

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting Agenda
 January 30, 2011

Call to Order

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Ballot

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STAFF AND VESTRY

Interim Rector's Report

I am absent the advantage of having been here over the last twelve months of activity and ministry at Saint Mark's Church. I can see, however, in my brief time the evidence of the work that has been done during that time period, and I have the advantage of new eyes – eyes that can, perhaps, see things that might be overlooked.

What is clear to me already is that this is a truly blessed parish. It is blessed in its lay leadership, in its programs of education and formation, in its wonderful music program, in its diaconal work, in its location next to a vital and vibrant university, and in all the persons who have pitched in to make ministry happen during a time of transition. Each of these groups will comment on their work in their reports. What I can add is a hearty word of thanksgiving to all who have worked so tirelessly.

So what do I see after one month and a half of ministry with you? Let me outline my impressions:

Sense of Place

I had a boss, one time, who used to tell new executives to take advantage of their being in a “state of thaw”. It was good advice. New people can see things that we have become too used to. I am amazed at the neighborhood in which Saint Mark's Church sits. I have yet to meet all of our churchy neighbors, but intend to do so soon. I and we can learn from their experience in this neighborhood, and there may be ways to cooperate in ministry to this community. What I see needful, however, is to renew your sense of wonder at where we are physically located. Opportunities surround us on every side, and I think we need to be made aware of them once again. I know that there are individuals in this congregation who are interested in ministry development here in this place. In the next months we shall have to avail ourselves of their insights, and visit again the parish where God has placed us.

Welcoming the Stranger

Every church thinks that it is friendly, and every church is usually perceived by new comers as not being friendly. That we have two narthexes makes the challenge ever more so acute. The stranger is our future, and greeting them and inviting them into our midst is promise. Thanks needs to be given to those of you who serve as ushers and greeters. Your presence at the entrance of our church is vital. Over the next months, we need to explore how to support you with additional personnel, and give you materials and programs that will make your job easier. However, it is not just these people who need to welcome the stranger. It is a duty for all of us to welcome and include those new to our assembly. Your caring and your presence could make a difference to someone who has come here seeking spiritual growth and advice.

I have an exercise for you to do. Go out and look at our signage. What kind of message does it tell? Does it welcome? Is it fresh? Does it indicate who we are and more importantly what we do and stand for? Newcomers with whom I have spoken have all commented on the difficulty in finding out how to get into St. Mark's Church physically. It will be important for us to remove these “barriers” so that all can see that we are ready to greet them and have them join us on a spiritual journey.

The Need for Story

I have been blessed by several people who have come into my office and told me their story. Indeed, I was impressed when at my interview for the position of Interim Rector I was first asked to simply tell my story. Story-telling is not only a way to communicate to others who we are and what our values are, but it is also a way that we can communicate with ourselves and understand where we are and what our standards are. In a time of change and transition, it is crucial that we understand ourselves, and our story. Over the past years, good things have happened to us. It is a blessing to remember and enumerate them. Over the past years, there have been difficulties and sadness, and it is a blessing to set that aside, experience the internal dialogue of forgiveness, and to move on. The Nicene Creed begins with the words, “We believe”. Telling our story, both the good and the bad parts, helps us to know what it is that we as individuals believe, and what we as community believe. During this period of change, be aware of this personal dynamic, and continue the good example that others have already set. Tell your story – I promise to listen.

Something for the Children

Godly Play still continues, and the efforts of those teachers and the individuals who work for Family Ministry in this parish need our hearty thanks. A new confirmation program for young people will begin in February with a luncheon for parents and children. The Curriculum has been selected, and there will be a project that will involve others in the parish. I look forward to continuing work with the children, and their parents in the coming months, so that Saint Mark can be seen as a place in which all are nourished and provided for.

Stewardship

It was interesting to enter the scene here at Saint Mark's in the midst of stewardship time. That we should even think that there is a particular time within the year that should be exclusively reserved for stewardship should be a warning to us. What I see going on around me, the preparations for the redevelopment project, the work of the property manager and the junior warden, the awareness of our communications people, and the care evidenced by so many of our ministries, these things speak of an on-going nature to stewardship. The committee and I have met and have seen how we can all be about the business of being good stewards not only at one time of the year or only with our gifts of money by seeing all that we have been entrusted with, and making good use of it. Look forward to seeing other opportunities to talk about being good stewards, and ways of augmenting all of the ministries of St. Mark's.

Spirituality

There are so many opportunities for spiritual growth at St. Mark's. Like any large program church, some of these programs, such as the music program, and the adult formation program, are widely subscribed to and used. Others, such as the weekday Eucharist, languish or are unknown. I am hopeful that with the onset of Lent we can make more of the parish aware of these opportunities for growth, and provide other resources that can be used as well. I have formed a liturgy planning group that will be doing long-range planning on how best to form the liturgy so as to meet the spiritual needs of those who gather on Sundays, or any day, for that matter. There also needs to be a spiritual aspect to all of our gatherings, whether it is a work group or committee work. The Benedictine practice of *Ora et labora* (Prayer and Work) seems to be a good model for us. The Vestry in its retreat in March will be exploring Spiritual Direction in its work. If you have ideas, please come see me.

Forgive my new eyes, and my inexperienced voice. It is, however, a delight to continue to get to know all of you, hear your stories, and to explore new possibilities for St. Mark's Church in this time of transition. May God bless all of you.

--Fr. Michael T. Hiller +

Deacon's Annual Report

2010 was a year during which I decided that I needed to step away from a secular job situation that was draining my life and spirit and began a search for gainful employment closer to my interests and vocation.

The ministry Christ has bestowed on me has not changed. I continued to assist with and participate in the Liturgies of St. Mark's as a deacon, including preaching at the principal services on Sunday and officiating and preaching at Evensong, chanting the Exsultet at the Great Vigil on Easter morning; I kept office hours as regularly as my family obligations and secular job would permit, and contributed to The Lion on a monthly basis; co-hosted the annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner for the parish. I also assisted with parish administration when Robbin was away. I served as chaplain to the vested liturgical guilds, e.g., the Acolytes and LEMs, and gave pastoral support to the LEVs. The Prayer Shawl Ministry continued its work and continues to thrive.

At the diocesan and Episcopal Church levels, I was a member of the Diocese of California Millennium Development Goals and Immigration Task Forces; I was the parish liaison for Bread for World, ONE Episcopalian, and ONE.org, and Episcopal Relief and Development. I was elected to and now sit on the Ecclesiastical Court, which I hope will continue when it assumes a different identity in June of 2011. I continued work with ONE.org, Bread for the World, the Millennium Development Goals, and was a member of the Episcopal Policy Network and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. I continued as an associate of the Iona Community, which community sustains me in my hectic and surreal dual-vocation life with contemplative prayer and support.

I continued to find new challenges and more fulfillment and purpose in pastoral care, advising, directing and consulting in outreach ministries and social justice concerns within the parish, and encouraging prayer life - and of course, liturgy. I am liturgical and parish deacon.

Personally, the year brought many changes. Out of necessity, I continue to work as a legal secretary in San Francisco. I continued to broaden my writing career, seeing published "Armor of Light," my third novel written and my second novel published in trade paperback and digital formats. A fourth novel, "Tallis' Third Tune," was started and will be published some time in 2011. Some people golf or play tennis on their Saturday mornings – I write about medieval worlds and the travails and triumphs of the modern woman.

My greatest joy and Christmas gift was the return of Celia Fernandez and Zachary Williams, my extraordinary daughter and son-in-law, who joined us from Chicago for two weeks – the best two weeks of the year for the Ekström-Fernandez family. At home, Carlos Raphael continued his work as an artist in residence at both the National Institute of Art for the Disabled and Creative Growth, and participated in several art shows, including a blue ribbon prize for watercolor painting at the Marin County Fair in August. Nicolas continues to grow in height and confidence and expanded his ministry as an acolyte to crucifer and torchbearer. He is a Junior at Children's Learning Center High School in Alameda, a private school for children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and brings home straight-A's and some pretty good ceramic pieces from the art class kiln, not to mention the detailed maps he enjoys drawing – even while waiting for a 10:00 a.m. service to start.

I also met with the Bishop to discuss my future. We discussed a project that I am working on – an employment agency for women in transition, i.e., off the streets and out of shelters and violent relationships or homes, using my legal secretary and pastoral skills to give women a chance at a better life. We also discussed a call to the priesthood. And while the Bishop consented to my applying to the priesthood, I have deferred any movement on that front until we have called a rector.

Through all this, St. Mark's has sustained me and nourished me, has been a touchstone. To name individually every person at St. Mark's that has been a part of this ministry Christ has bestowed on me as a Christian and a deacon would be a recitation of the entire directory, however, I must single out a few. There's **Vanessa**, who does what I consider one of the hardest jobs in the world – I know, I do it five days a week elsewhere - my sister deacon and friend, **Catherine**, who gives me a chance to sleep in on Sundays; to **Arthur B., Lisette, Owen, Louis, Scott, Pat** and **Arthur H.** - whom I will miss terribly – my colleagues and with whom it is a privilege and joy to work with at the altar; to the **LEMs** and **Acolytes**, especially **Pam Jester** and **Virginia Muller**, to our ladies who knit – **Joan, Marjorie** and **Clara**, our **Vergers, Kim** and **Maggie**, who try their best to keep me in line and the stole on my shoulder, the microphone in my pocket and turned off, to the **Altar Guild**, to our **Senior Warden**, who has been a counselor, and spiritual companion, but most of all a friend, and to my Spiritual Directors, and finally to **Father Michael**, whose arrival at St. Mark's is a great gift for all of us and whose intellect, pastoral sensitivity, wit and kindness are joys to watch in action. I look forward to continuing our service in Christ together and learning more from him.

My love and thanks to *all* of you, my St. Mark's family, you've all been a part of this ministry that continues, like the Spirit, to evolve, move, and surprise me, and make me glad.

With God's love and mine,

--Rev. Ellen Ekström, Parish Deacon

Director Of Music

"God of creation, you have made all things well and given us much to enjoy;

We thank you for the gift of music, through which, far beyond words
we can feel our way towards greater mysteries.

We thank you for the skill and sensitivity of those
who by making music can give such great pleasure;
and we pray that each of us may be helped to develop
those talents which can be used to benefit others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." – Roger Pickering.

-from *Contemporary Parish Prayers*, ed. Frank Colquhoun.

When the assembly gathers to worship the Incarnate God, we encounter the mystery of God through corporate prayer and the Holy Eucharist. This is an opportunity and a gift. The opportunity to engage in this encounter, through the gift of music and the arts is something that is valued, appreciated, and desired at St. Mark's and for this, I am most grateful. Thus, I express my utmost and heartfelt thanks for the continued support of music as prayer in this parish. The genuine love, depth and awareness and appreciation of the ministry of sacred music continues to make St. Mark's an enjoyable, rewarding, and challenging parish in which to serve. I am grateful for the opportunity to share in ministry with the entire church staff, non-stipendiary clergy, vestry members, choir board, choir and congregation. As I began my nineteenth year of service here in September 2010, I am grateful to everyone for the opportunity to share in that which I have been called here to help nurture and facilitate.

