



2015 Annual Report
Annual Meeting
Sunday February 7, 2016
Our Core Values

Relying on the grace of God, we the people of Saint Mark seek to be a community where spirit and service come together.

With faith in God through Jesus Christ we honor these core values:

Commitment: We offer ourselves, our time, our gifts and our resources to the service of God.

Community: We are a caring family of faith, honoring the gifts of all people and celebrating our life together.

Compassion: We care for all God's children, responding to those in pain and nurturing one another in love.

Hospitality: We welcome everyone to share with us in the community of Christ.

Mission: We listen and respond to the needs of the world, reaching out to serve others in our community and throughout the world.

Spiritual Growth: We grow closer to God through the disciplines of prayer, study, service and worship.

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
10701 Old Georgetown Rd
North Bethesda, Maryland 20852
301-530-0600

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Agenda

Preliminaries Thank you to all of the ministries for the work you have done and will continue to do in the future. Welcome new members and special guests

Call to Order The Rev. Dr. Roy W. Howard, Moderator

Opening Prayer The Rev. Dr. Roy W. Howard

Moderator states: A quorum of at least 10% (33) of the total active membership is present. The Clerk of Session will act as secretary for the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to review reports of the ministries and boards of the church; to receive the 2016 Church the 2016 Terms of Call for the Pastor; to approve the 2016 Terms of Call for the Associate Pastor and to do any business that may properly come before this meeting.

Approval of the following minutes of congregational meetings held in 2015:

- The Annual Meeting on February 7, 2015
- Special Meeting of the Congregation September – no report submitted

Reports

- Pastor – The Rev. Dr. Roy W. Howard
- Clerk of Session - Lyn Hill
- Board of Deacons – Jocelyn Callister

Mission, Compassion and Commitment

- Local Mission Ministry – Mary Casper
- Global Mission Ministry – Alison Dewey
- Finance Ministry – Rachel Zutshi and Michael Lei
- Personnel Ministry – Mike Lutz
- Nominating Ministry – Mary Casper and Karl Kaufmann
- Stewardship Ministry – Meisie Roberts
- Planned Giving – Lee LaRoche

Spiritual Growth

- Worship and Music Ministry – Karl Kaufmann and Mary Jo Mountain
- Christian Formation Ministry – Jennifer Carr

Community and Hospitality

- Parish Life Ministry – Teddy Ferguson, Elizabeth Bono
- Welcoming and Outreach Ministry – Diane Wirono and Teddy Ferguson
- Property Ministry – Mike Welsh
- Memorial Garden Walk Ministry – Lee LaRoche

New Business

- 2015 Budget vs. 2015 Actual
- 2016 Church Budget
- 2016 Terms of Call for the Pastors

Approval of Minutes

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation February 1, 2015 Minutes

The annual meeting of the Congregation of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church was held on 02/01/2015 in the Macdonell Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to review reports of the ministries and boards of the church; to receive the 2015 Church Budget; to approve the 2015 Terms of Call for the Pastor; to approve the 2015 Terms of Call for the Associate Pastor; and to do any business that may properly come before this meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. with prayer led by the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Roy W. Howard. Clerk of Session George T. Huggins served as secretary for the meeting. The Moderator stated the purpose of the meeting, that a quorum (at least 31, 10% of total active membership) was present. Adequate public notice of the meeting had been announced and the annual report had been distributed.

It was **moved, seconded, and carried** to approve the minutes for the Annual Meeting on 02/02/2014; and the Special Meeting on 09/07/2014 (for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the report of the Nominating Committee and electing new officers for the Class of 2017).

Pastor Howard announced that two members will respond to: (1) how has God been at work in your life in the last year; (2) in what way has Saint Mark helped you understand God at work in your life?

Ruling Elder Michael Lai gave a moving testimony of his faith journey, including how his joining Saint Mark affected his life, and using the now famous phrase "Grace screamed."

Pastor Howard reviewed some items from the Pastor's report. He reflected on how he was warned about being a "destination" church, instead of a "community" church. Pastor expressed appreciation of the compatibility and congeniality of all Saint Mark staff. He emphasized the importance and his focus on Bible studies, activism, and the metaphor of Saint Mark being a "sailboat" church (listening for the Spirit).

Anne Byrne of Crossway Community Family Leadership Academy spoke briefly. The children of Crossway Community had baked cookies in appreciation of Saint Mark support and had provided them for today's meal. Anne brought greetings from Kathleen Guinan of Crossway. She spoke of shared values with Saint Mark. Anne introduced Violette Mukamuhirwa from Rwanda, who had been with CC for three years before making her own way in the community. Violette expressed appreciation for the support of Saint Mark and for her time at Crossway. Raised as a Seventh Day Adventist, in 1999 Violette survived the murder of members of her family in Rwanda before making her way to America and joining Crossway Community. She has worked at Bank Of America for 8 years.

Barb Welsh described youth activities of preparing food on the second Tuesday of each month for Crossway Community and asked for volunteers to help prepare food.

Elder Suzanne Lofhjelm presented a summary of the 2014 activities of the Local Ministry Team.

Ruling Elder Alison Dewey provided an overview of how the Global Ministry Team had worked on behalf of Saint Mark in 2014.

Ruling Elder Mary Casper reviewed the work of the 2014 Nominating Committee.

Pastor Howard called for nominations for the two elders on the Nominating Committee. It was **moved, seconded, and carried** to elect Ruling Elders Mary Casper and Karl Kaufmann for the Nominating Committee. Pastor Howard called for nominations from the congregation for the Nominating Committee. Barb Welsh, Greg Carr, Brian Hooker, and Amie Orr were nominated. It was **moved, seconded, and carried** to elect Barb Welsh, Greg Carr, Brian Hooker, and Amie Orr to the 2015 Nominating Committee.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Marranda Major related how YAVs serve the community and discern their life's vocation. Marranda was a YAV last year in Belfast, Ireland, and is a 2015 YAV in DC. She related an experience as a Street Pastor in Belfast, and how her connections to the larger community enabled a significant and difficult conversation.

The Health and Wellness Ministry Team related how they are working to establish the Ministry in 2014, and how to best use resources (people). They expressed thanks to the Session for funding in the 2015 budget.

