

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
330 E. 16th Street
Upland, California 91784
116th Annual Meeting
January 25, 2026



St. Mark's Episcopal Parish: A Community of Grace

Our Mission: To be a place where love and hope abound:
we welcome everyone to our worship and communion, we help one another
understand God and know Jesus, we nurture our community and the world,
and we celebrate diversity and work for social justice.

Table of Contents

Minutes Of The 115th Annual Meeting 4
Message from Julia Warren 5
Vestry Candidate Biographies 6
Diocesan Convention 8
Convention Delegate Report 2025 9
Deanery 6 Annual Meeting 10
Senior Warden's Report 11
Committee Reports 13
Buildings And Grounds 13
Communications 14
Fellowship Social Events 14
Stewardship Committee 16
Finance 16
Worship Committee 16
Ministries 18
Birthday Cards 18
Book Club 18
Bread Bakers – Ste. Honoré 19
Children's Chapel 19
Counters 19
Daughters of the King 20
Digital Ministry 21
Foothill Family Shelter 22
Haiti Partnership 22
Lay Eucharistic Ministers 23
Lay Eucharistic Visitors 23
Lectors 24
Liturgical Arts 24
Men's Breakfast 25
Men's Coffee Fellowship 26
Parking Guild 26
Redcross Blood Drive 26
Saint Mark's Music 27
Sextons 27
TO.U.C..H MINISTRIES 27
Venue Rental 28
2025 Remembrances 30

AGENDA

Welcome and Call to Order, Rector

Opening Prayer, Lisa Drew, Jr. Warden

Welcome and Introductions of People & Vestry, Rector

Appointment of Clerk, Carol Morgan

Declaration of Quorum, Clerk
(Minimum of twenty-five members in good standing)

Minutes of the 115th Annual Meeting, Rector
(May be dispensed with by a majority vote of those present)

Commendation of Reports Submitted

Senior Warden's Report 2025 Highlights, Paul Stapp, Senior Warden

Financial Report & Budget Presentation, Marcia Godwin, Treasurer

Rector's Report, Rector

Elections

Vestry: Benjamin Fudge, Sylvia Otsuka, Maggie Vizio, 2029

Susan Mackall, 2028

Convention Delegate: Kathy Walker

The second convention delegate (who must be a member of the vestry) and alternate delegates are appointed in the Fall. Please contact the vestry if interested in serving as an alternate.

Outgoing vestry: Gail Dean, Fellowship; Kathy Osterkamp, Outreach, Worship

Q&A and Other Business

Remembering, The Rev. Sally Monastiere and Daughters of the King

Date of Next Annual Meeting, Clerk

Closing prayer, Dismissal, and Adjournment

First meeting of new Vestry

Minutes Of The 115th Annual Meeting

St. Mark's Episcopal
Church Minutes of the
115th Annual Meeting
January 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order by The Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto at 10:55 AM.

The Opening prayer was given by Barbara Nalbach.

Kay Alexander was appointed as clerk for the annual meeting.

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

Rev. Keith thanked the Brunch Committee for the food and the Digital Ministry for the electronics set-up. He then introduced a warm up game. Each table recorded the number of years each member had been an Episcopalian. The tables with the most and least years were the winners.

Rev. Keith introduced the current vestry: 2026 Gail Dean, Kathy Osterkamp, and Susan Mackall; 2027 Paul Stapp, Ed Muehlbacher, and Lisa Drew. Those leaving the vestry are Karin Brown, Ken Drew, Barbara Nalbach, and Clerk Kay Alexander. He presented those leaving with a Bonsai plant.

Rev. Keith mentioned the following outstanding parishioners and ministries of 2024:

- Carol Morgan for her venue rental endeavors
- Bob Mattus for Digital Ministry
- Susan Mackall and Betty Farrell for Parish Life
- GG Garner and Serena Beeks for Music

The Senior Warden's Report was given by Karin Brown. Highlights of 2024 were reported (see report in 2024 program).

The Financial Report was presented by Ken Drew, Finance Chair and Treasurer and Marcia Godwin, Assistant Treasurer. Marcia showed slides of basic expenses, income, & giving trends. Efforts have been made to reduce expenses. The budget is typically about \$300K income and \$400K expenses. Future rentals and Employee Retention funds should bring in more income.

The Rector's Report was given by Rev. Keith. He spoke on the concept of Larger Us, Longer Now, Wider Here.

Rev. Keith presented the slate for election for the class of 2028 – Dale Biggs, Ginger Rudisill, EB Stapp and Susan Mackall to fulfill a 2027 term. Convention Delegate, Kathy Walker. M/S/C.

Q&A and Other Business:

Dale Biggs – Questions about budget expenses for 2025, request to make Financial reports and Minutes available to all.

Carol Morgan – asked if Sandy Hardy is a temporary bookkeeper.

Myrna Dole said that the Flower schedule for 2025 is up.

Next Annual Meeting will be January 25, 2026.

Remembering those who were baptized, married, or passed away in 2024 was led by Rev. Sally Monastiere and Edwina Golightly, Daughters of the King.

The closing prayer was given by Paul Stapp.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kay Alexander, Clerk

Message from Julia Warren

Greetings from New Haven, CT! I am presently finishing my final semester at Yale Divinity School. In January, I took my General Ordination Exams (GOEs), which involved three full days of timed testing. In February, at your nomination, I will go before the Standing Committee and Commission on Ministry for my Candidacy interviews. After my graduation in May, I plan to move back to Southern California. God willing and the people consenting, I will be ordained in June of 2026. Thank you all for your continued prayers. We're in the home stretch!

Peace,

Julia Warren

she/her

Yale Divinity School, M.Div. '26

Postulant, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Vestry Candidate Biographies

Benjamin Fudge

I began attending St. Marks some time in mid 2023. I became a member of the Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 14, 2025.

I love the liturgy. Having come from many years in more “low church” or non-liturgical church settings, I find it enriching and soul nourishing to have a more formal liturgy. There are also some very friendly people here who have made me feel welcomed and accepted into the fellowship here.

My involvement at St. Marks, besides weekly attendance, is mostly with the men's weekly coffee time. I do currently serve on the board of a mission ministry in Africa. I have also worked with a local food bank, a ministry for pregnant and parenting teens, and served in many roles in my prior church, including: serving on the church board, chair of our missions committee, facilitator of recovery ministries, led/taught small groups, and sat on the finance committee as a board member.

I believe I bring a number of gifts that could benefit St. Marks and the individuals we serve here. I worked for many years as an elementary school teacher and as an administrator. I served on the Ontario Montclair Teachers Association board for many years. I have a lifelong involvement in churches of various denominations and earned a Masters of Theology degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. I have a special interest in recovery groups or programs as well as in missions, both global and local. I would like to see more “hands on” ministry opportunities in the future.

