb 21st). Instead, a Deanery 6 Strove Tuesday was celebrated at St John's in La Verne.

Feb. 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday was the coldest Ash Wednesday since Ash & Dash began. Celebrants from St. Mark's imposed ashes on over 150 people coming in almost 120 vehicles – including two trash collections trucks.

During Lent, the Acolyte program was resurrected. An acolyte training was held later in the year on December 3rd. Thank you to all the acolytes that served this year.

The Deanery 6 rotating Lenten Soup Supper and Book Series resumed for the first time since the COVID pandemic. St. Ambrose Claremont, St. Paul's Pomona, St. John's La Verne, Christ Church Ontario and St. Mark's Upland each participated in one of the 5 Wednesday evenings in March. The program focused on "Spirituality of the Psalms" by Walter Brueggeman.

Again, post-COVID, we resumed the Overnight Prayer Vigil on Maundy Thursday April 6 at St. Mark's. Good Friday Stations of the Cross was held on April 7th at St. Mark's, at 12 noon, and lead by members of the Sancta Sophia chapter of the Order of The Daughters of The King. The Saturday evening Easter Vigil Service was held on April 8th at St. Ambrose in Claremont.

Easter Sunday, April 9th , included annual Easter Egg Hunt on the south lawn. Thank you to our Parking Attendants and Sextons led by Dale Biggs; Ushers and Greeters led by Kimberly Cortner; Eucharistic Ministers led by John Flasher; Lectors led by Greg Hewgill; St. Fiacre (Gardening Guild) and Bread Bakers led by Connie Williams; Oblation Bearers; Altar Guild; Flower Guild led by Christy Hyder; Counters led by Kathy Walker; Digital Ministry led by Bob Mattus; Liturgical Arts led by Canon Serena Beeks; Palm Branch Procurement led by Al and Joseph Montanez; Acolytes and Worship Committee led by Dr. Jim Brown; Sunday School and Fellowship Committee led by Susan Mackall; Hospitality/Coffee Hour/Brunch led by Sharon Muehlbacher, Susan Mackall, Betty Farrell, and Rev. Sally Monastiere. Photography and Facebook postings by Guenivere Vinnedge.

This year's Pentecost service, held on May 30th , included languages in Yoruba, Spanish, French, German, Bahasa, Latin, Haitian Creole, and American Sign Language.

Worship music has always been a strong component of our services. 2023 began with a continuation for a search for a new permanent Music Director. The search committee was led by vestry member Marcia Godwin. Many thanks to those who served as guest organist and pianist in the interim; Marcia Godwin, Sally Monastiere, Dr. Sonia Lee, Rachele, and Ken Rudolf.

In May 2023 our current music director Lawrence Goddard arrived fresh from New Mexico to begin his tenure here. He has included the Harpsicord in the music ensemble.

Part and parcel to our music is the dedicated members of our choir. In December, the handbell choir provided another inspiring performance.

The St. Mark's Band continued to play on select Sunday's once a month.

They have now formalized a schedule to perform on the first Sunday of each month under the directorship of Jana Garner. Laura and Mike Schinler, Marcia Godwin, Barbara Nalbach, Teresa Gillette, Rob Garretson, Lance and Barbara Farr

Every Sunday service and other special occasions held at St Mark's can be viewed live and recorded through Facebook and YouTube provided by St. Mark's Digital Ministry lead by Bob Mattus.

In July while Rev. Keith was away, Rev Judy Heffron and Rev. Sally Monastiere officiated for Sunday worship. In the beginning of August postulant Julia Warren left to attend Yale Divinity School to begin her seminary education. At the end of August, Rodney B. Hume Dawson,

Ph.D. Rodney completed his Diocesan Discernment Year at St. Mark's. Rodney, himself disabled from childhood polio, led a series of interactive lectures entitled "Love Thy Neighbor: Disability Awareness Forum" earlier in the year and he also gave several inspiring sermons during his visitation. The St. Mark's Discernment Committee did recommend that Rodney continue along in the discernment process.

Thank you to Susan Mackel and Lisa Drew for their unwavering dedication to the Sunday School ministry.