Pastor Etheridge reviewed the report of the Christian Formation Ministry Team. Pat Simmons related the how the Team has expanded the opportunities of Adult Education. Pat appreciated the leadership of the Reverend May, and told of the plan for Reverend Margie Iddings to use a full size sculpture in a planned education event.

It was **moved, seconded, and carried** to receive the ministry reports.

Ruling Elder Michael Lai and Treasurer Rachel Zutshi reviewed the 2014 Operating Budget and presented the 2015 budget. Saint Mark had a good pledge rate and unexpected income in 2014, finishing with a small surplus. We had good 2015 pledges, but we are planning on using cash on hand (reserves) of about \$20,000, if all pledges are not met. Pastor Howard recognized pledge secretary Marilyn Anderson.

2015 Terms of Call

Ruling Elder Michael Lutz assumed moderating duties for the portion of the meeting on the Terms of Call. It was **moved, seconded, and carried** to approve the 2015 Terms of Call of the Pastor:

2015 Terms of Call of the Pastor

Salary/Housing	\$93,443
Pension/Major Medical/Death and Disability	\$32,705
Employers' Contribution to SECA	\$7,148
Continuing Education Allowance	\$1,000
Automobile Allowance	\$1,500
Book Allowance	\$500
Expense Allowance	\$500
Total Package	\$136,797

It was **moved, seconded, and carried** to approve the 2015 Terms of Call of the Associate Pastor:

2015 Terms of Call of the Associate Pastor

Salary/Housing	\$64,062
Pension/Major Medical/Death and Disability	\$22,422
Employers' Contribution to SECA	\$4,901
Continuing Education Allowance	\$1,000
Automobile Allowance	\$1,000
Book Allowance	\$500
Expense Allowance	\$500
Total Package	\$94,385

Pastor Howard reassumed the moderator duties.

Deacon Leah Eaton gave a sincere and moving testimony of her faith journey, including her search for a church home, her welcoming at Saint Mark, her appreciation and love of the Saint Mark congregation, and how she eagerly anticipates returning the love she has received to the congregation thru her ministry as a Saint Mark Deacon.

It was **moved, seconded, and carried** to adjourn with gratitude to those who spoke. The meeting closed at 12:35_p.m. with prayer by Pastor Howard.

George T. Huggins
Secretary for the Congregational Meeting

Reports Pastor's Ministry

Signs of God among us (2015)

At the end of 2015 standing on the threshold of 2016, it is with deep gratitude that I say Saint Mark is a blessed congregation and I am blessed to be your pastor. I do not tire of repeating myself with this expression of gratitude because it is profoundly true. We are known in the community for our worship and our service with our neighbors. This vitality is grounded in the annual congregational renewal of our baptism, which followed the leaders' retreat with the Reverend Joan S. Gray. During 2015 our congregation served as a pilot for the Presbytery Church Assessment Tool (CAT) measuring church vitality. With over 70% of members participating, the assessment indicated we are a high-energy congregation with over 75% indicating high satisfaction. But everything is not rosy: 25% are uncertain if activities beyond worship are meaningful and 20% are ambivalent about satisfaction. Some potential priorities that emerged from the assessment are: developing more small groups where relationships can be nurtured and expanding outreach to at-risk people (those living on the margins.) The session and deacons will be engaged in prayer and conversation about the next best steps to sustain a vital congregation.

New members • Vital Congregation

In 2015 we received 14 new members in our congregation (including confirmands). This is fewer than in previous years and not an increase that overcomes those members who have died or moved away. It is God who calls into membership, we are the ones who welcome and invite and that we will continue. Still, we give thanks to God for each new member, and for his or her participation in the life of our congregation. We celebrated the birth of 6 children and sadly experienced the loss of several long time members who have been dedicated servants of the Lord at Saint Mark, including one of our founding members. Each year it seems we continue to be challenged to maintain real community because we don't see one another other than Sunday. This has meant few enrichment programs for study and fellowship during mid-week and increased events on Sundays.

Spirit and Service come together with Worship at the Center

Under the excellent leadership of Jeff Doenges, the music at Saint Mark is a crucial element of a vital worship that is centered on the Triune God. We added a new soloist in Marybeth Verchot, who along with Lee Hinkle and Audrey Frieberg, support the choir. Audrey and Lee also work with the children's choirs. The Lord's Day worship is the center of our life together – the one day of the week during which we are gathered together as one Body in prayer that strengthens us for service in the world. We will continue to explore ways of offering worship that is inclusive of many cultures and also represents the diversity of our congregation.

At the core of Saint Mark is the conviction that Spiritual Growth and Service to Others belong together as the way of Christian discipleship. Our partnerships in the community remain strong. In keeping with the session 6-point plan following the Sandy Hook massacre, Saint Mark remains a public leader in advocating for better laws that will prevent gun violence. We are well known for our support of ministries that feed the hungry, care for the poor and those suffering mental illness, along with children at risk. In fact, when human service agencies look for congregations to help, they turn to Saint Mark.

Financial foundation is solid

We ended the year 2015 on a solid financial foundation and creatively faced a challenge for 2016. More people than expected contributed to their PC (USA) per capita contribution, which is a good sign. In 2015 sixty-eight people increased their pledges, another sign of health. The maintenance of the building remains a continuing challenge. We will have to face challenge wisely in the years to come. To whom much is given, much is required: this is the challenge of Saint Mark. The session will continue to wrestle with how to manage the facilities while sustaining and supporting our ministries of compassion. Due to the Living Springs Community Church relocating in another church, we faced a budget shortfall for 2016. The session invited the congregation to increase their pledges and many have responded to that call. What is remarkable about our financial generosity is that we are still in a financial campaign to complete the funding of our renovated sanctuary. See a full report on the Legacy Campaign.

Strong leadership = vital ministries

Shelby Etheridge Harasty, our associate pastor, completed her second full year in August 2015. She continues to excel in her ministry with the congregation and has been a wonderful colleague, sharing in worship and leadership. The youth, children and families continue to flourish because of Shelby's relational ministry with them. She provided excellent leadership during my sabbatical, including providing compassionate pastoral care during deaths of our members, and throughout the year. During 2015 she began providing pastoral leadership with the Deacons. I am grateful for our collegial relationship and believe the congregation is blessed by her presence.