I am married and have 3 adult children and 7 grandchildren. My wife attends a different church in the area, along with our daughter and her family.

Sylvia Otsuka

I first came to St. Mark's in March 2023. During my first visit, I was warmly welcomed by Vestry members, the congregation, and, of course, Reverend Keith. That feeling of warmth has continued to this day. What drew me to the Episcopal Church—and St. Mark's in particular—was the clear commitment to social justice, inclusivity, and the care of creation. I was officially received into the Episcopal Church and St. Mark's in December of that same year.

I believe in active stewardship and supporting the organizations from which I benefit. For the past two years, I have served on the Hospitality Team, providing refreshments after the 10:00 a.m. service. Additionally, I have mended vestments, donated Christmas gifts, and served as a reader. I have also participated in our Pentecost services by signing portions of the liturgy. These activities represent how I have given back to our community so far, and I hope to expand that service as a member of the Vestry.

My professional and educational background is diverse. I hold degrees in Environmental Medicine Technology (Military Public Health), Sign Language Interpreting, and Environmental Sciences. My career has included research and analysis of soil and water, working as a substitute teacher for the Deaf, and serving as a Sign Language Interpreter. Currently, I teach 6th-grade math, science, and

Sign Language. I also serve as a Tech Lead Teacher, supporting my colleagues with technological needs and integration.

On a personal note, I have been married to my husband, Dennis, for 27 years. We have two adult children: Jett, a second-year law student, and Chase, who is pursuing a blended bachelor's and master's degree in mathematics. Both are expected to graduate in 2027.

Maggie Vizio

I was born on U.S. Army Base Fort Clayton, PCZ (now "City of Knowledge", Panama) and baptized in the Episcopal church when I was six weeks old. Due to my father's military career, I attended various Episcopal churches in the U.S. and abroad, being confirmed in St. Ursula's Anglican Church, Bern, Switzerland. Upon our return to the U.S. we became members of Trinity Episcopal Church in Redlands. When I married, my husband and I lived in New Orleans, then Houston before settling in Hacienda Heights. We were members of St. Thomas' for over 30 years. During that time I served variously on the Bishop's Committee and Building Fund committee that resulted in the construction of the church and Christian Education Buildings. Shortly before my husband's retirement, we settled in Rancho Cucamonga (where my husband and mother were raised) and we became members of St. Mark's.

I filled all those years with graduate school, two children and working up to a Full Professorship of English. While at Chaffey College I headed the Honors Program for a time, served on multiple selection committees and worked on the College Book Program. I retired from Chaffey College in 2013.

During college I enjoyed attending services at St. Mark's with my parents and was eager to become a part of the parish upon our relocation to this area because the liturgy and sermons appealed to me. I also found a warm reception from parish members. I've been relatively quiet in my participation which has included joining our book club, providing occasional transportation for an elderly member and a brief stint as supplemental English teacher at the parish school.

Outside of the church I have volunteered at the Upland City Library for several years, participated in a second book club and served on the Alumni Board of Pitzer College. For Pitzer I currently work on the "Women of the 60s" committee raising money for scholarships.

I believe the above volunteer and work-related duties have given me decent training to serve on St. Mark's vestry and I would appreciate the opportunity to serve my church in a larger fashion.

Diocesan Convention

I represented St. Mark's as the 2nd delegate to the 130th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Los Angeles, held from 7-8 November 2025 in Riverside. I encourage everyone to visit <https://diocesela.org/convention/> for information about this year's convention, which has a link to a YouTube channel with recordings of some of the business.

The main business of the convention was the election of the eighth bishop of the diocese to replace retiring Bishop John Harvey Taylor. The search committee presented three candidates for election: Rev. Canon Melissa McCarthy, Los Angeles diocesan canon to the ordinary; Rev. Monica Burns Mainwaring, rector of St. Martin in the Fields, Atlanta; and Rev. Antonio Gallardo, rector of St. Luke's Church in Long Beach. Prior to attending the convention, I reviewed all the candidate materials on the diocesan website, including recordings of their question-and-answer sessions at churches in the region.

On the second day and the eighth ballot, Rev. Gallardo was elected as the eighth Bishop of the diocese, with 134 votes from the clergy order and 187 votes from the lay order. The tally was the first one in which a single candidate earned two-thirds of the vote from each order, as required by the diocesan constitution. When he formally replaces Bishop Taylor in May 2026, Rev. Gallardo, who was born in Venezuela, will be the first non-white, immigrant bishop of the diocese.

Other highlights of the meeting:

- The Convention's theme, *Resilience and Renewal*, was very appropriate, reflecting the impacts of last winter's fires on communities in the diocese, especially those directly in the path of destruction. The delegates heard about ongoing efforts and programs to renew and rebuild. Leaders from St. Matthew's in Pacific Palisades announced that they finally were able to return to their sanctuary for worship and that their school will return to campus in the fall.
- Other speakers highlighted the challenges faced by immigrants and communities of color by the mobilization and accelerated actions of the federal administration. Members of the diocese's Sacred Resistance Task Force called for collective resistance to stand with these vulnerable communities. Rev. Canon Jaime Edwards Acton, the rector of St. Stephen's in Hollywood, introduced several parishioners who suffered the trauma of being kidnapped by ICE and held in detention centers. Outgoing vice-chancellor Jeff Baker, an associate dean and law professor at the University of Alabama, gave a rousing Margaret Parker Lecture about the responsibilities of Christians to speak out against injustice and bigotry, especially actions of those in positions of leadership.
- Delegates also learned of programs aimed at helping congregations take bold steps to re-imagine their missions. The Requiem or Renaissance program supported by Trinity Wallstreet provides grants to support discernment about strengths and challenges and to build skills to make difficult decisions. The diocese will soon roll out a congregational vitality self-assessment tool to help congregations discern their paths in an organized, thoughtful way.
- I was struck by how well St. Mark's was represented at the Convention. In addition to Rev. Keith, Rev. Sally, Kathy Walker and myself on the floor, Canon Serena, Lisa, Kimberly, Carol, and Canon Clare all attended and participated

in activities and events (my apologies if I have missed someone). I deeply appreciate the warm welcome they extended to me and their advice for navigating the meeting. I also gained an even greater appreciation of Bishop Taylor for his ability to manage what could have been a contentious and anxious election decisively but with great sensitivity and grace.