The Deanery 6 rotating Advent Soup Supper and Book Series also resumed for the first time since the COVID pandemic. St. Paul's Pomona, St. John's La Verne and St. Mark's Upland each participated in one of the 3 Wednesday evenings in December. The program focused on "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture" by Walter Brueggeman.

A mixed Baptism, Confirmation and Reception service was held at St. Mark's on Sunday Dec. 10th and was officiated by the Right Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart, Jr., Bishop Assisting of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Ginger Rudisill was baptized; Melissa Diaz, Rachel Holbrook, and Joseph Montanez were confirmed; and Sylvia Otsuka was received into this communion.

Sunday Dec. 17th an inter-generational Nativity Pageant was performed under the direction of Susan Mackel. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated for Christmas Season. Christmas Day 2023 was on a Monday; the Christmas Day service was fairly attended, possibly due to Christmas Eve falling on Sunday.

A healthy and robust worship requires all the congregation and parishioners to participate in at least one of the worship ministries: Altar guild, Flower Guild, LEM's, Acolytes, Greeters/Ushers, Lectors, Choir, Band, Bell Choir, Liturgical Arts, Baker's, or Digital Ministry. Expertise is not a requirement; just an open and willing heart to offer your gift or talent in a way to enliven our worship. We welcome and encourage involvement and participation from parishioners who have been bashful or reluctant to volunteer in 2024.

Dutifully submitted, Jim Brown

MINISTRIES

BIRTHDAY CARDS

Coordinator: Lisa Drew

Card Ministers: Linda Collins, Gail Dean, Evangeline George, Sylvia Ochoa

The purpose of this ministry is to remember all church members on their birthday with a birthday card. Our ministry supports the mission and ministry of St. Mark's by strengthening inclusivity and a sense of belonging to the St. Mark's community.

Linda, Gail, Evangeline, and Sylvia took turns sending birthday cards to church members. We enjoy letting church members know that St. Mark's remembers them on their birthday. We need your help to keep our birthday list current, so please contact me if you are not receiving a birthday card.

Birthday card ministers are people with legible handwriting and time to sign cards, address and stamp envelopes, and mail cards over a month-long period. If interested in being a birthday card minister, please contact me.

To update birthday information or to volunteer to be a birthday card minister, contact Lisa Drew at cards@stmarks-upland.org.

Submitted by Lisa Drew

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mark's held 5 blood drives in 2023. We collected 130 units of blood and had 125 donors. We held our first blood drive back in July of 2020. Since then, we have held 17 blood drives in the parish hall. With all the blood drives included we have collected 469 units of blood. We have had 489 total donors of those there have been 53 power red and 85 first time donors. Our average is 28 units of blood collected for all the blood drives.

Submitted by,
Dale Biggs
Program Leader

BOOK CLUB

Book-lovers were hosted by club members in rotation on the third Saturday of each month to explore member-selected books that reflected wide-ranging areas of interest and different literary genres. Among this year's books were Orphan Home, Thursday Murder Club, The Midnight Library, West With The Giraffes, Caleb's Crossing, Wait 'Til Next Year, The Personal Librarian, Song Of Achilles, The Witch's Heart, Twisted Christmas Tea and How To Cook A Wolf. Epitomized by warm hospitality and fellowship, our gatherings revolved around lively, engaging and far-reaching discussion.

One member, Joel Bolton, earned his PhD and recently departed for teaching in Kenya. He will return in 2024. Moli Torrez joined us the second half of the year. Sally Drake, who coordinated our meetings for quite some time, moved away, handing that duty over to Maggie Vizio.

We continue to love books, then read and discuss them. We look to welcome new members. Please join us in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Vizio

BREAD BAKERS – STE. HONORÉ

Baking bread for St. Marks is a special task. We prepare the sacrament for our Sunday services as well as other Eucharistic services throughout the year. We continue to use the recipe passed down by Patsy Minney, who led the bakers for many years.

Members of the guild include Connie Williams, Lisa Drew, and Melissa Diaz. We always welcome new members to join, experienced or not. If you are interested in joining this meaningful ministry, please contact Connie Williams at breadbakers@stmarks-upland.org. We will be happy to train!