A personal pastoral note + The Connectional church

We have concluded 15 years of ministry together. Saint Mark continues to experience compassion for others and joy in the company of one another. Again: I am profoundly grateful to walk alongside you as your pastor. During the summer I was blessed with a stipend from the session for my three month sabbatical. This gave me the opportunity to walk the ancient Camino de Santiago (543 miles) from St. Jean Piet de Port (France) to Santiago de Compostela (Spain), and on to Finisterre at the Atlantic Ocean. It was an epic journey that remains a deep influence on my life and ministry. I hiked in the mountains of Colorado and once more convened a retreat for pastors from around the country to engage in theological reflection, fellowship, rest and hiking in the Rocky Mountains.

I will continue serving our Presbytery on the Ministerial Relations Team of the Committee on Ministry. I am also facilitating an ecumenical colleague group for pastors now in the fourth year.

At this stage in our life together, I am mindful of the necessity to stay open to God's Spirit as we enter new ministry in a changing community. This past year saw an unprecedented surge of gun violence and racial tension across our country and the world. Terrorists continue to strike against human decency. I believe Saint Mark can continue to be a community leader proclaiming the Christian gospel of grace, mercy, hospitality and compassion after the manner of Jesus whom we follow. The need for interfaith dialogue has only increased. During 2015 Saint Mark continued to be a leader in this area and I will continue to engage conversations with Jews and Muslims and other religious traditions. Saint Mark has new challenges to be responsive to God's call to compassionate discipleship. I am blessed to walk with you into these waters.

With deep gratitude
Roy Howard

Clerk of Session Annual Report for 2015

Session Members

Members of the Session of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church for 2015 were: Moderator/Pastor: the Rev. Dr. Roy W. Howard Associate Pastor: the Rev. Shelby Etheridge Clerk of Session: George T. Huggins, and Lyn Hill (filling unexpired term of G. Huggins) Ministries

Christian Formation – Jennifer Carr Finance - Rachel Zutshi (convener) and Michael Lai • General Treasurer (staff) – Rachel Zutshi • Memorials – Sarah Milholen • Pledge Secretary – Marilyn Andersen Global Mission – Alison Dewey Local Mission – Mary Casper Nominating – Mary Casper and Karl Kaufmann Parish Life – Teddy Ferguson (elder) and Elizabeth Bono (convener) Personnel – Mike Lutz and Diane Wirono Property – Mike Welsh • Environmental Stewardship – Alison Bennett (convener) Welcoming – Diane Wirono and Stephanie Laguna Stewardship – Meisie Roberts Worship and Music – Karl Kaufmann (elder) and Jane Karakashian (convener)

Session Meetings

The Session met eleven times for stated meetings, usually on the third Tuesday of the month. There were six special meetings of the Session: four for approving baptisms or receiving new members, and two for other business matters.

Membership Gains and Losses

On 01/01/2015 there were *297 active members of Saint Mark. In 2015 there was a gain in membership of 14: 1 by letter of transfer and 13 by profession or reaffirmation of faith. Losses from the active roll for 2015 totaled 11: 6 by death, 5 by letter of transfer to another church. On 12/31/2015 there were 300 active members on the church rolls. (*corrected from 2015 Annual Report)

Ordinations and Installations

Elders and Deacons were ordained and installed on 01/04/2015, the Rev. Dr. Roy W. Howard and the Rev. Shelby Etheridge Harasty officiating.

Weddings and Baptisms

There were no weddings performed at Saint Mark in 2015. There were nine baptisms of infants and children at Saint Mark in 2015.

Communion

Communion was celebrated in 2015 at Saint Mark on 01/04, 01/18, 01/25, 02/01, 02/08, 02/15, 02/18 (Ash Wednesday), 02/22 (Lent), 03/01 (Lent), 03/29 (Palm Sunday), 04/02 (Maundy Thursday), 04/05 (Easter: 9:30am), 04/12, 04/19, 05/03, 05/17, 05/24 (Pentecost), 05/31 (Trinity Sunday), 06/07, 07/05, 08/02, 09/06, 10/04 (World Communion Sunday), 11/01 (All Saints Day), 11/22 (Christ the King), 11/29 (Advent), 12/06 (Advent), 12/13 (Advent), 12/20 (Advent), 12/24 (Christmas Eve).

Deaths

We were greatly saddened by the death of six Saint Mark members: Doris Fichtner, 02/14/2015; Margaret Dibble, 02/25/2015; Louis Nunez, 04/29/2015; Jane Durham, 05/14/2015; Gordon Hawk, 05/25/2015; Louray Huang, 06/17/2015.

Congregational Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church was held 02/08/2015, in the Macdonell Fellowship Hall to review reports of the ministries of the church; receive the 2015

Church Budget; approve the 2015 Terms of Call for the Pastor; approve the 2015 Terms of Call for the Associate Pastor; and to elect two Session members and four members-at-large to serve on the 2015 Nominating Committee.

Congregational Special Meetings

There were two special meetings of the congregation in 2015. A special meeting of the congregation was held on 05/31/2015 for the purpose of electing Ruling Elder Lyn Hill to fill the unexpired term of Ruling Elder George Huggins, and to hear a brief report on the results of the CAT Scan survey. A special meeting was held on 09/20/2015 for the purpose of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and for electing new officers for the coming 3-year term.

Elders and Deacons Term Completions

Ruling Elders Alison Dewey, Mike Welsh, Diane Wirono, George Huggins and Lyn Hill (filling G. Huggin's unexpired term), and Deacons Carol Wood, Jocelyn Callister, Jonathan Taylor, Sandy Champion, and Leah Eaton, completed their terms of office. We appreciate the dedicated service that they have provided to Saint Mark Presbyterian Church during their calling. (Elders Alison Dewey and Diane Wirono, and Deacon Sandy Champion were installed for a second term.)

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Hill
Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons is comprised of three classes with five new Deacons chosen each year and five leaving the board after their three-year term is up.