Delegate Biography: Since 2002, I have been employed as a professor of biological science at CSU Fullerton. My wife, E.B., is a NICU nurse and we have two adult children, Lyla and Ben. Our family has attended St. Mark's since 2013 and have been pledging members since about 2014. I am currently Senior Warden of the Vestry and serve on the Building and Grounds Committee and Digital and Coffee Hour Ministries. I had previously attended the Diocesan Convention as a member of Vestry of Holy Trinity and St. Benedict's Parish in Alhambra, but the 2025 Convention was my first meeting as a member of St. Mark's. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to represent the parish and congregation at this year's convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Stapp

Convention Delegate Report 2025

Resilience and Renewal

The 130th Annual Meeting of Convention in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles November 7th and 8th in Riverside California.

I didn't take many notes this year because most of the convention, speeches, homilies, and reports from various agencies of the diocese can be viewed online at the diocese website. <https://diocesela.org/> Highly recommended. Ask me if you can't find it.

This year we elected a new bishop. There were three very good candidates, Rev. Antonio Gallardo, Rev. Melissa McCarthy, and Rev. Monica Mainwaring. During the business of convention there were many ballots taken to elect Rev. Antonio Gallardo as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles. After the fourth ballot Rev. McCarthy withdrew. It was a tense and emotional time.

Sacred Resistance Task Force presented a report in which several people who live in fear not only for themselves but for their families were present at convention. One man spoke for the group about his fears. We all know what is going on but to see and hear people who are living with this fear was heartbreaking. From their website "As Episcopalians, one of the core promises of our baptismal covenant is to "persevere in resisting evil." We understand that as a call to stand in resistance to the systemic evils that oppress and marginalize any members of our human family".

<https://www.asacredresistance.org>

Canon Jeff Baker delivered the Margaret Parker Lecture, "The Church of Dissent in an Imperial Republic." The lecture was intended to "address the church's work and voice for justice in the law and public policy and its relationship to secular and political power." Canon Baker was the Vice Chancellor for the Diocese of Los Angeles and is a Law professor at the University of Alabama. Please go to the Diocesan YouTube site and listen to him. He was dynamic, funny and inspiring.

<https://www.youtube.com/@EpiscopalDioceseofLosAngeles>

Bishop Taylor's address was no less inspiring. "This isn't the time to stop paying attention – or keep issues of public policy out of the pulpit or Bible study – or worry too much about offending someone who doesn't agree, as long as we speak the truth in love."

Retiring treasurer Canon Andy Tomat made a beautiful and full budget presentation.

Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Walker, Convention Delegate

Deanery 6 Annual Meeting

Deanery 6 is an area in the Diocese of Los Angeles that includes the following Episcopal churches: St. Ambrose, Claremont; Christ Church, Ontario; Grace Church, Glendora; Holy Trinity, Covina; St. John, La Verne; St. Mark, Upland; St. Paul, Pomona, St. Peter, Rialto; and St. Thomas, Hacienda Heights. The officers of Deanery 6 include: The Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto (St. Mark), Dean; Carol Morgan (St. Mark), President; Bryan Bennett (St. Paul), Treasurer; and Dorina Green (St. John), Secretary.

In 2025, congregations in the Deanery participated in these collaborative activities: monthly meetings for clergy and lay church leaders, Requiem or Renaissance, Camp scholarships for Camp Stevens and Trinity Camp, a Lenten study of *God Can't* by Thomas Oord; a Lenten Quiet Day, a Lenten walk at Joshua Tree Park; an Advent study of *Women of the Nativity: An Advent and Christmas Journey* by Paula Gooder; an Advent Quiet Day; and Advent Lessons and Carols at Trinity Church in Covina.

Members of all Deanery churches are invited to participate in these Deanery activities for 2026.

--Carol Morgan, Deanery 6 President

Senior Warden's Report

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden over the past year. I am indebted to Rev. Keith and the other members of the Vestry; its officers, the Clerk and Treasurer; the church staff; and the leaders and volunteers on the committees, ministries, and guilds who collectively keep St. Mark's strong and a special place to be a part of. I want to especially recognize outgoing members Kathy Osterkamp and Gail Dean for their years of service on the Vestry, and to thank those individuals who have stepped forward to be nominated to replace them. Lastly, I want to extend a special thanks to the Junior Warden, Lisa Drew, and our Clerk, Carol Morgan, for doing their jobs so well and for being such a great source of support and advice to me.

Below are reports of the eight parish committees, each served by a Vestry member who acts as a liaison, as well as the year-end reports submitted by the leaders of church ministries. I encourage you to review their reports, as they lay out in greater detail the hard work and accomplishments of each of these groups. Rather than try to summarize them here, I want to highlight some items that came before the Vestry for discussion or action or that stood out to me as noteworthy:

- Led by our Venue Rentals Coordinator, we have continued to find new ways to use our facilities to bring in much needed revenue and help us meet our community service mission. This included the opening of Foxberry Preschool, as well as multiple ongoing and short-term rentals.
- Under the leadership of the Treasurer and Finance Committee, we have improved our accounting practices and recently hired a new bookkeeper who is expected to help with the preparation of timely financial reports.
- After months of hard work and discernment by the search committee, we successfully hired a new Music Director, Tim Ruzon.
- We had a lively and successful *Tell Out My Soul* fall stewardship campaign, highlighted by guest sermons from within and outside the congregation and with re-imagined pledge cards.
- We implemented new practices to be better environmental stewards, including replacing plastic communion cups, kitchen cutlery, and plastic cups with more sustainable alternatives and separating green waste from recyclables landfill waste.
- We continued to imagine and implement new ways to ensure that our community is prepared for emergencies, including establishing communications networks and evacuation plans, training sextons for shutdowns, replacing emergency supplies, signage, and alarm systems, and establishing an agreement with the Red Cross for the church to serve as an emergency shelter.
- We established a Grief and Loss Support Group and updated our Memorial Services practices to provide guidance and pastoral care to support members at times of loss.
- The Building and Grounds Committee has taken major steps toward a re-establishing long-term savings mechanism to prepare for large capital repairs and renovations.
- The Fellowship Committee again organized and held successful events, such as

the Ice Cream Social, St. Nicholas and St. Patrick's Day dinners, and Trunk or Treat, that served not only the St. Mark's family but also our neighbors and the wider community.

- Members of St. Mark's continued their generosity through longstanding outreach programs such as our Haiti Partnership, donations to T.O.U.C.H. Ministry and Foothill Family Shelter, and volunteering and donations during Red Cross Blood Drives. We also donated books from the school library to help those impacted by the 2025 wildfires. Across our committees and ministries, members volunteer their expertise and many hours of their personal time and spend their own resources, donations of time, talent, and treasure for the good of St. Mark's that are under-recognized.