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Williams

CHILDREN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children Christian Education Ministry, ages 3-10 years.

In 2023 our ministry team has continued with one class for ages 3-10 years because of lack of volunteers and attendance. We have combined the curriculums of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Godly Play. When we combined the two classes together, I have been working on making access to the curriculum easier. This means volunteers do not need additional training.

I have kept the Vestry informed about the stability of the continued existence of this ministry. I would like to express my appreciation for the continued support from our volunteers Connie Williams, Ellen Skivington, Linda Gomez and Barabara Nalbach. I also appreciate Lisa Drew and Peter Drew volunteering to reinstate our Youth Group.

Submitted by Susan Mackall, Ministry Chairperson

COUNTERS

The counters are responsible for the counting of the collections of the various services throughout the year. They check each check for the signature, the date, it has to be within a certain time period, and where you have designated the funds to go. If you do not designate where you want the donation to be posted they have to put it in the operating/general fund. Cash donations are treated the same. They are tasked with balancing the spreadsheets and making the trip to the bank to deposit the funds. We are very grateful not to have to wear masks any more. The counters are Chris Watson, Ken Drew, Barbara Nalbach, Ann Porter, Serena Beeks, and me Kathy Walker.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Walker

DIGITAL MINISTRY



Bob Mattus, Craig Gillete, Dr. Jim Brown, Joel Bolton, Kay Alexander, Rob Garretson, Paul Stapp.

Digital Ministry serves approximately 10 to 15 individuals each Sunday that watch the livestream broadcast from a remote location. In 2023, Digital Ministry has livestreamed 54 worship services (52 Sundays and 2 added Worship Services. In addition to the regular 2023 Sunday services, Digital Ministry also livestreamed 2 memorial services and provided audio support for 2 funerals (not live streamed). During one memorial service, Digital Ministry demonstrated the capability to live stream from the Memorial Garden In addition, Digital Ministry added the capability to live stream outdoor activity such as the Palm Sunday outdoor celebration or the chalking of the church doors. For the Sanctuary audio system – two new speakers have been installed in the Narthex and two additional speakers have been installed in the Sanctuary (choir loft). An additional microphone has been installed at the pulpit.

We welcomed two new members: Joel Bolton and Paul Stapp and said goodbye to David Nalbach and Alma Zook. Recruitment and training of Digital Ministry members continues.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to support the ministry!

Plans for 2024

One additional video PTZ camera will be added to the Sanctuary. In addition, TV Screens will be added in the church hall to show pictures of past events and to advertise upcoming events. Additional screens will be added as donations become available.

Bob Mattus
Digital Ministry Lead

FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild supports the Mission Statement of the Church by welcoming help from all parishioners who wish to donate their time and creative talent. Each year, the Flower Guild takes care of Sunday altar arrangements, several memorial service arrangements, the Advent Wreath, Christmas decorations, flowers for Mother's Day, school graduation service altar flowers, and a Blue Christmas arrangement. Also, we donate plants/flowers to fourteen shut ins twice each year.

It is our goal and desire to have sponsors for altar flowers all 52 weeks of the year. Usually there is a chart in the Parish Hall, and people sign up to honor a birthday, an anniversary, or to have another remembrance listed in the Sunday bulletin. We do not have a chart in the

Parish Hall at this time because many members view services online. So, it is preferred that everyone contact the church office.

When a person signs up to sponsor the altar flowers—to commemorate a special person or event in their lives—we ask that they make a financial donation in the amount of at least \$100 to help cover the cost of the flowers and necessary supplies. Supplies include; oasis, vases, urns, baskets, pedestals, easels, Floral Life, spray bottles, watering cans, floral tape, ribbon, wire, shears, clippers, trash bags, storage containers, buckets, and a broom. We budget very carefully to have funds for all the support supplies and fresh flowers that have become increasingly expensive.

The planter to the west of the doors with the lion topiary is a future project to be planted with clippings from the east succulent garden.