The Deacons serving for 2015 were: (The class dates reflect their final term)

2015: Jocelyn Callister, Sandy Champion, Leah Eaton, Jonathan Taylor and Carol Wood.

2016: Mariechen Bresler, Heather Karakashian, David Porter, Carey Stipe and Gina Vitale.

2017: Jeremy Fleisher, Jean Muir, Felicite Nkonabang, Guy Roberts and Antonia Sandoval.

The Deacons are assigned a portion of the congregation (divided alphabetically) to better care for the members of the church. We are honored by the call to serve and pray for our brothers and sisters.

The Deacons serve as the primary ushers for each service, helped by other member volunteers and youth helpers. This gives us a chance to see the members of the congregation on a regular basis, a great joy for us! We also help the Elders in serving Communion, which is always a treasured opportunity.

As we have done in previous years, we held an after-service luncheon for each Deacon team as an opportunity for members of the church to meet in a smaller and more casual format and for the Deacons to better get to know those in their team. We enjoy these times and hope to continue with similar kinds of events in the next year.

We also worked to organized group functions to better connect the congregants with the life of the church such as attendance at a Washington National's Baseball Game and assisting Local Mission with the Shelter Meals program.

The Deacons held 10 monthly meetings in 2015. We met jointly with the Elders of the Session to join in a meal together and some time of fellowship then met as separate entities with the support of Shelby or Roy as needed.

The Deacons served individually on many of the different ministries of Saint Mark and took an active role in making our Church the wonderful place to gather and worship that it continues to be, work we hope to be more involved with in the coming year.

Jocelyn Callister
2015 Moderator, Board of Deacons

The Session + Deacons 2016

Moderator/Pastor – Rev. Roy W. Howard
Associate Pastor – Rev. Shelby Etheridge Harasty
Clerk – Mary Casper
Moderator of Deacons – Jean Muir
Secretary of Deacons – Gina Vitale

Local mission – Mike Lutz + **Dorothy Alexander + Sandy Champion**

Finance – Michael Lai (Rachel Zutshi)

Global mission – Alison Dewey + **Felicite Nkonabang**

Christian Formation - Jennifer Carr + **Carey Stipe + Heather Karakashian**

Welcoming – Diane Wirono and Teddy Ferguson + **Bebel Delgado**

Nominating – Teddy Ferguson + Meisie Roberts (elected by congregation) + **Carey Stipe**

Personnel – Diane Wirono and Stephanie Laguna

Stewardship - Meisie Roberts + **Mariechen Breschler**

Property – Bill Merritt + **Jeremy Fleisher + Andy Keller**

Worship - Karl Kaufmann (Jane Karakashian) + **Guy Roberts + Gina Vitale**

Parish Life – Tina Manik (Amie Orr) + **Antonia Sandoval**

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Environmental Stewardship - Alison Bennett + **Amie Orr**

Planned Giving - Lee LaRoche

Memorial - Sarah Milholen

**

Parish Associate Bill May

(convener)

MISSION COMPASSION AND COMMITMENT

Local Mission Ministry

Local Mission Ministry (LMM) Mission Statement: *“...ensure that Saint Mark is well connected with its community; that it is widely recognized as a church serving those in need, as well as a center for spiritual leadership. Local mission programs, advocacy and use of its resources should focus on important social concerns that reflect the needs of the community; Saint Mark’s contribution should make a real difference in meeting these needs. As a result, Saint Mark will continue to build upon its legacy of “servant leadership” and forge even a stronger bond with the community while facilitating the personal and collective spiritual growth of the congregation.”*

Organization of LMM:

Leadership of the LMM in 2015 included:

- Local Mission Elder – Mary Casper
- Team to Award Grants - Leader: Ray Mountain
- Team for Shelter Week – Leader: Sandy Champion and Tina Moulton
- Additional team members - Dick Pavlin, Greg Carr, Kay Haynes, Bill Reinsch, Caroline Touchton, Carl Shea, Suzanne Lofhjelm

Examples of LMM Activities in 2015

2015 was a year filled with exciting projects and good work for our neighbors in need. We attempted to link Saint Mark members with opportunities for service for the local community.

Throughout the year, the first Sunday of the month was designated to be “First Food Sunday”. Non-perishable food items were donated by Saint Mark members and picked up by the Manna Food Center for distribution to their clients in Montgomery County.

In **April**, Saint Mark members volunteered for Rebuilding Together – a project that involved skilled labor to remodel the interior of a town house in Silver Spring. Team Leader John Casper organized the work of the volunteers from Saint Mark, Bethesda United Church of Christ and Holy Cross during the 8 weeks leading up to the National Rebuilding day, April 25. Caroline Touchton provided support as the Ambassador, interacting with the homeowner.

In **May**, Saint Mark participated in a fundraising tea for Rainbow Place, a seasonal women’s shelter that is housed at Rockville Presbyterian Church.

During **June**, a representative from Habitat for Humanity spoke to the congregation about opportunities to work at one of the two Re-Store locations and other Habitat projects in Montgomery County.

In **August**, with the leadership of the Kenereich and Haledjian families, Saint Mark members came together to donate several large boxes of school supplies for Interfaith Clothing Center to distribute to needy families in the Montgomery County. We collected backpacks, notebooks, binders,

pens/pencils, and other supplies, as well as monetary contributions. The program provides supplies to children in Montgomery County that are otherwise unable to afford them.

In **September**, Sandy Champion and Tina Moulton led Saint Mark's efforts in our annual Shelter Week benefitting the Wilkin's Avenue Women's Shelter in Rockville. Wilkin's Avenue is a 65-bed emergency shelter serving approximately 300 women each year. The program offers residents intensive case management and connects residents with housing, medical, and mental health services. Saint Mark volunteers provided breakfast, lunch and dinner for the women at the shelter.

In **October**, a group of local mission partners came to Saint Mark to share their opportunities for volunteer service.

For **Christmas**, LMM completed a coat drive on behalf of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH). MCCH provides solutions to end homelessness in Montgomery County. Their vision is to build a community where everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. New coats were donated to the residents living in their Seneca Heights program.