As we look forward to the coming year, we should acknowledge and prepare for several opportunities and challenges ahead:

- As our relationship with Foxberry Preschool and other outside users of our spaces grow, we will need to be patient, flexible, and proactive in coordinating and calendaring events and sharing spaces.
- As our facilities age and need repair, we expect to undertake some significant renovation and deferred maintenance projects, such as replacing aesthetic turf with drought-resistant landscaping and improving the lighting in the Sanctuary. These could be disruptive and will require planning and coordination.
- Despite a successful stewardship campaign, increasing utility and employee costs continue to make it difficult to balance our operations budget without over-relying on reserves. This challenge will continue to be a priority for the Vestry.
- We hope to schedule more fundraising activities and events in 2026, as another way of raising revenue funds to support parish programs and to attract newcomers.
- Plans are being developed for Rev. Keith to take a long-delayed clergy renewal sabbatical leave in 2027. We will seek external funds to help reduce costs to the parish.
- As revealed by the unfortunate attacks from last year, we will all need to be diligent to detect and avoid email and phishing scams. We will continue to identify ways to improve communications and digital security practices.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the Junior Warden if you have questions or concerns. If we don't have the answer immediately, we will do what we can to address them as quickly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Stapp
Senior Warden of the St. Mark's Vestry

Committee Reports

Buildings And Grounds

The Building & Grounds Committee was no less busy in 2025 than the years before. We meet monthly on Zoom, the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Below are some of the committee's significant projects and accomplishments.

- We updated a list of priority projects (Needs List'), which we shared with the congregation on Digital Ministry boards. And it will be updated again in 2026.
- Very early in the beginning of the year it had been decided not to continue with San Bernardino County Headstart.
- Renovations were made to the preschool classrooms so that Foxberry Preschool could rent and start up a new preschool. They made all the improvements themselves.
- We had an irrigation audit done about mid-year to move forward with nonfunctional turf removal. We plan to complete this project in 2026.
- The work from the year before repairing the leak into the basement of the library has really helped. No water for room 29. We had the concrete adjacent to the library building sealed and waterproofed. Additional crack filling and sealing/waterproofing are planned to help with any possible water intrusion into room 29 during heavy rains.
- We replaced two broken hand railings. All our handrails need painting.
- We cleaned up and re-painted additional rooms upstairs in the Christian Education Building so they could be available to rent to a tutoring business over the summer.
- We successfully switched alarm companies without losing any security options. This has been an improvement from a security standpoint.
- We will continue to work on the sanctuary lighting. There are several moving parts to replacing any lights in the sanctuary.
- Carol Morgan, as a member of the committee, continues to lead our venue rentals. We've been moderately successful in renting out our space.
- I want to thank all the members of the Building & Grounds Committee. We take minutes and that is shared between Kathy Walker and Kate Flannery, Carol Morgan heads Venue Rentals, Ginger Rudisill-Emergency Preparedness/Disaster. Our meetings are regularly by our wardens Paul Stapp (Sr.), Lisa Drew (Jr.), Marcia Godwin-Treasurer and our rectory as time permits.
- See our Needs List of 2026 projects that you can give to the Building Fund to help make those projects happen.

2026 Needs List

1. Replace water line on north side in the Church
2. Replace non-functional turf with water -efficient landscaping
3. Seal concrete decking sidewalk to prevent flooding around the library
4. Replace Sanctuary lights (lower height and switch to LED)

5. Repair or replace exterior doors, handles, and locks – IN PROGRESS
6. Re-pave and re-paint lines and patterns on parking lot
7. Repair or replace Christian Education Building roof
8. Replace handicap ramp on Library
9. Re-paint Sanctuary pillars and kitchen; organize kitchen cupboards
10. Repair running track and install French drain to prevent flooding

Communications

The communications committee supports parishioners who provide expertise in publicizing St. Mark's worship services and fellowship events to parishioners and the greater community through written documents, our in-house digital ministry, and an online presence through our website, Facebook, and Instagram, by communicating to the vestry recommendations and requests for vestry approval of funds, volunteers, and contacts to carry out their work; to work with the Parish administrator regarding time management of the IT consultant, regular updates of bulletin boards and the digital marquee and the use of Constant contact to publicize events.

We are grateful to everyone who volunteer their time and resources to bring St. Mark's good works to the greater community.

- Church website provider (Trinity Web Consulting)
- Digital Ministry – Bob Matthus
- Parish Administrator – Rose Barraza
- Social Media Chairperson – Guen Vinnedge
- Website update volunteer – Angel Jauregui
- Church website provider (Trinity Web Consulting)

Respectfully submitted,
EB Stapp

Fellowship Social Events



Susan Mackall, Coordinator | Betty Farrell, Co-Coordinator

Active Ministers: Kathryn Barbour, Myrna Dole, Sylvia Ochoa, Connie Williams, Melissa Diaz, Barbara Nalbach, Judy Hartman

Auxiliary Members: John and Vicki Levario, Gigi Garner

The past year has been a vibrant and fulfilling period for the St. Mark's Episcopal Church community, thanks to the Fellowship Ministry's dedicated efforts to foster togetherness and joy.

On March 16th, the Parish Hall was adorned in green for St. Patrick's Day. Parishioners shared a potluck corned beef and cabbage dinner, followed by lively Irish dancing and music from the Tamora School of Irish Dancers.

Spring Celebrations:

In April, our Potluck Easter Brunch and the Great Easter Egg Hunt brought families together to celebrate the Resurrection. Even rain couldn't dampen the children's excitement as they searched for eggs hidden in the Sanctuary. Fellowship members added to the fun with a festive photo backdrop featuring the Easter Bunny.

May's Mother's Day Hospitality Hour received special attention, thanks to the Fellowship Ministry's support.

Summer Preparations:

July and August were spent planning for the busy holiday season, ensuring every detail would reflect the spirit of St. Mark's.

Fall Festivities:

September saw the Parish Hall transformed into a charming ice cream parlor for our annual Ice Cream Social—a sweet and fun-filled afternoon of fellowship.

October brought St. Francis Day and a vegetarian potluck after the Blessing of the Animals. Later in the month, our Annual Trunk or Treat event delighted over 350 participants with creatively decorated trunks, music by DJ Professor, and medals for the best-decorated vehicles. True to St. Mark's mission of grace, parishioners donated hot dogs, chips, and water, which were distributed free of charge.

Holiday Cheer:

In December, the Fellowship Ministry brought the Christmas spirit to life with the St. Nicholas Dinner. To reduce costs, members prepared a delicious meal featuring tri-tip, a baked potato bar, mac and cheese, and more. The Parish Hall was transformed into a Gingerbread House and Christmas Forest Scene, creating a magical atmosphere for children visiting Santa. The evening included our beloved Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, with medals awarded for the most festive creations.