The **St. Mark's Choir Association** numbers almost sixty and rehearses weekly. Thanks are extended to each member for their musicianship, vision, commitment, effort, and their ability in assisting the congregation not only in lifting hearts and voices to God, but helping fostering community and enabling mystery. I thank elected Choir Board members **Marguerite Judson, Evelyn Larsen, Loretta McNulty, Jan Robitscher, Deborah Sigg, and Margo Wesley**. They work well together, planning, creating, solving, laughing and helping build community. I also thank **Deborah Falk, Music Librarian** and **Wayne Ritchie, Treasurer**, for their priceless work. Margo Wesley, choir president, has written a detailed report regarding the many activities of the Choir. The choir will serve in two one-week residencies in July 2011 at Salisbury and Truro Cathedrals. The choir has been actively raising scholarship funds. Thanks are extended to those who have supported this important endeavor.

A few years ago, a legacy gift was left to St. Mark's from the estate of **The Ven. Rev. Canon Frederic P. Williams**, who served as Music Director from 1941-1948. After consultation with the family as to the appropriate use of the generous gift, a committee consisting of **Annie-May de Bresson, Jonathan Dimmock, George Emblom, Susan Hedges, and Wayne Ritchie**, was formed and discerned that **Kevin Fryer** of San Francisco be secured to build the parish a two-manual Flemish harpsichord. The instrument is currently in the process of being built and it is hoped that it will be in the nave and playable in July 2011. Not only will this instrument grace our liturgies, but it will be available for the numerous early music groups who rent the nave. Some additional funding will be needed to complete this project and this information will be forthcoming in February.

I thank those organists who have played either for or in our services this year: **Jamie Apgar, Adam Boochee, Joanne Kellis, Patrick Mitten, Wayne Ritchie, and Jean Struble**. Thanks also go to **Paul Sporer** for serving as timpanist and rack-bell ringer and trumpeter **Daniel Schumacher** as well as other instrumentals who offer music throughout the year. I acknowledge and thank a former bass section **Eric Westby** who resigned in August, and I welcome our new alto section leader **Jamie Apgar** who is not only a fine singer, but willingly shares his talents as an organist and composer as well.

The **Norman Mealy Hymn Workshop** took another break this year. Thanks to **Meg Mealy** and her committee for the work they have done to honor and remember **Dr. Norman Mealy**, who served as Director of Music at St. Mark's from 1948-1962 and Professor of Church Music at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific from 1951-1987.

Conversations continue as to the best way forward with this committee.

Sharing the joys of music with our youth helps form them in the Anglican/Christian heritage and I believe this requires our full attention and support. Our young choristers are our future present. Plato said in *Politics*: "Music has the power of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the soul, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the young must be directed to music and must be educated in it." Thanks are to be extended to **June Browne, Becky Blessing, and Lisa Ruas** and parents of choristers for helping to begin to revitalize music for our youth. **The St. Mark's Choristers** regularly join the Adult Choir on Sunday mornings after attending Godly Play.

The 25th annual series **Evensong and Organ Recital Series** commenced in September 2010. The series continues to support recitals given by local, national, and international artists. Thanks to the **St. Mark's Schola Cantorum** for providing music for Evensong. Thanks are extended to **David Hunsberger** who directs the group and to **Paul Sporer** who organizes and shepherds them. I thank the members of the choir for their dedicated leadership as well. I also thank those who officiate and preach at Evensong, as well as those who serve as lectors, acolytes, and ushers. Extreme gratitude is offered to those who financially support the series as well as those who host the infamous receptions. Last but not least, thanks to **Nancy Evans** who amazingly continues to organize those memorable and tasty receptions! She is heartily assisted by many people who offer their gifts of time, talent, and money.

Professional duties and opportunities in 2010 included attending the national conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians in Hartford, CT the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Washington, DC, and the Hymn

Society Conference on the campus of Stamford University in Birmingham, Alabama, where I presented a lecture on "Healing the World in Shared Song". I continue to serve as Organist-Choir Director of Temple Sinai, Oakland, as well as Director of Chapel Music and Lecturer in Church Music at CDSP and sometime pianist for St. Jerome's Catholic Church in El Cerrito. I also continue to serve as an organ instructor at UC-Berkeley. I continue to teach privately, and concluded my term as a member of the Professional Concerns Committee of the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM). In completing my term as a Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee of AAM, I was elected to serve a five-year term as the Treasurer. In May, I was elected to serve as Dean of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and I serve as Chair of the Worship for the 2011 Regional AGO Conference to be held in the Bay Area in July 2011.

"Eternal Lord God, source of all beauty and harmony, we praise you for the gift of music:
For the inspiration given to those who compose it
For the skill and devotion to those who perform it,
For the faculties and powers which enable us to enjoy it;
And we pray that as by this gift our lives are enriched and renewed,
So may be glorify you in a fuller dedication of ourselves giving thanks always
for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." – Frank Colquhoun

May the worship and music offered in this place continue to connect our hearts with the heart of God, as well as transforming our hearts and minds in order to help repair our broken world.

--George Anton Emblom, Director of Music

Parish Office Coordinator's Report

This year proved to be one of many changes both on a professional and a personal level. With the retirement of our rector and the transition to an interim, there has been a lot of emphasis on re-evaluating the various aspects of my role here at St. Mark's. I have had many opportunities to grow and make changes where it has been needed and hopefully to continue in a positive direction for the future with a new rector.

I continued to work with the Berkeley Canterbury Foundation (BCF) and its Chaplain - Tom Poyner through Canterbury's own transition in 2010. This past year the board entered into a ground lease with the developer Hudson McDonald for their property next door and there were many tasks involved with that decision. Canterbury is now in a new phase of their ministry and I was happy to lend administrative support through out the past two years.

The short-term rental program has remained steady and we consistently host many of our regular music groups for their annual concerts. A special thank you to **Courtney Storm** for his tireless work as 'sexton' for many events of these events. In June the San Francisco Early Music Society held its annual festival in Berkeley and we benefited from being list as one of the recommended venues. In fact from this event there has been new interest in our Parish Hall as an alternative to the nave as a performance space.

The Weddings at St. Mark's have been somewhat slow, hosting anywhere between two and four a year since I started in 2006. This past September marked a very important event in my personal life, my own marriage to my new husband. Now that I have some personal experience in this area I hope to put some more effort to attracting other couples to St. Mark's for their own wedding. We have such a beautiful space for any kind of ceremony and I think it would be a great opportunity to revive a wedding rental program.

Over the last few months I have felt a tremendous amount of affirmation from this parish as a whole. As we are all learning to adjust it has been reassuring to have wonderful working relationships with so many of the people in this parish, on which I have come to rely very heavily. I want to thank especially Courtney, **Ellen Ekström**, **George Emblom**, **Tim Sullivan** and **Joel Contreras** for all that they do in their own respective ways; **Bob Williams** as always for his tireless work as Treasurer; **Nancy Ditzler** for her graciously assisting in the monthly LION production; and **Paul Sporer** for his talents and feedback with the bulletins. There are so many others that offer help when they are able and who always share kind words of support and encouragement, and it is all very much appreciated.

--Vanessa Capino

Property Manager's Report

I am sure by now everyone knows that the Library got a much-needed makeover. A new drywall ceiling was installed and drywall was used to replace the old, damaged plaster on the south wall. The ceiling was painted as well as all the walls with a whole new color scheme. We had the wood floors sanded to remove years of old stain and sealant. Then restored them with new stain and a sealing agent to protect the work. We removed the old ceiling lighting fixtures as well as the two above the fireplace and installed new ones in their place. The new decorations to the library and their selections were the results of the leadership by the current Junior Warden, Mary McWilliams. The new look of the library that was accomplished by the renovation and the adding of new furnishings is the result of Mary's efforts and all those individuals that helped her. Thanks to all of you!

As always the maintenance of St. Mark's property is a constant ongoing operation. Each year we prepare for the various seasons, whether it is cleaning the storm drains and gutters for the coming rains or the service of the heating system to make sure we stay warm when it is needed. Our security systems are an important item on the scheduled inspection and maintenance that we have in place. We deal with various city and state inspectors on an annual basis to maintain our systems to code as required by the city and state. A recent example of this would be the work that was just finished that the state elevator inspector required of us in order to receive our annual permit of operation. These items and many others are the behind-the-scenes-operations that you don't always see but is ongoing.

When it comes to keeping our spaces clean and set-up for various events I must thank **Joel Contreras**, our sexton, for all his hard work. Once again thanks to **Mary McWilliams**, the Junior Warden, for all her help and input this past year.

--Courtney Storm

Senior Warden Report

Experience is what you get when you didn't get what you wanted. --Anonymous

I offer the above quote as a bit of "tongue in cheek" humor that has given me considerable comfort in the past – in the essence it reminds me that I rarely truly understand what I've signed up for when I begin a new position or take on a new responsibility in my life. But it is also a reminder that these new experiences seldom fail to stretch me and open new horizons to me if I pay attention.

And so it has been in my first year as your Sr. Warden – in many ways, I could not have remotely predicted what would actually happen. I have been very privileged to be a part of St. Mark's as it embarks on its first rector transition in 18 years. It has been a time of high celebrations, many, many meetings, and much new energies released as we consider who we have been and who we might become. I'd like to share a few reflections with you of where we've come in the past year.

Spiritual Leadership – Your Vestry has attempted to model the Christian community, as we understand it, rather than act as merely an administrative board. This work began before my time on vestry, led by Tim Sullivan and I hope I've been able to support its continued growth. Although we have responsibilities like an institution, at the bottom line, we are not a business and our goals and our actions need to reflect that we are members of the Body of Christ. It is truly one of those places where we need to be "in the world but not of the world". We hope you have seen some of the results of this in how the Vestry works together and how we work with everyone in the parish. It certainly is night and day different than my last vestry service – it's an amazing transformation!

Farewell to Robbin – Much of our work this year has been to prepare for Robbin's departure and begin the process of selecting new leadership for the parish. We have been so blessed that we have had many willing hands to help with celebrations, selection of an Interim Rector, to help form a Profile & Search Committee, deal with financial issues, and all manner of big and little things that it takes to keep St. Mark's going and prepare for the future. Our October 10th celebration of Robbin's ministry was indeed a grand affair, but behind it was much unseen effort to help make her departure smooth and to keep the parish operating well. My grateful thanks to all the people who have helped us prepare for her leaving and helped to make it go so smoothly.

Selection of an Interim Rector – The selection of Fr. Michael Hiller as our interim priest has also been a huge milestone. His experience in interim ministry, his knowledge and love of liturgy, and his pastoral demeanor have supported us

greatly already, even though he has only been with us for 2 months. Also, his selection process was a model for parish cooperation – staff, parishioners, vestry and the diocese worked very well together to define our needs, write a position description, evaluate candidates, and to liturgically welcome Fr. Hiller after his selection. I know this selection was for the most part invisible to the majority of the congregation, but the effort and time required of your parish leaders was extensive. I am very thankful for the time and sacrifice everyone involved made to help this process through to a successful completion. The diocese has even cited us as a model of how such a process has been done!