The only requirement for membership in the Flower Guild is a desire to participate in floral arranging and the enjoyment of decorating the church for special services. Additionally, one must be willing to donate time on occasional weekends and have the ability to go to the local wholesale floral supplier to get the flowers, where we have established charge accounts. Any parishioners, male or female individuals or teams, are welcome to join this guild. Newcomers can train with existing guild members. There is no financial cost to be a member of the Flower Guild. We would love to have additional members. Current members of the Flower Guild are Serena Beaks, Natalie Dunlap, Myrna Dole, Kate Flannery, Christy Hyder, Sylvia Ochoa, and Barbara Nalbach.

Submitted by Christy Hyder, Flower Guild Chair

FOOTHILL FAMILY SHELTER

The Foothill Family Shelter is a local non-profit organization started by our parish in 1984. The shelter provides transitional housing for local families in need. Residents are provided a utility & rent free two-bedroom, one bathroom apartment for up to 120 days & are required to save 50% of their income so that they may work towards a sustainable family life. Families in need can also apply for 1 & 3-year extended housing & are required to participate in wrap-around services. In 2023 our parishioners generously donated non-perishable food items through multiple drives sponsored by the Daughters of the King and also supported the residents by granting Christmas clothing wishes. We will continue to support a robust partnership between St. Marks and the Foothill Family Shelter in 2024.

Submitted by Melissa Diaz

HAITI PARTNERSHIP

Our deepest thanks to all parishioners who continue to support the Haiti Fund and/or order from the list of Haitian businesses (more copies are in the narthex.) Your support has meant that our partner church and school, St. Andre in Trianon, has been able to remain open, providing a safe place for the children of local subsistence farmers to continue their education despite the chaotic situation in the nation's government and the instability for the

country and its people. Recently, partners have been unable to transfer funds to Haiti, but that situation has now been resolved and we look forward to sending support again soon.

Our last trip to visit our partners was in 2019, and we long for the day when visits will be possible again. Personal experience with the clergy and people (and especially the children) forms bonds that have enabled us to carry on when no visits are possible, but five years is too long, and there are parishioners waiting anxiously to go back or to go for the first time. Equally, there are friends in Trianon longing to see us, because our presence will mean that the travel ban has been lifted and life is returning to normal. Your prayers for Haiti, especially for the people of Trianon, for the Head of School Louis Fleuristal, and for our partner priest the Rev. Jean Alphonse, are much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Guen Vinnedge and Serena Beeks, Co-chairs

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

LEMS assist the clergy at the altar each Sunday and at other services that include a Eucharist. They also participate at memorial services and weddings. It is a requirement by the diocese that all LEMs participate in the training program "Safe Church, Safe Communities."

Those serving at the 8 am service include Canon Serena Beeks, Dale Biggs, Dean A. Billman, and Cheryl Ward. Those serving at the 10 am service include Kay Alexander, Dr. Jim Brown, Karin Brown, John Flasher, Craig Gillette, Linda Gomez, and Brandon Hewgill. Larry Shade served at the 8 am service from January through September. Andrea Flasher, John Levario and Joan Watson continue to serve on an as-needed basis. Thank you all for your service to St Mark's.

We will provide training for those interested in feeding God's people.
Respectfully submitted, John Flasher, Scheduler of Lay Eucharistic Ministers

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

It is our task and pleasure to assist Reverend Yamamoto in bringing Holy Eucharist's elements and prayers to those church members who are homebound by illness, injury or age-related immobility. Our goal is to ensure that no one is forgotten and no one is alone.

If you or someone you know would like a visit, please contact John Flasher or Rose at the church office.

Members: John Flasher, Kimberly Cortner, Rosalyn Foster and Dale Biggs

LECTORS

I took over scheduling from Andrea Flasher in February of last year due to her health. I schedule for both the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services as well as special services for various seasons of the year. We currently have six lectors for the 8:00 AM service and fifteen for the 10:00 AM service. In the 8:00 AM service one lector covers both the Old Testament and New Testament lessons, as well as leading the congregation in the reading of the psalm appointed for that Sunday. Another lector leads the Prayers of the People, so two lectors for each

service. At the 10:00 AM service we assign one lector for the Old Testament and psalm, another for the New Testament reading and a third for Prayers of the People.