Looking Ahead:

The Fellowship Ministry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church has been instrumental in orchestrating a rich variety of events, strengthening bonds within the church and the broader community. As we celebrate these successes, we also recognize the importance of recruiting and retaining new ministers to sustain these meaningful traditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty Farrell, Fellowship Co-Coordinator

Stewardship Committee

Finance Committee: Lisa Drew, Vestry Liaison

Purpose: To work with the Bookkeeper and Treasurer to review and provide monthly budget reports to the vestry; to seek vestry approval for policies regarding the activities surrounding the receipt and disbursement of funds, to meet monthly with and support the Treasurer, the Counters coordinator, the Legacy Society Fund coordinator, the Stewardship chairperson, and the Venue Rental program coordinator; to assist in drafting the annual church operating and building fund budgets, to present the coming year's budget at the annual parish meeting, to assist the Treasurer and the Rector in securing annual audits and completing the Parochial report. The liaison's monthly report to the vestry should include the monthly financial statements for the operating and building fund and results of the monthly Finance Committee meeting.

Finance

Presented by Marcia Godwin

Worship Committee

A tremendous amount of advanced work by volunteers goes into delivering a spirit-filled worship service every Sunday and Holy Day at St. Mark's.

In no particular order, I would like to thank the following individuals who have taken lead roles and given so much of their personal time and talents to make our worship services so worthy of attending:

Clergy	(Rev. Keith Yamamoto, Rev. Sally Monastiere)
Communion Bread Bakers	(Connie Williams)
Liturgical Arts	(Canon Serena Beeks)
Flower Guild	(Christy Hyder)
Altar Guild	(Kathy Walker)
Lectors	(Gregory Hewgill)
Children's Chapel	(Susan Mackall)
Choir	(Tim Ruzon)
Band	(Gigi Garner)
Digital Ministry	(Bob Mattus)
Ushers & Greeters	(John and Vicki Levario)
Acolytes	(Susan Mackall)
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	(John Flasher)
Ablutions	(E.B. Stapp)

Each of these leaders would agree that it is the contribution of many others on their team who make their specific ministry and guild so effective, and we would like to thank all those who contributed and participated in one of our worship ministries in 2025.

Overall, the worship services in 2025 ran relatively smoothly throughout the liturgical calendar of Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas. Our uniquely creative "Ash and Dash" event on Ash Wednesday was once again a major success.

Other major accomplishments in worship included the acquisition of Tim Ruzon as

music director and organist. In addition to the thoughtful and inspiring sermons delivered by Rev. Sally Monastiere, Rev. Judy Heffon, and Canon Serena Beeks, Rev. Keith utilized the in-house licensed Worship Leaders John Flasher, Kimberly Cortner and Dr. Jim Brown to deliver homilies, adding variety with new voices and perspectives.

Every 2nd Sunday of the month, following communion at the 10 AM service, Daughter's of the King provided healing prayer. Every Tuesday morning at 9 AM, Bible Study was held in room 16, and every Wednesday evening at 7 PM Centering Prayer was held in the chapel.

On December 14th, Bishop John Harvey Taylor made his last official visit to St. Mark's to officiate over a mixed Confirmation and Reception service.

In conclusion, St. Mark's is blessed to offer spirit-filled worship services.

In calendar year 2026, it would be appreciated if fellow congregants would step forward and pick up the baton from one of these devoted and dedicated ministry leaders of St. Mark's, to maintain and continue the rich tradition of worship for the glory of God's kingdom in our beloved community. Expertise is not a requirement; just an open and willing heart to offer your gift or talent in a way to enliven our worship.

Dutifully submitted, Worship Chair, Dr. 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. We enjoy letting church members know that St. Mark's remembers them on their birthday.

Our card ministers send out birthday cards to church members on a monthly rotation. This was the last year for Evangeline George, who retired this summer after many years as a card minister. Her position will be filled by Margaret Vinnedge, who will begin her service in 2025.

We need your help to keep our birthday list current, so please let me know 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. All materials are provided. To update birthday information or to volunteer to be a birthday card minister, contact Lisa Drew at prayers@stmarks-upland.org.

Submitted by Lisa Drew

Book Club

Once again, a group of avid readers, interested in a wide variety of writing, met every third Saturday from 10am to 12noon. Club members hosted most meetings and treated fellow-readers to refreshments and led us in thought-provoking discussions. The member-selected works included memoir (*A Marriage at Sea* by Sophie Elmhirst), essay (*How We Learn To Be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde), novel of the immigrant experience (*The Other Americans* by Leila Lalami), novel of post-WWII Italian Reconstruction (*A Bell For Adano* by John Hersey) among many other selections, serious and light-hearted.

Sincerely,
Maggie Vizio

Bread Bakers – Ste. Honoré

Baking bread for St. Mark's is a special task. We prepare the sacrament for our Sunday services as well as other Eucharistic services throughout the year.

Members of the guild include Connie Williams, Yvette Jauregui, 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 at breadbakers@stmarks-upland.org. We will be happy to train!

Respectfully submitted, Connie Williams

Children's Chapel

We are in our third year and final year of developing the curriculum using Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Godly Play and Bishop Tutu's Children's Bible. The chapel has been reorganized to include shelving to store demonstration materials from Godly Play lessons and additional storage for craft activities. In this coming year our goals will be to

1. Increase information about the program in the Good News and location signs in the Parish Hall
2. Training of additional teaching teams.
3. Outreach projection that children could participate in.

Submitted by Susan Mackall

Counters

The counters are responsible for the counting of the offerings of the various services throughout the year. They check each check for the signature, the date, and where you have designated the funds to go. If you do not designate where you want the donation to be posted they are required to put it in the operating fund. Cash donations are treated in the same way: If there is no designation, they will be put in the operating fund. The Breeze program is used to enter all donations, so that the church records match up with your individual donation records. Deposit totals are double-checked to make sure the number in the computer matches the number on the deposit slip. The checks are then copied as well as the deposit slip. Funds are deposited into the bank by two counters who then return the deposit receipt to the church.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Walker

Christian Education & Formation

This ministry involves the development of spiritual growth, bible history and how to infuse into your daily life. This ministry includes Adult Christian Education, Youth for Christ, Children's Chapel, and Daughters of the King, Creation Care, Bible study, Centering Prayer group, Spiritual retreats and Quiet Days.