Redevelopment – This has been a banner year for our redevelopment efforts. In April, we signed the Development & Option to Lease Agreement with Hudson-McDonald and by the time we came to the end of the year, the project was approved by the Berkeley Design Review Committee on December 16th. There is still much to do before construction can begin, but this is an incredible accomplishment in such a short time! The efforts of Jeff Pace and the original Redevelopment Committee was simply incredible and has been wonderfully carried forward by the current Architecture Committee and Entitlements Committee.

Profile & Search Committee – The formation of this group is another huge milestone for the parish. Their work has just begun, but the selection of leadership for the committee and its membership is something that must be carefully and prayerfully done. I am very proud of how the group has been formed, the skills and talents of its membership and its energy – it bespeaks of much good to come. Please pray for the members as we embark on our profile process this spring. And please make your voices heard as they seek to compile and understand how we see ourselves as a community and how we understand our future together.

Overall, this has been a banner year for St. Mark's – we have had many, many accomplishments to be proud of and much we have learned and grown together. I will be the first to admit that it's not always been a walk through the rose garden, but the level of good humor, the willingness of people to talk to each other and to move toward workable solutions has been nothing short of miraculous. I would especially like to thank everyone of you for the help, support and your kind words as I have been learning what a Sr. Warden is supposed to do and done a certain amount of fumbling as I attempted to do it. You have been most tolerant, helpful and supportive and I could never have done it without you!

Blessings and peace to you in 2011,

--Jerry Walker

Junior Warden Report

The job description of Jr. Warden is rather amorphous so we each take it on according to our particular interests and skills. As the "peoples warden" I listen to the ideas, concerns, and complaints of the congregation, trying to be encouraging and helpful.

Being responsible for property maintenance, it became clear to me that remodeling the Parson's library was essential. With the invaluable help of **Courtney Storm** (Property Manager) and the generous contributions of so many, we have created a room that is far more hospitable and comfortable. There are still a few things to be done but it will be finished soon. In the midst of the library project, we did a much needed paint/decorating job on the Rector's office just before Fr. Hiller arrived. Thank you all for your generosity and patience.

St. Mark's is an old, much used, and often abused facility, and we are blessed to have Courtney, **Vanessa**, and **Joel** with us. Their dedication and hard work keeps the place functioning as well as possible.

I have enjoyed serving on the Vestry and working with **Jerry Walker**. He is a wonderfully organized, devoted, and thoughtful Sr. Warden.

--Mary McWilliams, Junior Warden

Report of the Nominating Committee

ABOUT THE VESTRY

The Vestry is fiscal authority of the parish. Our vestry also serves as the body of lay leadership that, with the Rector, sets the direction of parish life. Vestry members are elected by the congregation at the Annual Parish Meeting. Four persons

are elected each year to serve rotating three-year terms. Duties include monthly meetings, responsibilities as officers of the parish, liaisons to the parish's various ministries and committees, and service as leaders of the Vestry sub-committees.

CONTINUING VESTRY MEMBERS:

- **Berling**, Judith
- **Laub**, Peter
- **McWilliams**, Mary
- **Rice**, Jennifer
- **Spalding**, Kirsten Snow
- **Walker**, Jerry
- **Weidman**, Anna
- **Williams**, Bob

RETIRING VESTRY MEMBERS;

- **Caruthers**, Phil
- **Grover**, Maggie
- **Howard**, LeRoy
- **Scheible**, Bob

THE CANDIDATE PROFILES

As of January 28, 2011, the committee has successfully recruited four members of the congregation to stand for the Vestry. The members who have agreed to serve are:

Charlotte Blackmer

I started coming to St. Mark's regularly in 2004, after having been a member at Grace Cathedral for many years. I had been wanting a change to a place closer to home where I could be more involved in the social and service life of the congregation – and St. Mark's started feeling a lot like my own extended, tribal family. I deeply appreciate the love and support of numerous members of the congregation during a series of significant life crises. I've participated in a number of aspects of parish life, often honing my organizational/logistics or kitchen skills in the process of feeding the multitudes – Hot Meals, Altar Guild, coffee hour, Evensong, and parish lunches. The service has changed me in a lot of ways and helped keep me grounded during good times and bad. I also value the "soul food" of the beautiful liturgy and music and the intellectual mentoring/nurturing I've received (via forums, retreats, parish conversations, and the EfM program) as well.

I was privileged to serve on the Vision Committee last year and hear many people in the parish tell stories and dream dreams of a caring, supportive multi-generational community with a strong presence in the community at large and a rich and engaging worship life. As part of the Vestry, I hope to be of service as we work on finding our way there.

Pam Jester

My earliest connection with the Episcopal Church was as a child when my mother was the organist and youth choir director for an Episcopal church near Portland, Oregon. As my journey brought me to the Bay Area, I came to St. Mark's in 1978, although my active participation has been, admittedly, intermittent. I am currently the coordinator of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Professionally, I am the executive director of a UC continuing legal education program and have held leadership positions in several voluntary bar associations.

As our parish moves through a period of growth and change, I would be honored to serve as a member of the vestry.

Jeff Liljigren

My Christian beliefs are rooted in the strong liturgical practice of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the love of choral music inherited by my mother, a choir director of 30+ years in the Lutheran Church. I chose the Episcopal Church as my new spiritual home out of an evolution of thought and life experience that has guided me towards a more inclusive attitude towards being a Christian. My wife Kerri (raised catholic) and I were confirmed at Grace Cathedral in 2007 and with a long trek from the East Bay every Sunday, needed to find a parish closer to us and found a new home here at St. Mark's.

Kerri and I joined the parish in May of 2008 and as a landscape architect and urban planner respectively, have tried to offer our time and skills by volunteering for the usher's guild, providing help with recent landscaping efforts with the corner lot project, and offering our time on the architectural committee for the redevelopment of the St. Mark's parking garage.

St. Mark's finds herself in an exciting time of transition, which brings with it great responsibility, unavoidable change and

a promise of a bright future. With the positive progression of the redevelopment project moving through the city of Berkeley, and as we begin our journey to discover a new clergy, I look forward to getting to know and work with my fellow parishioners through service, friendship, and worship.

And **Maria Russell** our latest addition and fourth to round out the members needed.

ABOUT THE DEANERY DELEGATES:

Deaneries are groupings of parishes within the Diocese. Our Deanery Delegates represent St. Mark's within the Diocesan governance structure, attending meetings throughout the year, with the top four vote getters serving as delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention. All delegates are elected annually.

Of the seven current serving Deanery representatives, six have agreed to stand again for election as our representatives and we are currently trying to contact the seventh. Deanery representatives are divided into two groups: one group charged with being delegates to the Diocesan Convention and the other charged as alternates to the convention. The three representatives and delegates who have agreed to serve are: **Jan Robitscher, Len Johnson, Gary Lindsay, and Nancy Hayes**. The three representatives and alternates are: **Polly Paterson, Betsey Hada, and Anne Worthington Prescott**.

Profile and Search Committee

The Profile and Search Committee (PSC), appointed by the vestry in the fall, was commissioned on Sunday, November 7, four weeks after the Reverend Robbin Clark's last Sunday as rector, October 10. The vestry charge to the committee is:

to recommend in timely fashion a list of at least two viable candidates who best demonstrate the pastoral and ministerial skills needed by this congregation as reflected in our profile, without regard to race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or current location.

The vestry further specified that the list of recommended candidates be presented as "close as possible to November 1, 2011, keeping in mind, however, its primary responsibility of taking the time necessary to do a thorough search."

The Reverend Canon Michael Barlowe, Diocesan Canon for congregational ministries, met with the vestry and PSC a few weeks later in a joint morning session, covering all aspects of the transition process, followed by a meeting with the PSC in the afternoon.

The complete process of creating the parish profile and determining the list of final candidates is expected to take approximately twelve to fifteen months. The profile process will rigorously solicit the views of the full parish and will communicate periodically with the parish on its progress, using the main Sunday service, the *Lion*, forums, and parish emails. The profile will be posted on St. Mark's webpage and will be distributed by the diocese and the clergy deployment office of the national church. After the profile is posted and distributed, applications will be received during a six-week period. After the deadline, applications receive an initial screening. The second screening stage will be telephone interviews, each candidate meeting with the entire committee. The third stage will be visits by teams of three committee members to each candidate's church. The committee will then present the vestry with the finalists, as specified. At this point the vestry will take over the search process. It will host the finalists in Berkeley on separate occasions and will make the final decision of whom to call as the new rector of St. Mark's.

A key strategy for soliciting information from the parish for the profile will use the vestry circles, groups of church members already formed and hosted by individual vestry members. (Some of these circles have already met as a group; others have not yet met.) These groups will participate in discussions facilitated by PSC members, using the SWOT process, a way of eliciting Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. The process is very similar to the Appreciative Inquiry method used in the visioning process implemented in the fall of 2009, but it will include a broader scope of information gathering. SWOT was introduced to the committee by our interim priest, Reverend Father Michael Hiller, who has used the process extensively with other groups.

Further to engage, educate, and solicit information from the parish, an Epiphany forum series has begun, "The Episcopal Heritage: Polity, Liturgy, and Leadership." The first two were: "What Every Parish in Transition Needs to Know about Episcopal Polity, presented by "the Reverend Arthur Holder on January 9, and the second, "Anglican Liturgy: A Tale of

Stability and Change,” was presented by the Reverend Louis Weil on January 16. The next forum (February 6) will discuss mutual ministry, presented by Priscilla Camp, and on February 13 different styles of clerical leadership, including new approaches to rector leadership in the American church, presented by the Reverend Suzanna Singer.

Additional events and opportunities to participate in the discernment process are being planned and will be announced. Please read your Sunday bulletin, the Lion, and open those church emails!

The committee welcomes comments and questions. The following email address will be up and running soon for parishioners to reach the committee: search@stmarksberkeley.org. Or, you may contact any member of the committee on Sunday mornings, or by using their contact information in the parish directory. The committee requests your prayers for their work and for the parish during this most important time of transition and discernment.

Faithfully yours,

--Jennifer Akiyama, Bruce Alexander, Marilyn Belove (co-Chair), Judith Berling, Priscilla Camp, Andrea Foley, Sterling Hada, Len Johnson (co-Chair), Lisa Key, Jeff Pace

Transition Committee

Work on the Transition began in earnest last April when a Transition Team from the Vestry started meeting monthly to coordinate our efforts. We planned and executed a series of gala celebrations of Robbin’s ministry, and provided her with pastoral support as she planned for her departure. Following Diocesan best practices, we designed and hired a consultant to conduct an extensive exit interview with Robbin, and parallel interviews with the Music Director and the Vestry on the occasion of her departure. These interviews have been transcribed and are in the hands of the Wardens, who will share portions as needed with the Interim, the Profile and Search Committee, and the new Rector. We interviewed candidates and hired our Interim, Fr. Michael Hiller. And we recruited and commissioned an outstanding Profile and Search Committee.