The Local Mission Ministry also supported several special projects over the course of the year:

- In 2015, a team of Saint Mark members once again had participated in Interfaith Work's **Friends-in-Action** support initiative which links a group of volunteers with a needy family in the community. The goal of the program is to help the family identify their strengths and develop attainable and manageable goals that guide them toward financial independence and personal well being.

Dean and Dorothy Hearn lead this team and can tell anyone about the interesting and diverse families we have helped over the course of 15 years. They continue to look for other Saint Mark members to participate in this initiative.

- Action In Montgomery's (AIM) Senior Issues Chair Dick Pavlin, along with Greg Carr and other LMM members, continue to advocate to restore funding for affordable housing and in 2015 initiated a new program for after-school tutoring. AIM is a non-partisan alliance of 30 congregations and neighborhood organizations in Montgomery County representing over 30,000 adults. AIM's stated goal is to develop local leadership to organize around creating a more just county.

Many thanks to all of the Saint Mark members that participated in service to our neighbors – either through the efforts of LMM or on their own. Putting faith into action by providing service to others is rewarding.

Local Mission Grants

Local Mission donated funds to a wide range of organizations whose missions reflect the values of Saint Mark and are working to positively affect the lives of those in need in Montgomery County:

Organization	Amount
Rebuilding Together Montgomery County	\$3000
Manna Food Center	\$1500 + 906.97 from reserve funds
Montgomery Housing Partnership	\$1500
Bethesda Help	\$1500
Bethesda Cares, Inc.	\$1750
A Wider Circle	\$500
Interfaith Works Friends in Action	\$5000
Interfaith Works Clothing Center	\$5000
Housing Unlimited	\$500
Interfaith Works Vocational Services	\$5000
Action in Montgomery	\$3000
Literacy Council of Montgomery County	\$500
Hearts and Homes for Youth	\$1500
ARC of Montgomery County	\$1000
Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless	\$1000
Housing Unlimited	\$500
Cornerstone	\$2000
Crossway Community	\$3000
Saint Mark Friends in Action	\$500
Family Services – KHI	\$3250 + 446.70 from Pentecost offering
Habitat for Humanity	\$1000
Miriam's Kitchen	\$500

We look forward to continuing our work in 2016 and urge all members of Saint Mark to support those in our community who need our assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Casper, Elder LMM

Global Mission Ministry

2015 Annual Report

The Global Mission Ministry (GMM) continues to work prayerfully to support Saint Mark's stated mission to "listen and respond to the needs of the world." "Global" in Global Mission Ministry is defined as everywhere outside of Montgomery County.

In 2015, GMM worked to answer God's call through contributing to humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees in the U.S. and abroad, Nepal earthquake relief, and Vanuatu cyclone relief. The ministry also financially supported the following entities for their global and domestic work:

- **Everytown for Gun Safety & Heeding God's Call**– To support both organizations' work for gun safety in the U.S.
- **Lithuania Christian College Scholarship** – To provide financial assistance to LCC students in need.
- **Sayariy Warmi Rise Up Women** – To provide financial assistance to young Bolivian women in need.
- **Congo Lotus Care** –To promote and provide pre-natal health care to Congolese women.
- **Reve Kandale** – To help build schools and improve school grounds for communities in The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- The communities of **Tchekos & Ngoro, Cameroon** – To support two Presbyterian congregations and a health clinic.
- **Bread for the World** – To support international and domestic hunger advocacy efforts.
- **New Story Leadership** - To support peace-making efforts between Palestinian and Israeli young adults.

GMM has identified four categories of giving to help be more deliberate and transparent about allocating the ministry's operating budget. These four categories, as noted in the below budget, are:

1. Disaster Relief
2. Saint Mark Member Led Projects with Global Reach
3. PCUSA Missionaries
4. Hunger-advocacy, mission, etc.

GMM donates to well-established financially transparent charities for disaster relief efforts, which meet critical needs and are often religious based organizations. The ministry has also chosen to support Saint Mark Member led projects with seed money for limited time periods. These organizations have Saint Mark member involvement in their leadership and provide GMM with an annual update on progress and experiences.

Additional Work of Global Mission

GMM organized the annual June letter writing campaign to support legislation aimed at curbing global hunger and again led the Global Communion Sunday celebration in October. The celebration featured an international pot-luck, singing and dancing performances, and fellowship with the Living Springs Community Church, a predominantly Filipino member church that worships at Saint Mark.

Global Mission's Financial Contributions

A detailed financial record of GMM's use of the 2015 operating budget is listed below. There was also \$2000 distributed through GMM outside of the operational budget to International Rescue Committee for their domestic work in Baltimore with Syrian refugees and their work in the border towns of Syria. The congregation also generously gave \$280 to the Peace Making Fund, which GMM supplemented by \$700 to donate to New Story Leadership for their focus on peace-making between Israel and Palestinian young adults. The above-mentioned donations are not reflected in the below 2015 operating budget.

2015 GMM Budget Activity			
To	Amount	When	Category
World Vision New Zealand (Vanuatu cyclone relief)	\$1,000	1-Apr-15	Disaster Relief
PCUSA Mission Workers Hinderliters	\$1,500	1-Mar-15	PCUSA Mission
LCC scholarship fund	\$1,000	1-Mar-15	Education
Bread for the World	\$1,000	1-Mar-15	Hunger-advocacy, mission
PDA Nepal Earthquake Relief	\$1,000	19-Apr-15	Disaster Relief
Subsidy to parish life for free trade coffee	\$280	19-Apr-15	Hunger-advocacy, mission
Oxfam Nepal Relief	\$1,000	6-May-15	Disaster Relief
Congo Lotus Care project DRC	\$1,000	14-Sep-15	SM members projects
Reve Kandale DRC	\$1,000	14-Sep-15	SM members projects
Tchekos & Ngoro Cameroon	\$500	14-Sep-15	SM members projects
Sayariy Warmi Rise Up Women Bolivia	\$1,000	14-Sep-15	Education
Doctors W/Out Borders - Syrian Refugees	\$1,000	14-Sep-15	Disaster Relief
Hearts W/ Haiti Calendars	\$300	14-Sep-15	Hunger-advocacy, mission, etc.
Everytown for Gun Safety	\$1,000	1-Nov-15	Education
New Story Leadership	\$700	1-Nov-15	Education
PCUSA Mission Workers Hinderliters	\$1,500	1-Nov-15	PCUSA Mission
Heeding God's Call	\$700	6-Dec-15	Hunger-advocacy, mission, etc.
PCUSA Mission Workers Parkers	\$520	6-Dec-15	PCUSA Mission
Total	\$16,000		
Budget remaining	\$0		

2016 and beyond

In 2016, the Global Mission Ministry Team will prayerfully consider our partnerships and our work. Through God's grace, may we work to improve our ways to help empower those who are weak and support those that are strong so that they may help others. Let us acknowledge the endless need in the world and may our prayers and financial assistance help those in need.