I am pleased to say that our lectors do a great job, and they are a pleasure to work with. Everyone is very willing to fill in for others when scheduling becomes a problem. We have sufficient lectors for 10:00 AM but it would be great if we could get a couple more for the 8:00 service. As an aside, like virtually every ministry, doing the scheduling has allowed me to get to know members at both services that I might not otherwise, and has occasionally opened opportunities to share both our faith and struggles. It is a pleasure to serve with those who serve God's people in this way.

Sincerely,
Greg Hewgill

LITURGICAL ARTS

The Liturgical Arts Committee facilitates and coordinates various kinds of art to enhance the church during the various liturgical seasons, with the hope that people will have the opportunity to worship with all of their senses, and in ways other than the spoken or written word. Right now Christmas has departed, but the stars and angels remain up during Epiphany to show us the way to enlightenment or comfort or healing or whatever it is we are seeking. All of that will come down for Lent as we bring the Stations of the Cross back to the sanctuary and then prepare for Easter to bloom on March 31. Red signifies the Holy Spirit on Pentecost May 19, and then the long, green season through the summer and fall as green turns to bronze, and then we will be back to Advent, preparing gradually for everything to be ready for Jesus, culminating on Christmas Eve.

We invite participation from anyone who is interested, and we were happy last fall to receive the contribution of the Youth Group, whose members folded origami doves to remember our departed loved ones for All Souls' Day, November 2. We will try to post dates well in advance for such activities as putting up and taking down stars. (The taking down is MUCH quicker than the putting up.) Creating art can be a prayer or a meditation, an act performed with love as we think about the different interpretations various people might have. You may believe that you are not artistic, but everyone is an artist when it comes to putting up the Christmas forest with the Flower Guild or hanging up butterflies.

Our committee was diminished considerably this year by the loss of Yong and Helen Muhn as they retired to Arizona. Both contributed much effort toward helping the sanctuary reflect the seasons, and Yong had a wonderful ability to troubleshoot and find ways to do the impossible. Their new church in Arizona is fortunate.

Membership on the Liturgical Arts committee is fluid and includes anyone who shows up to work on a project. It also includes people who have moved away, such as the Muhns and Robert Cunningham (who is already working on more stars for next Christmas), and even those whom we love but see no more, such as the Rev. Lee Harris, who continue to provide us with inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,
Canon Serena Beeks

MEN'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

A small group of men from St. Mark's meet at Bad Ass Coffee in Rancho Cucamonga on Wednesdays from 10:30 am to Noon. The coffee shop is located at 11460 Kenyon Way in Rancho Cucamonga, near the 210 Freeway/Milliken Avenue interchange; in the Albertson's shopping center. Regular attendees are Bill Brooks, John Flasher John Levario, and Ed Muelbacher. We usually just sit and chat about any subject that comes up. You do not have to drink coffee to join us.

Respectfully submitted,
John Flasher

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The hard-working Music Director Search Committee successfully concluded its long work last spring with the recommendation of the hiring of Lawrence Goddard. Larry began immediately in the early summer and was working effectively with all of the music groups at St. Mark's. Unfortunately, in November his leg was "collateral damage" in a car accident which took place on the street near where he was walking along a sidewalk. With four breaks, he required surgery and has been in extensive rehab ever since. Needless to say, an organist requires full use of his legs! We pray for his continued and speedy recovery.

The music has carried on through the volunteer efforts of several parishioners and the hiring of accompanists as needed. Marcia Godwin has coordinated the accompanists, Natalie Dunlap is directing the Bell Choir, Gigi Garner is the liaison for the Band, Serena Beeks is directing the Choir, and Kathy Osterkamp served as the summer Cantor when the music groups were not playing. We have enjoyed working with organists Ken Rudolf, our principal substitute, and Philip Smith, and with pianist Rachelle Gensolin, all gifted musicians. Many thanks also to the Rev. Sally Monastiere who provided the organ accompaniment for carols on Christmas Day.

All three St. Mark's music groups welcome inquiries from interested potential participants. All levels of skill are welcome -- we're all somewhere on the learning curve!

Respectfully submitted,
Serena Beeks

NEWCOMER MINISTRY REPORT 2024

The Newcomer Ministry has a goal of moving St. Mark's from a focus of maintenance to a mission of transformation. This goal includes changing our direction outwards to our community, neighbors, and visitors. We are following the guidelines of the Invite Welcome Connect ministry to realize our goal.