The Vestry and the Search and Profile Committee have been trained in diocesan best practices for transition by Canon Michael Barlowe of the Diocese, and the Committee was formally commissioned on November 7. Their commissioning completed the work of the Vestry Transition Team, although Judith Berling, Vestry transition coordinator and Vestry representative on the Profile and Search Committee, meets monthly with the Wardens to keep the lines of communication open between the Committee and the parish leaders.

The Profile and Search Committee has begun its two major tasks. The first is to create the Parish Profile. The profile will build on the Vision Statement, developed last spring using the Appreciative Inquiry process. It will also include data and reports on our finances, the redevelopment, and other long-standing parish records and initiatives. But the Profile and Search Committee is currently developing a key piece: an accurate and multifaceted portrait of the parish as it currently exists. This is the phase at which they are seeking extensive parish input so that the profile will truly represent the community of St. Mark’s. Early in 2011 they will be using Vestry Circles to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats that parishioners identify and perceive. These ideas will be collated and developed into draft documents, which will be reviewed in Town Meetings.

After the Parish Profile has been completed and posted, the Profile and Search Committee will move on to review candidates for the position of Rector at St. Mark’s, based on a set of qualities that match the leadership needs of the Parish Profile.

Many people on the Vestry and the Profile and Search Committee have provided able leadership in this transition process, and all members of the congregation are urged to participate in developing the profile. If we share our best insights, listen carefully to one another, and discern prayerfully we will succeed in calling a Rector who can go with us where the Spirit is leading the parish.

--Judith Berling, Transition Coordinator for the Vestry

CHRISTIAN NURTURE
Liturgy and Worship

Acolytes / Vergers' Guild

St. Mark's Acolyte Guild has seen some changes this year, which is probably typical of any dynamic parish. A few acolytes have moved away, but others have joined us. Welcome **Elisabeth Waters, Walker Robinson, and Averil Lough!** Others who continue to serve in our ministry are **Virginia Muller, Kim Novak, Scott Sullivan, Nick Fernandez, Cornelius Pickett, Gary Lindsay, Bob Scheible, Jason Biswas, Claire Adams, Maggie Grover, and Nina Kelsey.** Sometimes, when home from college, we have visiting acolytes, and occasionally a LEM, notably **Pam Jester,** has pitched in to carry a torch and light candles. Although many of us have multiple responsibilities in our church, we have stayed the course with our acolyte calling!

The Acolyte Guild is devoted to maintaining a tradition of light and ritual at

St. Mark's. As we do each year, our acolytes have served alongside the clergy and LEMs on Sundays, at Lent, Triduum, Easter, and Christmas services, on special occasions, and at funeral or memorial services. **Vergers,** most notably **Kim Novak,** serve at monthly Evensongs. Kim has also assumed the huge job of scheduling the rota for acolytes, vergers, LEMs, bidders, and readers. She has done this with efficiency, thoughtfulness, and responsibility.

With the arrival of our interim rector, Fr. Hiller, there have been a few changes pertaining to how we do some things, changes for us and for the clergy, too. We are all helping each other remember the new ways. Virginia has updated the crucifer and torch guides. Kim has done an overhaul of the verger's guide. She has also created an up to date listing of the people in all the ministries and their contact information, a document of great value, especially when any of us needs to find a substitute!

We still need volunteers to our "support" our acolyte ministry in the mending, washing, and ironing of our cassocks and cottas. Please see Virginia, Kim, or any of our acolytes if you can help in this way, one time, or more than once. Many thanks to those parishioners who have already helped in this way.

We would like to have more volunteers to our ministry. Most of our members take part in multiple ministries and are sometimes not available when needed. Being an acolyte is a prayerful and meaningful way to serve others in our Lord's name. We encourage anyone interested in this ministry to talk to us about it. We welcome persons of all ages. You are also able to choose the number of times you serve per month, once or more often than that. Talk to Virginia or any one else serving as acolytes, or to Ellen. We would very much like you to join us.

--Virginia Muller

Altar Guild

St. Marks Altar Guild continues to care for the linens, silver, brass, and seasonal hangings used in worship and to serve Sundays and special liturgies throughout the year

Working in teams of two or three, members set up before and after each Sunday (including washing and ironing all of the lovely linens one weekend each month) the work is quite precise and meditative in character. It is particularly appropriate for those with a love for beautiful things, a devotion to sacraments and a preference for quite behind the scene service.

New members are welcome at any time and will receive individualized training as needed. The guild recruits oblation bearers to carry forward the Communion elements of bread and wine. We welcome volunteers who would like to participate in the service.

Many thanks to the faithful Altar Guild members for the year 2010. First week team – **Clara Rogers, Todd Snow;** Second week team – **Marjorie Pettyjohn, Scott Sinclair;** Third week team – **Polly Paterson, Charlotte Blackmer;** Fourth week team – **Lisa Key, Bob Williams;** and Substitutes – **Scott Sullivan and Gary Lindsay.**

--Clara Rogers and Marjorie Pettyjohn, Directors

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild is responsible for the flowers in the Chancel and Chapel each Sunday. We also decorate for special occasions such as Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, weddings and memorial services.

Thanks to **Scott Sullivan** for his continued faithful and artistic help and to **Malcolm McWilliams** for his quiet support, encouragement, and heavy lifting.

We would welcome the talents of anyone who is interested in joining us in this satisfying ministry.

--Mary McWilliams

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers assisted with the liturgies and brought communion to parishioners at their homes and in hospitals after the principal service on Sunday mornings. Eucharistic Ministers participate with the liturgy by reading scripture and psalms and offering the prayers of the people, assisting with communion at the 8:00a.m. service, and assisting the clergy with bearing the Gospel during the Gospel proclamation, assisting with preparation of the table, offering the chalice at communion and other duties as warranted (such as stepping in to serve as acolytes if the need arises). Eucharistic Ministers assisted at weddings, memorial services and other special occasions.

Eucharistic Ministers are licensed by the Diocese after completing special training; some of the LEMs also make home visits, at first under the supervision of experienced ministers and/or clergy, and then independently as needed.

The active Eucharistic Ministers in 2010 included **Karen Borst-Rothe, Nancy Gillingham, LeRoy Howard, Maggie Grover, Margueite Judson, Lisa Key, Jan Robitscher, Jack Sawyer, Kirsten Snow Spalding, Scott Sullivan, Arthur Villarreal, Jerry Walker, Stephen Wells** and **Bob Williams**.

Respectfully submitted,

--Pamela Jester, Coordinator – Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors/Bidders

In the past year the Bidders (leaders of the Prayers of the People) have met to learn and practice creating the prayers. We do this using the forms in the Prayer Book as a guideline. Special thanks go to **Deacon Debra Asis** for organizing these meetings and shepherding us through the process of creating the prayers. We hope to continue to meet and to use our created prayers on an occasional basis. Your additions to those mentioned on our Parish Prayer List, either through the bidder aloud or silently in your heart are most welcome, and your feedback is always appreciated. Our aim is to faithfully hold the parish prayers before God.

--Jan Robitscher, Chair

Ushers

The ushers staffed all regular services at St. Mark's, and also special services (Holy Week, Lessons and Carols, Christmas midnight, Epiphany, All Souls', etc) and in addition the Memorial Service for Richard Colvig. The "big" services – Lessons and Carols, Christmas midnight and Easter Sunday – were fully staffed six (6) ushers. Some late afternoon and evening services continue to be difficult to staff.

Geoff Chin, after many long years of service on the Ushers Guild, resigned at the end of 2010. Geoff served as Head Usher for years (Bob Kolenkow's immediate predecessor in that post). Geoff was fully knowledgeable in the operations of the Church and the requirements for ushers. He always comported himself in a dignified and mature manner, but with friendly greetings to the attendees. He displayed a strong team spirit with the other ushers, and it was a pleasure to work with him.

No new ushers joined the Guild in 2010, and with Geoff's departure, the Guild is now down to 15: 4 women and 11 men. Most of the current ushers have been in this service for many years. It is a demanding service, and it appears that the psychic rewards are insufficient to attract "new blood".

At the request of Rector Robbin Clark, a new usher's manual was written. Titled "The Ushers Guild and Its Duties" dated September 2010, it is intended partly to acquaint the new Interim Rector and the eventual Rector with current practices at St. Mark's, and the names of the people involved, and also partly for refreshing the ushers themselves in our procedures. Changes have occurred since September and further revision would be of value.

When Bob Kolenkow was at Lincoln Cathedral (England) on the last Choir Tour, he was impressed by the sashes worn by their ushers, which marked them out and made them very visible to those seeking help. The idea of sashes did not find much favor among the ushers at St. Mark's. However, the idea went forth by way of Music Director George Emblom to our related Temple Sinai in Oakland, and their ushers have enthusiastically adopted sashes.

--Bob Kolenkow, Head Usher

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee's mandate is to help the rector, who is canonically in charge of all parish liturgical services, by serving as a sounding board regarding past and projected services, and by acting as a conduit for information and opinion coming from the various liturgical guilds and committees and from interested parishioners. To that end, its membership is composed both of representatives of those groups and of members at large (see the list of members in the last paragraph).

The committee met six times during the past year. The agenda always includes a review of recent services, which comprise, in addition to such seasonal liturgies as the Easter vigil, special events in our liturgical year like the healing service, the blessing of the animals and the service of lessons and carols. The parish sets high standards for all of these liturgies, and they are much appreciated. The worship committee in its review aims at maintaining such standards, recognizing that they demand expert coordination and much effort on the part of our clergy, our music director, and involved lay persons (not forgetting the many faithful members of the choir).

The committee's agenda also includes planning for upcoming seasonal services, discussing such matters, for example, as the use of track 1 or track 2 in the lectionary for the church year, the increased participation of children in the services, or the use of bidding prayers not included in the BCP. With the much appreciated help of **Deacon Debra Asis**, it organized during the year a series of workshops for those bidders wishing to hone their skills at developing such prayers.

Reports from the various guilds constitute another important part of the meetings, as do reports from the rector, the deacon, and the music director. The committee also appreciates hearing from parishioners regarding liturgical matters; it recognizes that both compliments and complaints can be constructive!

The chair of the Worship Committee is very grateful for the faithful service on the committee during 2010 of **Bruce Alexander** (Spoken Word; lectors), **Priscilla Camp** (member-at-large), **Ellen Ekström** (deacon), **George Emblom** (music director), **Pam Jester** (LEMs), **Bob Kolenkow** (ushers), **Mary McWilliams** (Flower Guild), **Virginia Muller** (acolytes), **Kim Novak** (vergers), **Marjorie Pettyjohn** (Altar Guild), **Jan Robitscher** (bidders). We look forward to working fruitfully in the coming months with Fr. Michael Hiller, our interim rector.