Submitted by Susan Mackall

Spiritual Direction

In 2025, there were two trained and certified Spiritual Directors active at St. Mark's: The Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto, Rector, and Kimberly Cortner, Licensed Lay

Minister. Each of these sit with private non-congregational clients for Spiritual Direction but are available to help members who are seeking direction to find other Spiritual Directors and programs. Both were trained through Stillpoint: The Center for Christian Spirituality in Los Angeles. The Stillpoint programs, such as the Journey program, which Kimberly Cortner has facilitated for almost ten years are open to St. Mark's members, and three St. Mark's members have previously completed the course: Kathryn Barbour, John Flasher, and Larry Shade. Also in the fall of 2025, a Centering Prayer group began meeting in the Chapel on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 PM. The sessions usually draw about eight people, who sit for 20 minutes in silent contemplative prayer, opening with a check-in and reading then closing with the Lord's Prayer and announcements. The Spiritual Direction Ministry has planned for 2026 a SoulCollage® workshop to be held on February 7, and later opportunities for Small Group Spiritual Direction and various contemplative art engagement activities. These ministries overlap with the two annual Quiet Days organized by St. Mark's and held within the deanery in the seasons of Lent and Advent that provide a time of contemplation and renewal. Anyone interested in individual or small group Spiritual Direction or wanting more information about Stillpoint and other workshop or retreat opportunities, may contact either Rev. Keith or myself.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Cortner, Spiritual Director and Licensed Lay Minister

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 2025, we held 10 meetings. Moli Torres was admitted into our chapter this year, and Alice Tokatly passes away; the chapter currently has 21 members. The officers are Karin Brown, president; Gail Dean, Vice President; Carol Morgan, secretary, and Nancy Kinney, 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, Lisa Drew, Andrea Flasher, Rosalyn Foster, Edwina Golightly, Lynda Grauso, Andrea Griffin, Elizabeth James, Bettie Lovekin, Barbara Nalbach, Ellen Skivington, and Susan Venzke. One of our members, Lisa Drew, serves as Secretary for the Los Angeles Diocesan Board of the Daughters of the King. Several daughters attended the Spring Assembly held on Zoom on May 3rd and at the Fall Diocesan Assembly at All Saint's/Los Todos Episcopal Church on Saturday, November 1, 2025. The fall assembly The assembly included the theme of Dia de los Muertos with an ofrenda and a focus on recruiting Spanish-speaking Daughters.

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 by Lisa Drew through consultation with the daughters and prayer requests from parish members. 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 as a group. In October we sent hand-written letters to the families of St. Mark's members who had passed away since All Saints' Day 2024 and Daughters read the names of

deceased loved ones as part of the service on All Saints' Sunday, Nov 2, 2025. A DOK daughter also reads names during the Annual Meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, to be held on January 25, 2026. We provided healing prayer following the Eucharist on the second Sunday of each month. AS we do annually, we hosted Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 18, 2025. This year, DOK tabled at the Diocesan Convention on November 7 and 8th. We facilitated three parish donation drives for the Foothill Family Shelter, including collect feminine hygiene and baby products (April), Ingathering of backpacks and school supplies (July) and, in-gathering of Thanksgiving baskets (November) for Foothill Family Shelter. The total items donated for all of the drives this year was 1,325 items. These drives resulted in gathering the following donation items: 654 separate food and beverage items, 125 personal hygiene items for men, women, and children, 420 school supply items, and 41 completed Thanksgiving baskets.

Our book study included *"Life of the Beloved"* by Henri Nouwen; and *"How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith"* by Mariann Edgar Budde. We wish to thank all in the St. Mark's parish for their continuing and generous support of our ministries.

Submitted by Karin Brown

Digital Ministry



The Digital Ministry Team:

Bob Mattus, Craig Gillette, Dr Jim Brown, Kay Alexander, Rob Garretson, Paul Stapp; Daniell Torres; and Guen Vinnedge (Facebook/YouTube)

Digital Ministry serves approximately 10 to 15 individuals each Sunday who watch the livestream broadcast from a remote location. Total viewing audience for 2025 was 578 viewers. In 2025, Digital Ministry has livestreamed 54 worship services (52 Sundays and 2 added Worship Services. In addition to the regular 2025 Sunday services, Digital Ministry also livestreamed 3 memorial services and provided audio support for 2 funerals (not live streamed). Digital Ministry demonstrated 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 Sanctuary; an additional microphone has been installed at the pulpit; and a new digital camera was added to the sanctuary. In January, Digital Ministry added the capability to furnish music lyrics to the congregation using a digital screen at the altar for the Band music that is not in the hymnals.

The Digital Ministry team remained the same (see the pictures above) and in May welcomed Daniell Torres to the team. Recruitment and training of Digital Ministry members continues and **we are always looking for additional volunteers to support the ministry!**

Plans for 2026

We would like to start using screens in the Sanctuary to eliminate paper programs.

Bob Mattus
Digital Ministry Lead

Foothill Family Shelter



Foothill Family Shelter was started by St. Mark's in 1984 and has grown into its own non-profit entity with a full staff, 28 two-bedroom/one-bath apartment units, and a complete support system for families in need. In 2025, we housed a total of 44 adults and 70 children. Your support makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our families and fills an immense void in our communities - as the need increases, we will continue this impactful work. We also appointed a new Executive Director, Bonnie Cole, whose long standing leadership with the Shelter has been critical to our success. Our new Associate Director, Stephanie Maus, brings many years of non-profit experience as well as in-depth knowledge of the local community, and she has hit the ground running helping to support our many programs. This year, we plan to continue working towards our goal of purchasing another building to expand our housing program and continue to try to meet the growing need in our community.

Submitted by Melissa Diaz

Haiti Partnership



Our friends and partners in Trianon, Haiti, have experienced a terrible year, but your gifts and support have helped greatly in the emergency. At the beginning of 2025, banking in Haiti which had been interrupted off and on in the last half of 2024 became more stable again, so in the first three months we sent \$9000 which had been meant for teacher salaries in 2024, enabling the school to catch up, a great relief to the teachers. In March, Trianon was overrun by gangs on their way to occupy Mirebalais, and our friends were forced to flee for their lives leaving everything behind. Local clergy of the Episcopal Church including our partner

priest, Pere Alphonse from Mirebalais, organized support of various kinds for the thousands of refugees in the small mountain towns north of Mirebalais and in Cange, the original home of Partners in Health. Their priorities at first were emergency medical care, getting children into school, and feeding and clothing people. Many classrooms and schools accommodated twice the usual number of students, who already were attending school in rather crowded conditions. St. Mark's, thanks to your generosity, was able to send \$3000 in mid-May, the end of May, August, and September, most of it for food but some for temporary housing. Some refugees were settled with relatives in other parts of the country, but the need for shelter remained acute, so the clergy began to plan for the construction of three dormitories with bathroom, washing, and kitchen facilities, to be built at Cange, Thomonde, and Hinche on church property with eventual re-purposing as school buildings, at a cost of approximately \$30,000 each. Again, you were very generous with your gifts and your shopping at the "Haiti Table", and wires supporting the shelter project were sent in October (\$3000), November (\$3000), and December (\$10,000), with another wire to be sent soon. Your generosity has also inspired others (we don't hesitate to tell the story!) and there has also been support from other parts of the country, many without the local and personal connection we have to this particular tragedy. So our report this year is, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers and life-saving gifts for our partners in Trianon, Mirebalais, and beyond. We hope and pray that 2026 will see them able to return home, rebuild, and enjoy security and stability in Haiti.