Many thanks to our committee members: Kay Alexander, Kimberly Cortner, Melissa Diaz, Carol Morgan, Barbara Nalbach, Kathy Osterkamp, and Paul Stapp. Rev. Keith also attends our meetings regularly.

The Newcomer Ministry accomplished many of our goals for 2023. We prepared welcome bags for visitors including a flyer of information on church services and activities, a small journal, a pen imprinted with St. Mark's name, a refrigerator magnet with service times, a coaster with St. Mark's logo, and a Connect Card to collect visitor's contact information. We held a newcomer introduction for five newcomers during the Feb 26 services. We reinstated Newcomer classes held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and led by Rev. Keith. We initiated a program of Holy Hospitality including announcements to the congregation at the 10:00 service on how to be welcoming to visitors. We reinforced our focus on inviting visitors to Coffee Hour and passing the peace to visitors and newcomers. We stepped up our use of photos on our Facebook, Instagram, and website pages. These sites now offer more current images of activities and services of St. Mark's. To that end, we procured a free version of *Canva*, an online graphic design platform that is used to create social media graphics and presentations. This program is also being used to easily create flyers for parish events.

If you have an interest or passion in welcoming new people to grow St. Mark's, please contact Carol Morgan.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Morgan, Chair of the Newcomer Ministry

RECOVERY GROUPS

Al-Anon and Compulsive Eaters Anonymous continue to meet weekly in Room 16 of the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening and Saturday morning, respectively.

Submitted by Kathy Osterkamp

SAINT FIACRE'S GUILD

The gardening guild did a few things this year. Mostly trimming the roses. The roses and irises always need attention. If you are interested in helping out at any time contact either Kate Flannery or Kathy Walker and we can show you to what needs doing.

Again a big thank you to Connie Williams who is doing a wonderful job in the Memorial Garden.

And thank you to Sally Beardsley for tackling the succulent gardens. They were very overgrown.

We are going to try for a workday in February.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Walker and Kate Flannery

SANCTA SOPHIA CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING®

The Sancta Sophia chapter of the Daughters of the King—part of an international and interdenominational order of women who take a vow of prayer, service, and evangelism—holds monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month to pray and study, share contemplative spiritual practices, and conduct chapter business. In 2023 we held 10 meetings. The chapter currently has 21 members. The officers are Lisa Drew, president; Karin Brown, Vice President; Gail Dean, secretary, and Rosalyn Foster, treasurer. The Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto serves as our Chaplain. Other members of the Sancta Sophia chapter are Clare Bangao, Kathryn Barbour, Mandy Bennett, Linda Collins, Kimberly Cortner, Andrea Flasher, Edwina Golightly, Lynda Grauso, Andrea Griffin, Elizabeth James, Nancy Kinney, Bettie Lovekin, Carol Morgan, Barbara Nalbach, Ellen Skivington, Alice Tokatly, and Susan Venzke. Two of our members are officers of the Los Angeles Diocesan Board of the Daughters of the King – Kimberly Cortner, President and Carol Morgan, Secretary – and several members represented our chapter at both the Spring and Fall Diocesan Assemblies.

Most of our members are active in a variety of ministries within and beyond St. Mark's. Our chapter service to the St. Mark's community includes maintaining the St. Mark's parish prayer list, which is updated regularly. Daughters include this list in their daily individual prayers and those who are able also meet every Thursday morning via Zoom to pray through the list. In October we sent hand-written letters to the families of St. Mark's members who had passed away since All Saints' Day 2022 and Daughters read the names of deceased loved ones as part of the service on All Saints' Sunday 2023. We provided healing prayer following the Eucharist on the second Sunday of each month and facilitated five parish donation drives for the Foothill Family Shelter. These drives resulted in total donations of 304 separate food and beverage items, 429 personal hygiene items for men, women, and children, 522 school supply items, 50 miscellaneous items, and 23 completed Thanksgiving baskets. We wish to thank all in the St. Mark's parish for their continuing and generous support of our ministries.