--L. W. Johnson

Music

Choir Association

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 19 was emblematic of the choir's experience over the past year, embodying as it did a sense of delight in our vocal fullness. With more than 60 members, the choir stalls were packed; and while there is always room for growth in our musicianship, we felt that we succeeded in uniting our voices as one great instrument expressing the spiritual longings and joys of the Advent season. As the congregation joined in the singing of hymns, St. Mark's truly made a joyful noise unto the Lord. All of this musical uplift was due in large measure to the inspiring leadership of **Music Director George Emblom**. Comments from many of the 338 who attended this service echoed what we in the choir had experienced--the wondrous power of music to magnify the workings of the spirit. A bountiful reception arranged for by **Scott Sullivan** and executed through the generous contributions and efforts of many parishioners rounded out a most blessed evening.

The choir sang four special masses during the past year: Mozart's *Missa Brevis* (the "Sparrow" mass) for Music Memorial Sunday in May; Hassler's *Missa Super Dixit Maria* for the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin in August; Rutter's *Requiem* for the Eve of the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed; and Palestrina's *Missa Lauda Sion* for the Feast of Christ the King on Music Memorial Sunday in November. We also sang at memorial services for **Adele Hugo** and **Richard Colvig**, for whose countless contributions to the music program we give thanks.

Reaching beyond the parish, in March we celebrated the third year of a rich musical collaboration with our Jewish sisters and brothers at Temple Sinai in Oakland, joining their choir in singing *Songs of Freedom: Music from the Jewish and Episcopal Traditions* at the temple, while they joined us at a Sunday morning Eucharist at St. Mark's. Following that service, **George Emblom**, **Cantor Ilene Keys**, and temple choir members led an inspiring, informative forum on the Psalms, as part of St. Mark's Lenten series.

Again reaching beyond the parish, the choir participated in the massed choir at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific's service installing Mark Richardson as Dean. A hymn at this event, commissioned by CDSP's class of 2010, consisted of text by **the Rev. Dr. L. William Countryman** and music by **George Emblom**. Together with other members of St. Mark's congregation, we sang at the Ashby Care Center as part of the Choral Pastoral Visit program instituted under the leadership of choir member **Evelyn Larsen** three years ago. This event was moving not only because choir spouse Marilyn Sporer was a resident, but because many other residents were clearly moved by our singing. As Marilyn's spouse, Paul, wrote: "I saw smiles on faces where I never saw happiness before--and on some who suffer a lot. I became convinced then that for many of us, music is the last communication we will truly understand before our death, and the first we will recognize in the new life." (Rest in peace, Marilyn.)

On July 4 we were pleased to host visitors from the choir of Hertford College, Oxford, who sang at the Sunday morning Eucharist. Hosting English visitors on our nation's Independence Day was a particular delight, as by then we had already begun to make plans for our third choir tour to England. In July of 2011, we will sing as choir-in-residence for one week at Salisbury Cathedral and one week at Truro Cathedral. We are excited at the prospect, but we are also working very hard to ensure that any choir member who wants to participate can afford to do so. Scholarship funds are being accrued through fund-raising activities such as a silent auction last May (led by **Marguerite Judson**), an electronics recycling program led by **Marguerite Barron**, a chamber concert, "Music in the Nave," last October led by **Deborah Sigg**, a quilt raffle currently underway with a stunning quilt made and donated by **Betsy Hada**, and a hymnathon upcoming on March 5 led by **Evelyn Larsen**.

Choir members participated in the parish retreat at the Bishop's Ranch in August, which focused on music and favorite hymns and was led by **George Emblom**. The choir's annual retreat at the ranch in October was a time of intensive preparation for upcoming musical offerings as well as for reflection on the spiritual dimensions of music in our lives. Another retreat was that of the Choir Board in August, at which we engaged in important short- and long-term planning. There we also offered thanks to Paul Young upon the conclusion of his term on the board; re-elected **Margo Wesley** as President, **Jan Robitscher** as Vice President, and **Deborah Sigg** as Secretary; elected **Marguerite Judson** as development chair, **Loretta McNulty** as chair of recognition events, and **Evelyn Larsen** as social events chair; and reconfirmed **Wayne Ritchie** and **Deborah Falk** in their continuing roles as Treasurer and Music Librarian respectively.

We look forward to a bright musical future at St. Mark's, and see it foreshadowed by our small but talented group of young choristers, who have been guided for the past couple of years by **June Browne** (assisted by **Marguerite Barron**) and now by **Becky Blessing**--and who are of course led by our outstanding Music Director, **George Emblom**.

Finally, the choir wishes to thank the many people, too numerous to name here, who have contributed to the music program in countless ways. We are keenly aware of, and grateful for, your support.

--Margo Wesley, Choir Board President

Schola Cantorum

Solemn Evensong is scheduled at St. Mark's at 5:30 PM on the second Sunday of each month from September through June. The choir (called "Schola Cantorum") is a group of approximately ten singers, presently **Bruce Alexander, Victor Gold, Walt Knowles, Noble MacFarlane, Phil McKnight, Patrick Mitten, Paul Sporer, Jerry Walker, and Paul Young**, who lead the music in the singing of a Psalm, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and an anthem during the Evensong. **David Hunsberger** volunteers his services in directing the choir. The Anthem choice varies, but is often from the Renaissance literature and is usually polyphonic. **Walt Knowles** has arranged Gregorian hymns for us in a *faux bourdon* style.

--Paul Sporer, coordinator

Second Sunday Evensong Receptions

Many people join together to offer hospitality at Evensong, bringing food and drink and serving as cooks, sous-chefs, flower-arrangers, and dishwashers extraordinaire (followed by launderer extraordinaire!). Many, many thanks to **Marguerite Barron** and **Glen Leggoe, Charlotte Blackmer, Becky Blessing, Adam Boocher** and **Michael and Heather, June Browne, Brenda Cabral** and **Kevin Fitzpatrick, Peg LaFrance** and **Phil Carruthers, Robbin Clark, Larry Craighill, Nancy Dick, Ellen Ekström, Debby Falk, George Emblom** and **Jonathan Dimmock, Robyn and Jay Gaskill, Meg Gentes, Betsy, Sterling, and Katy Hada, Adele Hansen, Walter Hauck, Susan Hedges, Gary Lindsey, Noble Macfarlane, Melissa Mack, Phil McKnight, Beth Ann Maier, Patrick Mitten** and **Melissa Cocco-Mitten, Joan Natkin, Jean O'Meara, Elaine Parker, Joyce Putnam, Nigel and Barbara Renton, Wayne Ritchie** and **Scott Sullivan, Jan Robitscher, Marcia Russell, Deborah Sigg, Scott Sinclair, Jerry Walker, Margo Wesley, Hildred Yost, and Paul Young**.

--Nancy Evans

Christian Education

Adult Formation

Like Saint Mark's, the Adult Formation Committee is in transition. After years of service from which the entire Saint Mark's community has benefited, Caroline Summer passed her baton to Joseph Lough. Members of the committee continue to liaise with members of Vestry, and with members of the Worship and Spoken Word committees to plan forums around Christmas, Lent and Easter. However, after much thought and discussion, members of the committee concluded that Adult Formation could play a more systematic, planned, intentional role in the instruction of Saint Mark's adult members. In the September 2010 edition of the *Lion* (attached), the committee announced a new initiative to make use of St Mark's considerable instructional resources and offer as wide a range of courses as possible— in Biblical Studies, Church History, the Liturgy, Prayer and Meditation, Religious Studies, and Theology— throughout the year.

Committee members were sensitive to the many challenges its new initiative presented, principally challenges concerning time and space. The challenges presented by time include the recognition that different demographic strata at Saint Mark's are likely to be available and ready to take classes at different times: students in the evenings or during the week; long-standing members following Sunday service; younger family members professionals prior to service on Sundays; and choir members either during the week or following service. The challenges presented by space include the recognition that much of the space at Saint Mark's is already claimed following Sunday service and during the week. Committee members also recognized that offering a range of courses at a number of different times would require that individuals interested in taking these courses would have to choose among competing options. Nevertheless, after some discussion, the committee members concluded not only that adults were accustomed to making far more difficult choices than which St. Mark's event they would attend, but also that many of the courses could be offered again in the future. The possibility of offering courses in cycles, similar to seminary or university courses, is new to St Mark's, which is more familiar and comfortable with one-off forums following Sunday service; or unique series, such as the Lenten Series, which change year by year. Happily, two regular courses got off the ground in January 2011: Owen Thomas's course considering the Anglican Covenant and Joe Lough's course considering "Governing Power in the Presence of God's Spirit" from New Testament times to the present.

Finally, the committee has discussed and is still wrestling with the challenges presented by St Mark's interim period as it prepares to select a new priest. Not only are more time and space after service devoted to the transition and selection process, leaving less time for normal, weekly, course offerings; but, since many committee members are also involved closely in other St Mark's committees more intimately involved in the transition process, the chair and members have been sensitive to the dangers of over scheduling. In practice, this has meant meeting more on an as-needed basis.

Members: **Judith Berling, Glenna Breslin, Caroline Summer, Bruce Alexander, Bob Scheible, Tom Poynor, and Michael Hiller**

-- Respectfully Submitted, Joseph W.H. Lough, Chair

Theological Discussion Group

The St. Mark's Theology discussion Group, also known as the Theo*Cats, embarked on its third full year of discussions in January 2010, with a very well-attended session led by the **Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder** (then Dean of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, always a friend of St Mark's).

Dr. Holder, sharing his expert grasp of Celtic spirituality, engaged the Theo*Cats in a fascinating discussion about the Celts and their contribution to the Christian experience. [This had followed and greatly enriched our earlier discussions stimulated by Cahill's "How the Irish Saved Civilization".]

In the later sessions of 2010, we spent several hours with the "Devil", i.e., Satan's agent, **Screwtape**, and his most effective critic, **C. S. Lewis**. As we read and discussed individual missives from the Devil's frustrated recruiter, we learned that the social and moral insights in this little masterpiece benefited greatly from reading them aloud in a group.

In our next phase of discussion, the Theo*Cats took on Judaism and Christianity, using "**Rabbi Jesus**" by the Rev. Dr. Bruce Chilton and the comic work, "**Lamb**" by the Irrev. Christopher Moore, as the basis for several discussions. We concluded the subject in the fall with a special appearance by the Rev. Dr. Louis Weil. He led an extended and enthralling

discussion, beginning with his gripping autobiographical account of a personal and spiritual journey that started as a young Jewish boy in New Orleans and led to the life of a leading Christian scholar who “never gave up my Judaism.”

We concluded a successful and engaging year with a lively discussion of Dostoevsky’s *The Grand Inquisitor* in December.

Theo*Cat year 2011 begins with a discussion of “Somebody Save Me: The Enduring Christ Figure in Popular Culture” led by Maria Chang who has served as Adjunct Professor at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at GTU. Maria is one of the parishioners of St. Ambrose, Berkeley, who have attended many of our discussions.