The Global Mission Ministry is blessed by the generosity of the people of Saint Mark. We take our responsibility seriously as we strive to hear God's call throughout the world. We thank the members of the Global Mission Ministry Team for their incredible and faithful service during 2015.

We extend a welcome invitation for you to join the Global Mission Ministry! The group typically meets after worship service on Spirit & Service Sundays, the first Sunday of each month. We hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Alison Dewey, Elder

Ellen Kiel, Convener

Finance Ministry Report

The Finance Ministry Team (FMT) is responsible for overseeing the financial health of Saint Mark. To that end, the FMT prepares the annual operating budget based on inputs from the Session, monitors incomes and expenditures throughout the year, and advises the Session on financial matters relating to the operations of various ministries.

The current FMT consist of the following Saint Mark members: Michael Lai (Elder), Rachel Zutshi (convener), Joe Piff, Angele Ahianyo, and Richard Ridge.

Declining pledge contributions and increased expenses, primarily for building maintenance, led to a 5% shortfall of income versus expenses in 2015. The difference was covered with church reserves. The loss of our most important building tenant at the end of 2015 will require significant budget reductions for most ministries in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Lai, Elder
Rachel Zutshi, Convener

Personnel Ministry Annual Report – 2015

The Personnel Ministry team includes the following members: Mike Lutz (Elder and convener) John Hagner, Walla Dempsey, Diane Wirono and Sharon Shoemaker with the Pastor as an ex officio member. Meetings were conducted via conference call or in person.

The Ministry facilitated performance reviews for all members of the staff in the fall of this year. This is the second year of annual reviews and the staff found it to be a productive exercise. Members of the Ministry spoke with several members of the church to get their perspective on the different staff members' performance, and those perspectives were considered as the Pastor, as the Head of Staff, provided feedback to our Associate Pastor, Music Director and Office Administrator. John Hagner and Diane Wirono provided the Pastor with feedback on his performance.

Roy Howard is in his 16th year of pastoral leadership for the church and continues to enjoy the support of the Session and the congregation. From a Personnel Ministry perspective the biggest event of the year for our pastor was Roy's sabbatical spent walking the Camino de Santiago, a 543 mile sojourn from St Jean Piet de Port in France to Santiago in Spain. The experience gave our Pastor the opportunity to disconnect from the day to day demands of leading our church and discern both his personal calling and the calling for Saint Mark. He returned to us refreshed and reenergized. The church provided a \$3,000 stipend to support Roy during his sabbatical.

Shelby Etheridge Harasty had her two year anniversary as Associate Pastor on August 1 of this year. The summer months were event-filled and taxing, as she assumed the leadership of the church during Roy's absence. In addition to Roy's duties she continued with her Associate Pastor responsibilities, including trips to Montreat and our annual Youth Retreat to Appalachia. And, in her spare time, she planned her wedding and was married shortly after Roy's return from sabbatical. Shelby's skills and abilities grew substantially as a result of successfully navigating the difficulties of being the sole pastor for a three month period.

Both our Pastor and Assistant Pastor receive high marks for their messages from the pulpit. The congregation appreciates and benefits from their preaching of the Word and general leadership of worship.

Jeff Doenges, our Music Director, had another successful year at Saint Mark. We have strong section leaders for our soprano, alto and bass sections, bringing added strength to our music program and enriching our worship. Jeff continues to select music that is appropriate for the size and capabilities of our choir, which receives many compliments from the members of our congregation.

Christina Stefanelli completed her first year as our Office Administrator. Roy and Shelby report that Christina is a good fit for the position and appears to have settled into her Saint Mark home comfortably.

Saint Mark is blessed with a productive and effective staff, for which we all give thanks.

The Personnel Ministry prayerfully approached the task of recommending an increase for our staff. The guidance from National Presbytery was for no increases. We, however, thought this was not appropriate for our staff as the church has sufficient resources to care for our staff and we feel the need to acknowledge the staff's good work and strong leadership. The Ministry recommended a 1% increase for the staff, plus a \$1,000 bonus for the Associate Pastor in recognition for her extraordinary efforts during Roy's sabbatical. The resulting increase to the Saint Mark payroll is approximately, \$7700 for the year. The Session supports the proposal and recommends it to the congregation for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Lutz for the Personnel Ministry

2015 Nominating Ministry Report

Karl Kaufmann, Mary Casper, Guy Roberts, Brian Hooker, Greg Carr, Amie Orr, Barbara Welsh

In May 2015, the Nominating Ministry Team nominated Lyn Hill to serve as Elder for the unexpired term of Elder George Huggins. George and his wife Kay moved to New Mexico in early June 2015. In September 2015, the Nominating Ministry Team nominated the following Elders and Deacons to serve in the Class of 2018:

ELDER:

Diane Wirono, Alison Dewey, Bill Merritt, Tina Manik

DEACON:

Andy Keller, Amie Orr, Dorothy Alexander, Bebel Delgado, Sandy Champion

All of these nominations were voted on during Congregational Meetings.

Mary Casper, Ruling Elder

Stewardship Ministry

Christian Stewardship is the deliberate giving of time, abilities, money and resources in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love and generosity to us. 'Responding to God's Generosity' has been the theme of the 2015 stewardship campaign.

Again, Session contributed to a brochure which was informative and illustrative of what Saint Mark is doing in our communities and abroad. It served to launch and encourage a prayerful preparation to 2016 pledges.