Submitted by Lisa Drew

TOUCH MINISTRIES

The collected weekly donations to this ministry are taken to Ontario each Tuesday morning to a storage area rented from Fortress Church. Items included throughout the year, and very much appreciated, are: fast food GCs, hygiene supplies [toothbrushes/paste, bars of soap, sanitary items, deodorant, etc], tee shirts, rain ponchos, sox, gloves, warm hats, gently used clothing for men and women. Food items are also donated throughout the year. These include cup-a-soups [lightweight but generally easily filled with the necessary hot water at various venues], small tins of tuna fish, 'meat sticks' [Vienna sausage type items], jars of peanut butter, all good items to provide protein. Some foods from other groups have included fruits and vegetables that also get handed out 5 mornings a week.

Twice a year a sit-down, served meal is provided, generally around Easter and around Christmas, though not on the actual days. St Mark folks have helped with these by being setup, serve, and cleanup participants. Connie Anaya, the founder of T.O.U.C.H., always is thankful for what St Mark's provides through material donations, checks directly to T.O.U.C.H. to help cover its expenses [rent for the storage of above, gas for the truck used to pick up donated items of food, occasional bikes, clothing] as well as personal presence. At those

meals gently used or new donated clothing is also set out for clients to choose from. Generally there are more men than women and there is at this time one family with 2 young children.

Volunteers always welcome!
Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Hunley and Kathy Osterkamp

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Saint Mark's youth group renewed its ministry in September of 2023. Advisors are Lisa, Peter, and Ken Drew. Its mission is to provide a place and a time for adolescents to be nurtured into young adulthood, fostering lasting relationships between each other and church community members of all ages so that all can learn from each other and grow in Christ together. The youth group is open to all young people in 6th through 12th grades and meets every first and third Sunday of the month in Room 18 after the 10:00 AM service. Eleven young people have attended meetings and eight attend regularly. Members decided to retain the name "Youth for Christ" and created a banner and poster proclaiming the name and logo. Service to the church included assisting with the succulent plant potting on St. Francis Sunday, helping with food distribution and clean up at Trunk or Treat, assisting the Liturgical Arts Guild by creating origami doves and helping to raise stars for aerial art displays, and sending Christmas cards to homebound parishioners.

Submitted by Lisa Drew

REMEMBRANCES

Baptisms

Ava Olivia Penuela
Caleb Dean Nagtalon
Ginger Rudisill

Confirmations

Rachel Holbrook
Joseph Montanez
Melissa Diaz

Receptions

Syliva Otsuka

Burials

David Nalbach
Peter Mow
Tony Grauso
Alice Lichti
Joel Lamore

**We are a community of grace feeding hungry hearts
in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.**

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
The Rt. Rev. John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan of Los Angeles
The Rev. Canon Melissa McCarthy, Canon to the Ordinary
The Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart, Bishop Assisting

Church Elders: Skip and Bobbi Arjo, Murray Duvall, Alice Granewich, and Helena Kooiman

Emeriti: Canon Serena Beeks, Head of School Emerita; William Carrington, Organist and Choir Director Emeritus; and The Rev. Konrad White, Rector Emeritus

Canons: Canon Serena Beeks, D.Min. US Coordinator, Haiti Episcopal School Partnerships; Canon Clare Bangao, Coordinator for Mission Congregations; Canon Gisele Tackoor, JD, Director of Recruitment and Admissions at Pilgrim Place; The Rev. Can. Judy Heffron, Dean Emerita

Staff: Administrative Assistant Rose Barraza; Organist and Music Director Larry Goddard; Rector the Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto.

Vestry Members: Carol Morgan Sr. Warden, Newcomer Ministry (2024); Kimberly Cortner Jr. Warden, Communications (2025); Dean Billman liaison for Stewardship (2024); Karin Brown Vestry Affairs (2025); Gail Dean liaison for Fellowship (2026); Marcia Godwin Assistant Treasurer, liaison for Finance (2024); Sharon Muehlbacher liaison for Buildings & Grounds (2024); Barbara Nalbach liaison for Formation/Education (2025); Kathy Osterkamp liaison for Worship and Outreach (2026); Ken Drew, Treasurer (2024); Kay Alexander, Clerk (2024)