Theo*Cat sessions are open to everyone and, over the years, we have enjoyed the contributions and fellowship of believers, unbelievers, seekers and the active members of this parish and other congregations, friends and newcomers.

Meetings are usually held at 7:00p.m. on the last Thursday of every month in the library, with a brief summer break.

Anyone interested can get on the Theo*Cat e-mail list by contacting Jay Gaskill: jgaskill@yahoo.com. Our e-mailing list includes 32, including friends, interested parties and sometime visitors. Our attendance has fluctuated between 7 and 15 at any given time.

--Jay B Gaskill

Spoken Word Committee

The Spoken Word Committee presented a reading of The Psalms last spring and is hard at work developing a series of programs for 2011 including a reading during Lent of *The Screwtape Letters* and a proposed Advent 2011 offering of *The Message of Gabriel* adapted by our own **Meg Gentes**.

We are grateful for the time and talent of our entire dedicated Committee and all of the volunteers who have participated and made our Spoken Word programs a growing part of our profile in the larger community.

With the encouragement of the Rector and the Worship Committee, the Spoken Word Committee has been responsible for training for the Lessons & Carols readers for the last two years and involved with the Holy Week services. In addition, **Charley Robinson**, **Bruce Alexander**, and **Judith Berling** did formal training with the lectors with two workshops last fall.

--Barbara Oliver, Chair

--Anna Weidman, Vestry Liaison

Family Ministry

The past year has seen steady growth in family ministries. The nursery and Godly Play provided a reliable, solid foundation for the youth activities at the church and new programs, such as the youth music program re-started in 2009, continued to move forward. New and/or expanded programs in 2010 included a well executed summer service camp for the older children led by **Maggie Grover**.

The nursery settled into being a consistent, welcoming place for our youngest members. **Florence** and her two supporting staff hired this past year, **Dikki** and **Dick**, created a warm, safe environment that more and more parents utilized. Improved signage added this past year by **Tim Sullivan** and **Bob Williams** increased the visibility of our youth and family offerings.

Godly Play began a wonderful transformation this past year. The older children who have been the core of the program for the past few years are “graduating” into being mentors for the growing number of younger children entering the program. We were sorry to see **Jay Purcell**, one of our seasoned Godly Play teachers, more back East in August, but new volunteers have been emerging such as **Makiko Fukuzawa**, who is a Montessori-trained teacher.

The youth music program continued to make progress in the past year under the guidance of **George Emblom** and **June Browne**. A new chorister joined this past year, and other children will soon be old enough to participate.

In addition to Egypt Marketplace led this past summer by **Anna Weidman**, the older children participated in a wonderful, weeklong service camp that was planned and executed by **Maggie Grover**. In past summers, Maggie led weekend field trips during the summer, but she stepped up this year to lead a full week summer camp that included community garden maintenance and hot meals preparation and delivery.

Beyond the specific programs for youth, we are excited by the increasing participation of the church youth in many aspects of church life including the spoken word committees programs, altar guild work, readings during services, and the social justice programs at St. Mark's. In the coming year, we will also see the first youth confirmation class in a number of years.

--Peter Laub

IN REACH/OUT REACH

Pastoral Care

Lay Pastoral Care Initiative

In 2010, the Lay Pastoral Ministry coordinating group (**Caroline Summer, Bob Williams, Priscilla Camp and Mary Lawrence Hicks**) met the following objectives:

- + Significantly revised the training manual piloted here in 2009 to better fit the needs of St. Marks. The manual is titled: "A Caring Community at St. Mark's: A 10 - Session Training Program in Lay Pastoral Ministry for Laity."
- + Prepared materials describing the program including a brochure and a letter to all parishioners.
- + Conducted a 10 - session training with the new materials. Eight parishioners participated in all or some of the sessions, which were facilitated by: the members of the coordinating group, **The Rev. Scott Sinclair** and **The Rev. Robyn Arnold**. The last session with a closing Eucharist, celebrated by Robyn Arnold, was held January 29.
- + Worked with St. Mark's clergy to plan an organizational structure for lay pastoral requests and assignments.
- + On February 5, Father Hiller will facilitate a gathering of St. Mark's parishioners who are involved in both formal and informal lay pastoral activities such as: Deacon Ellen; Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Parish Nurse, Choral Visitors, Lay Pastoral Visitors; Practical Assistants (largely an informal group at this time). The gathering will serve to clarify programs and roles; thank everyone who has been working to support members of our parish community; and further discuss an organizational structure.

--Mary Lawrence Hicks

Parish/Community Support

Coffee Hour/Special Events

As we often heard, we are compelled to feast. It has been a busy year for your vestry, coffee hour hosts and those that put on special events. Thanks to those on vestry and those not on vestry who helped with the Easter Vigil breakfast, the annual parish picnic and, most of all, the farewell bash for Robbin Clark, our retiring rector. Robbin sure knows how to pick a weekend. If she had chosen the weekend before, or the two weekends after, it would have been a very soggy affair indeed. Everyone's true Christian spirit of sharing and hospitality shown thru and by all accounts Robbin enjoyed it, and so did those who partook in the feast. Special thanks to those not on vestry, including **Kathy Yam, Jeff Chin, Charlotte Blackmer, Tim Sullivan**, and the tireless **Caroline Rone**.

Coffee hours continue to provide sustenance while all parishioners gather for conversation and fellowship. The call for new hosts was met with a heartwarming response. We are now staffed on all the Sundays, but we could use additional support. If anyone is interested in this ministry please contact Phil Caruthers. Duties are only every other month, or with fifth Sunday's team, less frequently. Many thanks also to the parishioners who drop off a special treat for those Sundays where extra fare is requested. For those who cannot undertake a regular coffee-hour assignment, generously sharing in your culinary talents when the call goes out is greatly appreciated.

--Phil Caruthers

Greeters Ministry

The greeter's ministry is undergoing a review of our priorities. Our hope is to engage newcomers in conversation at the door so that our welcome team can set the stage for further engagement at coffee hour. To that end you may see us talking more at the door and presenting cards later at coffee hour. We are also experimenting with alternative approaches to inducing our members to wear their nametags. Now you may be invited to wear a temporary nametag or you can pick up your nametag from the narthex table. Our excuse is that we want to help Father Michael become acquainted with the depth of our members. The truth is that many of us need and welcome a reminder of our neighbors in the pews even when we have sat in the same seat for years. We continue to enjoy the photo board **Malcolm McWilliams** maintains and look forward to incorporating pictures with our revised directory.

Our greeters include **Nancy Dick, Irene Nikkah, Frances Bellows, Gary Lindsay, Elaine Parker, Katherine Kasameyer, Joseph Lough, Meg Mealy, Barbara Forsstrom** and **Peggy Murray**.

A powerful attraction is necessary to enable someone to move beyond the incidental visitor to a regular member. That attractive force comes from the warmth of fellowship, engagement in service and inspiration of seeing Christ in others. May our light shine forth to draw others to St. Mark's.

--Rosemary Campos

In Reach/Reaching Out Committee

This committee has seen a lot of activity this year, thanks largely to the incredible energy and creative mind of our Deaconite intern, **Debra Asis**.

With Debra's leadership we formed the HOS+ group, made up of the leadership of all our hospitality ministries: Ushers, Greeters, Coffee Hour, Lay Pastoral Care, and communication. The goal of this new group was to create bridges among us so these different ministries could more closely work together, sharing information that will help us to successfully greet newcomers and ease their entry into St. Mark's congregation.

The HOS+ group met regularly over the fall and focused on a number of initiatives aimed at making St. Marks more hospitable to our congregation as well as to newcomers. These efforts included:

- Creating a central organizing position, which is filled by **Kathi Day**, who has shown good grace and patience in volunteering and helping to develop in this new position,

- Creating Blue Pew Savers to indicate our desire to keep the third pew from the rear open for latecomers,
- With our communications team worked on the development of a “welcome packet,”
- Developed a graphic “web of hospitality” showing how our ministries can work together to improve communication, and
- Began working towards revitalizing our nametag efforts.

To provide some detail, Kathi is charged with coordinating with **Rosemary Campos** to gather in the Newcomer’s cards as they are filled out and help track responses to those who have recently joined worship at St. Marks. In addition to responsibility she is charged with connecting our newcomers with the right ministry based on their interests and inclinations.

Our efforts on revitalizing our nametag ministry are ongoing. We decided to remove the old, creaky carousel and the old plastic St. Marks nametags, which it held. For now everyone, old-timer and newcomer are encouraged to fill out a temporary nametag each Sunday. We are speaking to a member of the congregation to take on the nametag ministry and continue to re-envision it in a more active way to engage and greet all our congregants who join us for worship each Sunday.

Herein ends my report.

Yours in Christ,
--LeRoy Howard, Chair

Outreach

Local Discernment Committee (*Congregational Vocations Committee*)

Formerly known as the Congregational Vocations Committee, the Local Discernment Committee provides an opportunity for frank and open dialogue for any parishioners who wish help in discerning their vocation to ministry. The new name reflects the revamping of the discernment process recently undertaken by the Commission on Ministry for the Ordained (ex-Commission on Ministry), aimed at providing clear new procedures firmly in line with the canons of the national church and the diocese. We welcome discussion both with those who wish to enter the ordination process and those seeking to define an appropriate area of lay ministry. The committee also evaluates, together with the rector, the ministry experience required of all applicants for holy orders. St. Mark's LDC was engaged during the past year in discussion and reflection with two persons exploring ordination to the priesthood. We are pleased that **Anne Smith**, a seminarian sponsored by our parish, was ordained to the priesthood in December.

--Judith Berling, Frances Carlson, Mary McWilliams, Jerry Walker, Len Johnson (convener)

Social Justice Committee /Outreach/InAsMuch/YEAH! Cooking

I. Active members: **Bruce Alexander, Jan Robitscher, Ann Claire Smith, Kirsten Snow Spalding, Janet Strothman, Arthur Boone, Jennifer Rice**

II. Living the Gospel: Members of St. Mark's are engaged in innumerable activities that serve the least among us. Listed here are a few projects that we collectively support as a congregation with our time, financial resources and our church facilities.

Hot Meals: This monthly activity continues as an ongoing St. Mark's project. We coordinate up to 30 or more volunteers every third Saturday of the month from St. Mark's, UC Berkeley, other congregations and service organizations to prepare a beautiful family style dinner for 120-175 homeless guests in St. Mark's Parish Hall. At Christmas, St. Mark's prepared gift bags that included warm scarves and hats, toiletries, and sweets.

YEAH! (Youth Emergency Assistance Hostel): St. Mark's volunteers cooked a meal for the shelter guests one Wednesday night twice a month in the 2009-2010 winter season. We engaged more than 15 members of the congregation in shopping, preparing and delivering food. This continues as a family ministry, providing a place for us to engage St. Mark's children and teens in community service. As we started up again in fall 2010, we have recommitted to cooking once a month, and are engaging lots of new volunteers from within St. Mark's and our broader community.