Members of our congregation shared on 'Why I Give to Saint Mark' over 4 Sundays. Their talks were eloquent and moving. Speaking from their hearts, they inspired the whole body to join them in giving generously to our church. These talks are available on our website, www.saintmarkpresby.org.

Previously, SMPC pledged \$561,300 for 2015. The actual amount received for 2015 was 94.82% or \$532,197.80. The total pledges received for 2016 is \$566,000. This is a generous response that grew out of your love and commitment to SMPC. Thank you all for responding to God's generosity through your giving.

With Gratitude,

Meisie Roberts, Elder

THE LEGACY FUND



The Saint Mark Legacy Fund – “The Legacy Continues” – grew out of the celebration of Saint Mark’s 50th Anniversary to finance the sanctuary renovation. The renovation cost approximately \$1.5 million (including expected interest and fees) and was completed and dedicated in May 2012. The first three-year capital campaign was created in 2011 and completed in May 2014. Pledges were \$751,795; \$708,173 was received or 94%. Pledges to the Legacy Continues II campaign are \$574,216

so far, and \$354,244 has been contributed as of December 31, 2015; \$114,224 during 2015. We are grateful for the faithful generosity of members and friends of Saint Mark.

Earth Care Activities 2015

At Saint Mark we believe in Everyday Stewardship. Stewardship is about making choices and what we do every day of our lives. It is more than giving money to the church. Therefore, the work we do as individuals and as a church to save God’s creation, our Earth, is stewardship of the environment. The following is a compilation of the activities accomplished this year. For more information on any of these activities or to join the Saint Mark Green Team, please contact Elder Alison Bennett at alison.bennett72@gmail.com.

- In January, at “Pizza and a Movie,” we showed 4 films: *Poisoned Waters*, *Coal Country*, *Food Matters*, and *Dirt! the Movie*.
- In February, we held a 4-week GROW class for adult Christian education titled, “Justice, Peace and Sustainability.”
- Eco Palms were purchased for Palm Sunday.
- We made promises following Pastor Howard’s annual Earth Day sermon in April. Here’s what I’m doing to help out the environment:
 1. Use only the water I need, reuse when possible.
 2. Buy locally, or grow your own! Reduce air pollution of transport.
 3. Learn about the native species and the negative effects of non-native plants.
 4. Plant native species; encourage insects and birds with favorite plants.
 5. Join a team in my community that removes non-native species.
 6. Reduce, reuse and recycle. Cut back on ‘stuff’ that ends up as waste.
 7. Commute without polluting.
 8. Save electricity.
 9. Test my home for radon.
 10. Spread the word to family and friends.

- We held a “Butterfly Garden” workday April 25 and continued to monitor the garden all summer.
- May 2, Conservation Montgomery conducted a class on tree care at Saint Mark. Participants were eager to learn about caring for trees at church and home.
- We held our annual Alternate Transportation Sunday on May 3.
- Roy led his annual Birder’s Walk for members in the spring.
- While Roy was on sabbatical, Alison preached a sermon with an environmental focus on June 14. The text was 2 Corinthians 5:6-17. Verse 17 is “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” She read from the Green Bible, reminding people about its existence and one example she used was the chrysalis and the butterfly.
- Through the auspices of Interfaith Power and Light, Saint Mark hosted a screening of “Merchants of Doubt” on October 18. This documentary looks at pundits-for-hire who present themselves as scientific authorities about topics like toxic chemicals, pharmaceuticals and climate change. Keeping the controversy alive by spreading doubt and confusion after a scientific consensus had been reached, was the basic strategy of those opposing action.
- In their fall series of studies on justice, the Saint Mark youth group highlighted environmental concerns as an important part of justice work.
- SMPC is serving Fair trade coffee thanks to a generous subsidy from Global Mission Ministry to ensure this practice. Of course we'll continue to ask members to help underwrite this practice. If you would like to contribute let Alison know.
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Environmental Ministries recertified Saint Mark as an Earth Care Congregation (ECC) through January 2016. After pledging to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of church life, each church reports on annual completed projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach in order to be recertified.
- Saint Mark also continues to participate in the National Capital Presbytery Earth Care Network, including activities to publicize NCP ECC member congregations and their efforts to encourage other congregations to become certified ECC.

Planned Giving Committee

Members: Lee LaRoche, Tom Champion, Joe Piff, Roy Howard, Pastor (ex officio).
Meisie Roberts, Stewardship Chair, was liaison to the Session in 2015.

Background: The Saint Mark Session established the Planned Giving Committee (PGC) 10/22/96. The PGC was charged with informing the congregation about planned giving in the context of the overall financial structure of Saint Mark Church. The Session approved the "Resolution for the Establishment of an Endowment Trust at the Saint Mark Presbyterian Church" 4/22/97. Effective 1/1/99 the Living Memorial Education Fund (LMEF) became part of the Saint Mark Endowment Trust, and was renamed the Endowed Education Fund (EEF).

Saint Mark Endowment Trust: The Trust holds special gifts, bequests, and life income gifts to the Church from donors' accumulated resources. It is a vehicle for long-term capital gifts that supplement, but do not replace, regular annual stewardship. The purpose of the Trust is to use these funds to expand and enrich the ministry and mission of the Church, locally, nationally, and globally, and establish a secure foundation for the work of future generations at Saint Mark.

The Trust is administered by the PGC and includes four separate funds: Worship, Education and Church Programs Endowment Fund (of which the Endowed Education Fund is a part); Church Missions Endowment Fund; Buildings and Grounds Endowment Fund; Unrestricted Endowment Fund. As of 12/31/15, the Endowed Education Fund had a balance of \$101,372, and the Church Missions Endowment Fund had a balance of \$25,523, after disbursing \$2,000 for refugee and resettlement work.

Grace and Gratitude - Bequests and Planned Gifts: The church has been blessed to receive generous contributions and bequests. These will be an enduring legacy, in remembering and celebrating members' and friends' deep interest and involvement in the work of the church.