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 in memorial services and weddings. LEMs assist at Ash 'N' Dash and other special events. 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, Linda Gomez, and Cheryl Ward. Those serving at the 10 am service include Luke Beardsley, Dr. Jim Brown, Karin Brown, John Flasher, Brandon Hewgill, and Craig Gillette. Kay Alexander served at the 10 am service from January through June. Thank you all for your service to St Mark's.

Respectfully submitted,
John Flasher, Scheduler of Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Lay Eucharistic Visitors care for those in our community who are unable to be at services. We attempt to establish and/or maintain contact with our church members who are in assisted living facilities or who are infirmed or frail — by visiting, sending cards, making phone calls, and offering prayers. When we visit, we listen, pray, and let them know that they are loved and not alone. They are still remembered as a vital part of our community. Our visits usually include the Eucharist and a short service. Sometimes we anoint with oil and sometimes we provide prayer shawls. We even visit people who have not been regular members of St. Mark's. All visits and communications are held in strict confidence. Lay Visitors

have the ongoing support and training from the clergy and the Diocese. Those providing this sacred service include Dale Biggs, Dean Billman, Kimberly Cortner, John Flasher, Rosalyn Foster, Craig Gillette, and Rev. Keith Yamamoto. Those who assist with visits include Kathryn Barbour and Ralph Monaghan. Please inform the Church office if you or anyone you know wants a visit, card, or phone call.

Respectfully submitted,
John Flasher

Lectors

Hearing scripture read on Sundays can seem routine, even taken for granted. Yet, like so many things in life that we experience routinely, it is a great privilege; both to speak the word of God and hear it spoken, especially in the context of worship. This is my attitude, and I believe, the attitude of our lectors.

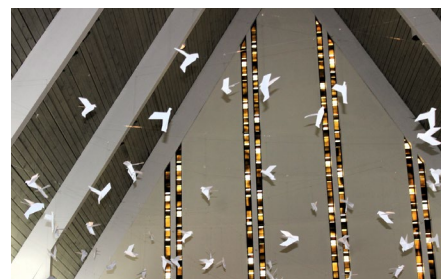
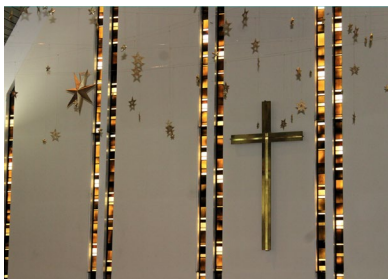
I schedule both the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services as well as some of the special services for various seasons of the year. We currently have five lectors for the 8:00 AM service, which is adequate, but it would be nice to have a couple more so that our lectors can also sit and listen to the scriptures being read, as well as reading them aloud. We have plenty of lectors for the 10:00 AM service, but I am always open to anyone who would like to read or lead the Prayers of the People in church.

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.

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 different 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. As is our custom, 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, this year especially in memory of Robert Cunningham who found the angels and invented the star hanging, in addition to designing and making many of our vestments and altar hangings. 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 in April. Red signifies the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, 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.

During 2025 we laid to rest the very decrepit, rusted, and "tippy" old paschal candle stand and replaced it with a very beautiful, sturdy new one created by wood craftsman Dennis Sampson. We also experimented with the hanging of ribbons in the sanctuary which, as they were matching the green and blue set and decorated with nylon netting, looked very much like a visual prayer for rain, which seems to have been answered. Later, dark olive green and gold ribbons matched the green and gold set, and we were happy that they also matched the wedding colors for parishioners who included them in their wedding. Both sets, as mentioned above, were the work of Robert Cunningham. Watch out for some red and orange excitement this year at Pentecost!

We were happy in October to again receive the contributions of members of the Youth Group, who helped fold origami doves with the names of our departed loved ones for All Saints' and All Souls' Day, November 1 and 2. We post dates well in advance for such activities as putting up and taking down stars, and you are always invited to help. (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 may see in what we do. 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 doves.

Membership on the Liturgical Arts committee is very selective and limited to anyone who shows up to work on a project. It also includes those whom we love but see no more, such as the Rev. Lee Harris and Robert Cunningham, who continue to provide us with inspiration.

Respectfully submitted, Serena Beeks,
Chair

Men's Breakfast

In 2025 Men's Breakfast group could only meet a few times. It's always a good time when we can meet. All our breakfasts are of the potluck style of with everyone bringing something from home. Looking forward to 2026 we'll have as many breakfasts as we can. We need to get all our dates on the parish calendar to be booked in advance. We have competition for the space since we meet on Saturday mornings

When we meet all are welcome to attend our breakfasts. The breakfast is hosted on the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 AM. We will have our first breakfast in January in the parish hall.

I want to thank all who have attended any of the Men's Breakfasts in 2025. It is a

really good time. Look for notices in the Good News and a signup sheet in the parish hall.

Dale Biggs

Men's Coffee Fellowship

A small group of men from St. Mark's meet at Starbucks Coffee in Upland on Wednesdays from 10:30 am to Noon. The coffee shop is located at 1202 East 20th Street, Suite A, Upland, 91784, north of the 210 Campus Avenue interchange. Regular attendees are Mike Dole, John Flasher, Benjamin Fudge, John Levario, Ed Muelbacher, Phil Quaranta, and Rev. Keith Yamamoto. 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

Parking Guild

We only have a few members that are called upon. Lately it's only been for a couple events that we host each year. If parking is needed, I would like to get 3-4 people to help park. I'll have 1 or 2 people in the front parking lot directing cars to the handicap parking. The other volunteers I'll put in our back parking lot.

The parking guild people need to arrive about 30 minutes early to get ready and go over where or how we will park the automobiles. The goal is to keep traffic moving and not block the driveway. The person at the front will hand out a map once all the onsite parking is full. The map will have directions to the closest parking on the street to St. Mark's. At times we have used Facility attendants to fill in.

Many Thanks to our Parking Guild: Paul Stapp, John Flasher, and Rachel Ferguson.