Emergency Shelter and Suitcase Clinic: St. Mark's offered its Parish Hall to the Suitcase Clinic which provides medical services (and a hot dinner) to youth one evening a week. We also opened the Parish Hall to the adult shelter when they needed additional space to house homeless guests on cold or wet nights.

Renewing our involvement with California Interfaith Power and Light: The Social Justice Committee has begun actively participating in CIPL activities including presenting information on the issues in 'No on Proposition 23' Campaign (on the November election) and preparing for an energy audit of St. Mark's and hosting a Solar Information Night.

Acting as an information clearinghouse: The Social Concerns Committee provides information about social justice issues to the congregation through the Social Justice bulletin board, articles in the LION and the church bulletin and also through Adult Forums.

Social Networking: The Social Justice Committee has developed a Facebook presence and is using this forum to encourage participation in community social justice events, advocacy opportunities and to bear witness to social justice issues here and around the world.

Partners in Formation: This year we hosted forums with the Adult Formation Committee on witness to the current economic, AIDS and educational crises in South Africa. We partnered with the Family Ministries committee as the children collected money for a South African School project. We also encouraged participation in the Family Ministries "Service Camp" which brought the children to engage in service projects around the Bay Area. As we prayed together

about the issue of homelessness and mental illness in our community, we sponsored a forum on mental illness with NAMI that engaged the congregation in this issue and provided resources to help us address the issue. In November, we worked with the League of Women Voters to provide voter information to the congregation in preparation for the election.

III. Coordinating our Outreach contributions:

In 2010, we made the following Outreach contributions totaling \$5,500:

Church Divinity of the Pacific: \$2,500
 Canterbury House: \$1,000
 School of Deacons: \$1,000
 East Bay Sanctuary Covenant: \$1,000

The monthly InAsMuch collections were as follows:

January:	Episcopal Relief and Development	\$2,278
February:	Episcopal Charities	\$990
March:	Alameda County Food Bank	\$739
April:	An Episcopal Ministry to Convalescent Hospitals	\$439
May:	National Association for Mental Illness	\$371
June:	United Thank Offering	\$484
July:	Berkeley Emergency Food and Housing	\$760
August:	Berkeley Education Foundation	\$542
September:	Asociacion Ciudad de los Ninos de la Inmaculada <i>(in honor of our former Rector, Rev. Robbin Clark)</i>	\$1500
October:	Berkeley Humane Society	\$435
November:	YEAH!	\$716
December:	Hot Meals	\$665

We also did a special Lenten appeal for the Zwelibomvu School in South Africa and sent our partner church, St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Durban a contribution of \$794.

InAsMuch, Outreach and Special Offerings for the year totaled: \$16,213.

IV. Participating in Diocesan and Interfaith Outreach Activities: The Social Concerns Committee encouraged and coordinated St. Mark's members to participate in the following Diocesan Activities:

- Millennium Development Goals
- OneEpiscopalian.Org
- CROP Walk
- Episcopal Charities Walk-A-Thon
- East Bay Sanctuary Covenant *(Ongoing participation in providing sanctuary to refugees with St. Mark's participating as a member of the EBSC Board.)*
- AEMCH *(Ministry to the Elderly at Berkeley Pines)*

--Kirsten Snow Spalding

Resource Conservation Committee

St. Mark's Church has done a poor job of being responsible for the proper management of its discarded materials. While 90+% of what we throw away at the church building is recyclable or compostable, we have as much garbage to serve ourselves and our tenants (four cubic yards per week) as we did before public programs to assist us were in place. I work vigorously most of the time at the Hot Meals program where we feed 100+ people per each third Saturday with less than a pound of "wastes," but the rest of our church's discards stream is a disaster for the environment; neither our tenants, coffee hour, occasional meals, etc. conform to City of Berkeley best practices; there are a few loyal souls like Annie-May de Bresson and Kirsten Snow Spaulding who make an effort but the majority of the members are indifferent and inattentive. Several years ago I decided not to give myself an ulcer on this question and do what I can.

Respectfully submitted,
--Arthur R. Boone, Materials Management.

Hot Meals for Those Who Are Hungry

Hot Meals has been serving up a monthly home-style scratch meal to the needy in the community for over 20 years now. It is one of St. Mark's most well known community outreach efforts. The program is entirely funded by community donations and has been paying for all repairs, supplies, and equipment in the Parish Hall kitchen for several years now. (In other words: zero church budget support.)

In 2010, we ran at a substantial deficit; many food items previously available at almost zero cost through the Alameda County Community Food Bank had to be purchased "outside", increasing our costs by \$200-300 monthly, and our guest numbers have remained high. We encourage parishioners to support us as they are able via pledge or check – anything memo'd "Hot Meals" will get to us – and we thank everyone who has contributed. We'd also like to thank those who have contributed items for our December gift bags and food "windfalls", from the cheese left over from a party that got frozen and then used in mac'n cheese to pans of beef burgundy left over from Robbin's retirement luncheon. **Maggie Grover** and the kids at "Service Camp" made cookies for dessert one month, saving us the expense. The program also received substantial donations from the Adeline Street Walgreen's and Henry Yang, DDS for the Christmas giveaway, and free food items occasionally throughout the year from The Bread Workshop and Peet's. All donations of cash and food, large and small, are keeping the program going in this time of great need! Anything we can't use is passed along to one of our associated groups (YEAH!, Suitcase, and Berkeley Catholic Worker).

Dinner for 120+ doesn't make or serve itself, although we usually have fun while we're working hard. Come join the crew some time for a 2-hour shift on the third Saturday of the month; we often especially need volunteers in December, January, and May through August when our student volunteers are out of town. There are jobs for cooks and non-cooks alike. We appreciate "regular" or "semi-regular" volunteers (who get to know "the drill") and welcome anyone with an interest either in food or service to become at least a "semi-regular" part of the program. Of course, if you can't make it regularly, but are willing to be called in a period of need, we'd love to hear from you as well! We're also always on the lookout for people who are willing to coordinate volunteers in the kitchen or dining room for a shift (in other words, tell them what to do). If you're interested in any of this, please talk to Charlotte Blackmer, chief talent wrangler.

Thanking everyone who has been a part of getting it all done often seems like one of those interminable Oscar acceptance speeches ... but it really is a joint effort! We'd especially like to recognize **Elaine Parker** and **Jennifer Rice** for joining the leadership team and exercising their organizational and/or schmoozing talents, thank Phil Caruthers for his service, and formally recognize **Robbin Clark** for her years of service to the program (mostly in the kitchen). Our leadership team: **Charlotte Blackmer, Annie-May de Bresson, Phil Brown, Jennie Curtis** and **Elka Gilmore, Gary Lindsay, Elaine Parker, Scott Sinclair, Kirsten Snow Spaulding, Kathy Yam** – has been there month-in, month-out, hauling groceries, directing volunteers, knowing how to get dinner for 140 on the table, and getting things both set up and cleared away. **Ellen Ekström** has found a (non-cooking) niche handing out sandwiches and sass. **Susan Hedges** took on the most "un-divalike" job of getting the laundry for four different groups using the kitchen under control. We get great logistic support from the St. Mark's staff – **Vanessa, Courtney, and Joel**.

We'd like to thank our "regular" volunteers: **Arthur Boone, Ray Bozant, Norah Foster, Jen Rice, Margaret Young, Judy Malloy, Jan Robitscher, Mark Wells, Robin Yam, and Joseph, Averil, and Yates Lough**. Thanks also to people

who volunteered occasionally and/or have risen up to the call when the need is great – including **Anna Weidman and Walker Robinson, Bill Foley, Katherine Kasameyer, Pam Jester, Nancy Evans, Bob Kolenkow, Anne Prescott, Becky Blessing and crew, the Grover-Roybals, Walter Hauck, Kim Novak, and Wayne Ritchie**, the World’s-Best-Dressed-Dishwasher. (If I forgot any of you ... my apologies.)

We have some excellent support from the community at large as well. Your friends, co-workers, and neighbors may already be volunteering here! We’d especially like to thank Lori Austin of Piedmont NCL, Ken Li of Piedmont Venture Crew, Paul Curtis and the Acalanes High School soccer team, and our awesome Cal groups – Habitat for Humanity, Circle K, and Optometry School – for their efforts. Linda Trowbridge and her Girl Scout troop made the 150+ bags for the Christmas presents. If you know of a scout troop or other group looking for a service project ... please “introduce” them to Charlotte, and come join us in this very public outreach effort.

--Charlotte Blackmer

Convalescent Home Ministry

St. Mark’s has one of the best—if not the best—convalescent home ministries in the Diocese. We hold services at Berkeley Pines twice a month—at 1:00p.m. on the first and third Sundays of every month. We use color-coded, large print laminated handouts. We have our own laminating machine, so we can more cheaply laminate our handouts, and we continue adding new hymns to our services. We take time after the service ends to check in with each of our congregants and pray with them if needed.

We begin with pianist **Roberta Cleveland** playing familiar hymns to set a worshipful mood, as we set up a Cross and candles, and gather in and greet our congregation. Our service features hymns, prayers, the Twenty-Third Psalm, readings from the Bible, and a homily. The prayers are all from the Book of Common Prayer (a couple are simplified), but the hymns are a bit Methodist. We offer Communion on first Sundays. Our service is led by Roberta, **Gwen Gaynor, Jan Robitscher, Caroline Summer, Scott Sinclair, and Bob Williams**. We continued our tradition this year of handing out Easter baskets at Easter and Christmas stockings at Christmas.

Jan serves as Chair of the Board of Overseers of An Episcopal Ministry to Convalescent Hospitals (AEMCH), and Bob is our congregational representative to its Advisory Council. Bob was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Bishop Andrus at the AEMCH Summer Salon.

Once again, we visit Berkeley Pines on the first and third Sundays at 1:00p.m., the service takes about 45 minutes, and we would welcome more volunteers.

--Bob William

CARE OF RESOURCES

Stewardship

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship at St. Mark's experienced a wonderful influx of new members early in 2010 with **Kirsten Snow Spalding** and **Jennifer Rice**. Several items of note included our Annual April **St. Mark's Legacy Society** Event held at the Rectory and hosted by the Stewardship with Robbin coordinating the hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. It was a great turn out and we are happy to report our membership now totals 36.

The **Wills Writing Workshops** are always on our agenda, coordinated through the Diocese. We initiated the new **Hearts & Treasures** series for the Monthly Lion, this past year with Fran Carlson and Kirsten Spaulding Snow being our inaugural interviewees, look for more heartfelt expression of Living God's Love in Abundance in 2011.

We are also in the process of designing a **Survey** spearheaded by Jennifer, as a communication tool and to learn about better ways to serve the congregation through education of Stewardship.

An additional welcome to our newest Committee member, **Priscilla Camp** whereby her fresh perspective on Ministry will be incorporated in the planning for the ever integrated role of Stewardship, in all we do here at St. Mark's.

Our Financial Commitment Campaign this year indicates a trending lower income over the past several years. We are operating at minimum budget level for administrative and ministry budgets. The plan to 2011 is to draft a budget for 2012 and edify our needs during the campaign in order to better inform the congregation of the needs therefore being better able to formulate their treasure commitment.

--Bob Scheible

Financial Commitment Campaign Results: Results of the 2011 Financial Commitment campaign have been mixed. (These results are after the Vestry had increased their pledges.) Thirty-seven continuing pledgers increased their pledge, 58 kept it the same, and 18 decreased their pledge. For continuing pledgers, the total amount pledged for 2011 is \$223,880 versus \$218,287 for the same group in 2010—a 2.6% increase! Another bright note is that there are ten new or returning pledgers, who have pledged a total of \$13,985. Thus all pledges received total \$237,865. But ten 2010 pledgers, who accounted for \$22,880 in 2010, are no longer at St. Mark's or have died; five 2010 pledgers, who accounted for \$3,800 in 2010, felt unable to pledge for 2011; and twelve 2010 pledgers, who accounted for \$3,005 in 2010, were not heard from. The mean (arithmetic average) pledge is \$1,934. The median (half above, half below) pledge was \$1,200. The modal (most frequent) pledge was also \$1,200. Here is a breakdown of pledges by size:

<u>Range</u>	<u>Number of pledgers</u>	<u>Total for Range</u>	<u>Percent of Pledge Income</u>
\$20-\$300	16 pledges	\$3,455	1%
\$301-\$600	20 pledges	\$10,500	4%
\$601-\$1,199	14 pledges	\$12,398	5%
\$1,200-\$1,500	17 pledges	\$21,556	9%
\$1,501-\$2,999	32 pledges	\$68,576	29%
\$3,000-\$12,000	24 pledges	\$121,380	51%

Facilities

Tenant Relations Committee

We continue to enjoy a healthy relationship with the Woolly Mammoth preschool program and with the Montessori school. The parking garage has been a more difficult issue this year. The parking management company has fallen approximately \$10,000 behind in payments to the church. Despite numerous meetings with the manager, funds have not been forthcoming to pay off the arrearage. Consequently, the committee has informed the vestry that steps are being taken to find a replacement management company.

--Phil Caruthers

Redevelopment Committee

As of the end of 2009, the Schematic Design phase of the project (conceptual design) was completed - many discussions and presentations to the parish were made to gather inputs from affected groups, review concepts, and much effort was done by the Architecture Committee to work with Hudson McDonald to detail out the overall design concepts and to prepare the initial documents needed for submission to the city.

The formal submission of the plans to the city was made in March 2010, which began a review, approval and permitting process, which is expected to take 1 to 1 & 1/2 years to complete. There were several design review meetings and an introductory meeting held with the Zoning Board to review the project, and as a result of their inputs and inputs from the community at large, project details were modified, including a re-do of the outside appearance of the overall building and its integration into the overall St. Mark's campus.

In December 2010, the city's Design Review Committee formally approved the project. Detailed Design is on going at this time and after approval by the Zoning Board, expected in the spring of 2011, and when permitting is completed, construction is expected to commence in the 4th quarter of 2012. There are many variables that can still effect these dates and the agreement documents cover the contingencies of the overall process, especially related to the city permitting process. If there are significant appeals made by neighborhood stakeholders or lawsuits filed, the delays could be considerable.

I would like to personally thank all those involved, especially the members of the Architecture Committee (**Bob Kolenkow** - chair, **Larry Craghill**, **Barbara Oliver** and **Kerri Liljigren**) who have worked tirelessly to get us through the Schematic Design phase, prepare us for the city submission, and are now working with the Detail Design Phase. They have been a tremendous group to work with and continue to be enthusiastic in their every effort. Also much thanks to the Entitlements Committee (**Andrea Foley** - chair, **Kirsten Spalding**, **Phil Caruthers**) who helped us get organized to appear at the Zoning Board meeting, which went so very well. Thanks again for your great effort and wonderful spirit of cooperation!!

--Jerry Walker

Personnel

Personnel Committee

The St. Mark's Personnel Committee (**Jerry Walker**, **Andrea Foley**, **Anna Weidman** and **Nancy Evans**) are beginning a round of evaluations for all employees, to be completed in the first half of 2011 and will be reviewing and updating all job descriptions this coming year as well.

This year, the diocese endorsed a 1.1% cost-of-living adjustment for church employees. Since St. Mark's has followed the diocesan endorsement, even in years when this was difficult, and because this policy reflects the cost of living in the Bay Area, the Personnel Committee elected to follow the recommendation for the cost of living increase for 2011.

--Jerry Walker

Communications

Communications/Administration/Website

The Communications Committee works closely with the interim rector and vestry leaders to support the major external and internal communications of the parish. We think of two different audiences – those inside and those outside our parish. The website, brochures, and banners are means of reaching out to the community beyond St. Mark's. The *Lion Cub* and the *Lion* are means for the members of the parish to communicate with each other and celebrate our life together. The Committee's goals are to provide newcomers and members with information that helps them to participate in the life of the church.

The website, which is updated weekly, principally focuses on information that a newcomer would find useful. We try to focus on the one or two major events in the life of the community each week. In addition, **Joyce Putnam** now updates a monthly online calendar that lists all church events. Since the reformation of the Communications Committee in September 2007, our page views have risen 150%, and total 159,000 per year. Our website continues to rank high with the Google search engine.

The *Lion* has remained largely unchanged over the last year. **Joseph Clifford** continues to write profiles on parish members. **Alda Morgan** now writes a column based on her work in the St. Mark's archives. **Len Johnson** has continued his historical series "The Lion Looks Back." In addition, monthly contributors **Michael Hiller**, **Jerry Walker**, **Ellen Ekström**, **George Emblom** continue their work.

Tim Sullivan continues as editor, **Jane Adams** and **Nancy Ditzler** serve as copy editors, **Meg Gentes** reports on diverse topics. **Nancy Ditzler** also continues in production. **Marjorie Pettyjohn** and her team of volunteers continued to mail the *Lion* and to respond nimbly to changing postal regulations. In addition, about 175 people now receive the *Paperless Lion*, an electronic version of the *Lion*.

The weekly *Lion Cub*, an online version of the weekly announcements, continued. About 100 read the *Lion Cub* weekly, up from 95 a year ago. Special thanks are due to **Vanessa Capino**, who prepares the weekly bulletin and the *Lion Cub*. The Communications Committee also disseminates death notices and other emergency communications via e-mail. St. Mark's sends out about 13,000 electronic communications per year.

St. Mark's can reach 284 unique e-mail addresses within an hour. Over the last year, our electronic mailing list grew 22%. It has grown 70% since August 2008 when we commenced this effort. Please note, however, that the mailing list includes many who are not current members of St. Mark's – it includes members of Diocesan House, people who have moved away, parishioners of adjoining parishes and people throughout the Episcopal Church. Nevertheless, the increase in our mailing list does show rising interest in the life of this community.

The Communications Committee supports St. Mark's ministries. This year, the Communications Committee prepared several banners for Family Ministry and we work closely with the Hospitality Committee. After Robbin's departure, we have had to update brochures, websites and other materials. ***Volunteers with computer skills are needed for new initiatives in posting sermons with sound and for instituting a Facebook presence and to assist in maintaining and expanding our web services. Just contact Tim Sullivan by responding to any weekly e-mail.***

Although the electronic revolution has permitted St. Mark's to accomplish this increase in communications with a budget about a third of expenditures of just a few years ago, the computer-based technologies require volunteers with skills in software and design who can contribute time and energy. Thus, special thanks are due to the Communications Committee members **Jane Adams**, **Nancy Ditzler**, **Meg Gentes**, **Joyce Putnam**, **Tim Sullivan** and **Robbin Clark** (and now **Michael Hiller**) who drive this ministry and to **Vanessa Capino**, who assists in uncountable ways.

--Tim Sullivan

Memorials

St. Mark's Memorial Fund exists to accept memorial gifts to St. Mark's throughout the year. Names of those honored are inscribed in our Book of Remembrance. Gifts in memory of **Mark Koop**, **Richard Colvig** and **Norma Colvig** were gratefully received this year. A contribution to the fund is a thoughtful way to honor the memory not only of St. Mark's members but also of family and friends. Thank you notes are written to acknowledge such gifts.

--Barbara Forsstrom, Chair

Treasurer's Report

I owe many thanks to many people. First, to Office Coordinator/Bookkeeper **Vanessa Capino**, who has meticulously keeps our payments and deposits system running when other St. Mark's duties gobble up my time. Then, to each of the members of the Financial Oversight Committee—to **Rosemary Campos** and **Jack Sawyer**, who have been with me on our journey since the beginning—six years! To **Tim Sullivan**, who joined us just after the beginning—I remember how excited I was that we'd nabbed him! To **Wayne Ritchie**, whom we had to wait to nab till he was temporarily less busy. To the new kid on the block—**Bob Scheible**, who is already adding insightful input into our deliberations. I am privileged to have this committee to turn to for advice and counsel.

Our current deficit has been very stressful for me, and I'd especially like to thank **Jerry Walker**, **Anna Weidman**, **Mary McWilliams**, **Father Hiller**, and **Judith Berling** for their support.

When construction starts on the redevelopment project and for six months after it ends, we will receive only \$10,000 a month from Hudson-McDonald versus the \$13,632 currently budgeted for rents—a \$43,584 annual decrease. This would be partially offset by an estimated decrease of \$32,381 in insurance, utilities and property taxes, so the overall decrease in net income would be \$11,203. In addition, providing parking during construction would cost at least \$8,320 annually. But after the full ground lease of \$250,000 annually starts, we can expect our net income to increase by \$118,797. Over the next five years, redevelopment will have a big positive impact, but 2012 and 2013 will be financially challenging.

--Bob Williams, Treasurer

Altar Guild

Treasurer's Report for year 2010

Checking Account 772-002840-3
CHASE JPMorgan Chase Bank
1870 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

Balance on Hand 12-31-09 **\$4,540.23**

Revenues

Bank Service Charge/reimbursed..... 12.00
Diocesan Altar Guild dues for 2008 18.00
Diocesan Altar Guild dues for 2009 16.00
Diocesan Altar Guild dues for 2010 16.00
Candle and Flower donations..... 3,520.00
3,582.00

\$8,122.23

Disbursements

CM Almy 142.10
Dues: Diocesan Altar Guild 2010 35.00
 National Diocesan Altar Guild
 Paid in 2009
Flowers..... 2,768.35
Stamps..... 17.60
2,963.15

Balance on Hand 12-31-09 **\$5,159.08**

Savings Account 772-600522-3
CHASE JPMorgan Chase Bank
1870 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

Balance on Hand 12-31-09 **\$2,976.79**

Revenues

Interest (as of 12-31-10) 0.24

Balance on Hand 12-31-10 **\$2,977.03**

--Marjorie K. Pettyjohn, Altar Guild Treasurer