Respectfully submitted by Dale Biggs,
Guild Chair

Redcross Blood Drive

Red Cross Blood Drive is coordinated by Dale Biggs. Since July 2020 we've hosted 26 blood drives and collected 769 units of blood with 721 donors.

Our current badge is Premier Blood Partner. Our average units collected is 29 per drive - the Red Cross says 25 units collected per drive is a successful drive. In 2025 we held 4 blood drives, collected 116 units of blood, had a total of 119 appointments filled, and 13 first-time donors. For 2026, we have 5 blood drives scheduled: the first, on January 8, Thursday, from 8-2PM in our parish hall. Since the start of our blood drives in 2020 we have had 8 volunteers help with greeting donors when they come in, and help with set up, take down, and close up.

Respectfully submitted by Dale Biggs,
Program Leader

Saint Mark's Music

Separate handout.

Sextons

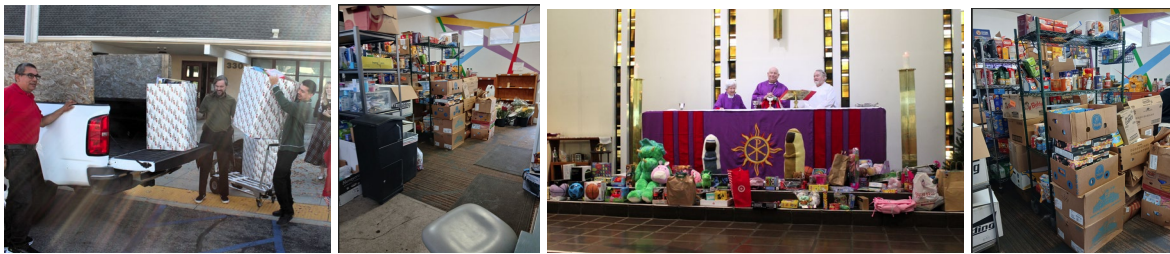
Thank you to the members of the Sexton Guild for 2025. Your work does not go unnoticed. They secure the church building after services. Members of sexton's guild are Stanley & Sally Kosaka (Team Kosaka), Ken & Lisa Drew (Team Drew), Paul Stapp and Ed Muelbacher. Those are our closing sextons. Larry & Bively Shade take care of opening on Sunday morning almost all the time.

Larry and Bively arrive early to get the lights on and everything ready for the 8 o'clock service. The closing sextons take care of all that in reverse order with the last thing making sure all doors are closed and locked.

If anyone is interested in being a sexton, please let me know and we'll arrange a meeting to go over everything. When I make the schedule for the year I try to put all the closers on when they have coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Biggs, Sexton Guild Chair

T.O.U.C.H MINISTRIES



Every Tuesday morning the donations in the T.O.U.C.H. Ministry container in the Narthex are delivered to a storage area rented from Fortress Church in Ontario. Connie Anaya (the founder of T.O.U.C.H.) and her team sort, store, distribute donations of clothing, food items, toiletries. Most weekday mornings, sack distributions of canned soup/meats/fruit/water are distributed to those living in De Anza park.

St. Mark's also provides, through cash donations, checks written directly to T.O.U.C.H. to help cover its expenses. These expenses include rent for the storage area and gas for the truck used to pick up donated items of food, occasional bikes and clothing.

Twice a year, generally around Christmas and Easter, donated \$5-10 fast food gift cards are raffled during a served, sit down, communal meal for the men and women living in the park. In addition, backpacks with new clothing, especially socks, beanies, toiletries are given out. St. Mark's members also have helped through the years and at these events: setting up, serving, assisting with the clothing distribution, cleaning up, as well as personally sitting with and having conversations with these sisters and brothers of ours.

Respectfully Submitted, Cheryl Hunley and Ed Muehlbacher

Venue Rental

This has been the inaugural year for our Venue Rental ministry. Preparations involved doing much research into state and local requirements regarding renting space, serving alcohol, hiring people, and pricing, etc. We created forms for renter information, rental agreements and alcohol service agreements. We hired Facility Attendants to watch over events and make sure the renters follow our guidelines. We created a web page on St. Mark's website for Venue Rental. We completed an agreement with As You Like It (AYLI) Events & Catering to start a mutual referral arrangement. We worked with the marketing personnel at AYLI to help set up our advertising to the community and improve our search engine optimization (SEO) for online searches. We are now advertising our venue rental on our electronic marquee on 16th Street, Eventective, Instagram, Facebook, and Yelp. You can check us out at Venues at St. Mark's on these platforms to see information and photos of our spaces. We rented space for 18 events in 2024 including a music concert, summer tutoring program, graduation party, vow renewal, several memorial services, business meetings, Christmas party, and two large events for Foothill Family Shelter. We even rented out our parking lot for a neighbor who was hosting a large gathering in their home. We recently completed an agreement with a business that offers physical education classes for home schooled children. They will use Drew Field and part of our parking lot for their classes twice a week. Our earnings were modest for the first year as we navigated our pricing and expenses. Most importantly, please tell your family and friends about renting space at St. Mark's for their next gathering. We offer moderate prices for indoor and outdoor spaces. We would love to talk to them and give them a tour.

--Carol Morgan, Venue

Rental Coordinator

YOUTH FOR CHRIST



The mission of Saint Mark's youth group 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 from 6th grade on up and meets every first and third Sunday of the month in Room 18 after the 10:00 AM service.

This year we studied a Climate Justice curriculum from the National Episcopal

Church, discussed the meaning of Lent and Pentecost, learned how to use the Bible and a concordance, and enjoyed meeting with Joel Bolton to hear about his year spent teaching in Kenya. We are currently working on a skit to teach the congregation how to best use recycling containers, trash containers, and green waste containers during coffee hours and special meals, and plan to gift green waste containers to the church after our presentation.

Youth group members have become involved in the church community as a LEM, as a band member, as acolytes, and participants in the nativity play. Other 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 for aerial art displays, and sending Valentine's Day cards, Easter cards, and Christmas cards to homebound parishioners.

Submitted by Lisa, Peter, and Ken Drew, Advisors

2025 Remembrances

Baptisms

Jane Montanez

Burials

Chris Watson

Skip Arjo

Cheryl Geyser

Alice Tokatly

George Roleder

Esther Leffler

Cliff Stelte

LaVerne Rudolf

Adedotun Adewuyi Adegoke

Sylvia Platte

Kelly Scott Wood

Robert Cunningham

Evelyn Garner

Muriel Renov

Susan Payne

Bill Brooks

Bishop Chet Talton

JoAnn Weeks

Marriages

Joseph and Reilly Slater

Joel and Vivian Bolton