Saint Mark is deeply grateful to the donors of funds, and those who have made future provision.
Charitable gift annuities -

Past: Received beneficial interest in annuity - \$10,524 in 2007.

Future: Two formally advised, face amount - \$110,000, residual charitable interest - \$56,541.

One informally advised, amount unknown.

Bequest - \$135,000.

Gifts, shared from inheritances - \$10,000, \$25,000. .

Known provision in will or trust - a number of members have informally advised of their plans and intentions.

Respectfully,
Lee La Roche, Chair

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Worship and Music Ministry

The goal of the Worship and Music Ministry Team is to support the pastors and Director of Music in leading the congregation in “the work of the people.” This includes preparing the sanctuary for worship each Sunday, making preparations for special services throughout the church year, ensuring that the table is ready when we celebrate communion, and ensuring that we have the resources we need to support making a joyful noise through music.

During the past year the ministry team has been working to broaden the opportunities to share in preparing for worship, particularly with respect to communion. Bill Merritt, who has faithfully led this work for many years, has assembled a core team to provide the elements and prepare the table. But there is plenty of room at the table for more hands to help through either baking bread or setting the table. Since Bill has been installed to active service on the Session and will be serving as the Property Ministry team, the need for more help here is especially important in the coming year. There are no special qualifications needed to serve in this way, so please consider joining in.

The music ministry continued to thrive over the past year. Marybeth Verchot has brought her gifts to the choir as alto section leader, and Wira Dwijati has joined the tenor section as a part of Saint Mark’s Emerging Leaders in Voice (ELVES) program helping local student singers develop. Though the choir has grown in 2015, there are still plenty of empty robes of all sizes waiting to be filled.

Looking ahead to 2016, the Worship and Music Ministry Team is always seeking new ways to help us all glorify God together as a worshipping community. Won’t you consider bringing your gifts and ideas and joining us in this work this year? Please contact Jane Karakashian, Karl Kaufmann, or any member of the ministry to learn more or give us your ideas and inspiration.

2015 Memorial Fund Annual Report

The members of the Memorial Fund Ministry are: Sarah Milholen, Convener (Member at Large), Jane Karakashian (Worship & Music Ministry), Tom Leuchtenburg (Property Ministry), Deanie Boteler (Memorial Garden Ministry), and Barbara Greenan (Member at Large).

The purpose of the committee is to fund projects that enhance the core values and ministries of Saint Mark. The criteria are: meet one-time request, have a tangible product, serve the needs of Saint Mark members, have no other funding, and honor the memory of those who have passed.

The 2015 opening balance for the Memorial Funds was \$10,532.21 and the closing balance was \$13,264.72. The 2015 Contributions were in memory of Margot Dibble, Louis Nunez, Gordon Hawk, Louray Huang, Amy Dawson, and Gene Newhouse. During 2015 the Memorial Fund Committee approved to fund a Saint Mark Welcoming Video for \$1785. You can see the series of videos on our website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Milholen
Convener

Christian Formation

Christian Formation strives to create opportunities for people of all ages to explore what it means to be a Christian, and learn and grow together as a community of faith. In 2015, Christian Formation witnessed the continued success of legacy programs and introduction of new opportunities to bring young families in the congregation together. These activities included:

- Sunday programs for children, youth, and adults (including those with special needs) from September through May.
 - The Saint Mark Sunday Morning Adult Forum continued to attract congregants of all ages with the exploration of topics including learning about scripture through sculpture; a discussion of Christian-Jewish relations and the history of Israel with Jewish faith leaders and local rabbis; a class on the sacraments for parents; end of life issues and death with dignity; systems peace and justice; and we closed out the year with an Advent Bible study led by Pastor Roy.
 - Children in the 1st-5th grades participated in the children's choir, under the leadership of Lee Hinkle.
 - Youth ministry activities for grades 6-12 such as: Bible studies and discussion groups, bowling and movie nights, cooking meals for Interfaith Works women's shelter, volunteering with Crossway Community, and fundraising for summer mission trips.
- In May 2015 we celebrated the confirmation of seven of our young people as they joined the church as adults. Two of them were baptized as well. The confirmation class met twice a month for prayer and study and went on a weekend retreat to Dewey Beach. They led worship and were confirmed on May 10. Pastor Shelby led this class along with seven confirmation mentors, adults in the congregation who were paired with each confirmand.
- One Room Church School for children ages 3 through 10 during the summer. This program, which was organized by Stephanie Lai and required the participation of adult and youth leaders from the congregation, gave children a chance to participate in the opening of the service with their families and learn about scripture together as a small group during the sermon.
- Also during the summer, 27 youth and nine adults participated in three different transformative trips: Appalachia Service Project (11 youth, four adult participants); Montreat Youth Conference (11 youth, three adult participants); and Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia (five youth, two adult participants).
- In August, Saint Mark hosted 22 children from the congregation and surrounding community for Vacation Bible School, which explored the topic of God's love through music, crafts, science, and recreation. The event was a great success, with more than seven adult and 12 youth volunteers from the congregation on hand throughout the week.

- At G-Force VBS, kids explored how to put their faith into action. In this mission-focused VBS, kids experienced God’s unstoppable love and discovered how to “fuel up” and move in and through life with God. The focus for the week was on Acts 17:28a, “In God we live and move and exist.”
- During the fall, Pastor Shelby led several conversations for parents on how to talk to children about baptism and communion.
- Faith in Pub(lic)—a monthly get together at a local restaurant in the evening launched in Fall 2014—continued to provide yet another opportunity for members of the congregation to gather, break bread, and discuss the Bible.
- In November, members of the congregation built care packages for Saint Markers in college as they entered the final weeks of their semester, complete with home-baked treats and handwritten notes.
- Other opportunities for adult education throughout the year included:
 - An environmental movie series led by Alison Bennett, focusing on topics such as clean energy, food, and water.
 - Several Bible studies led by the pastors, including a Bible study on Jonah in partnership with Beth-El Congregation’s members and rabbis.
 - A Lenten book study on Rowan Williams’ “Being Christian.”

COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY

Parish Life

Saint Mark Church is enduring and **Parish Life Ministry, PL, aims** to keep it that way!
PL is nothing more than SMPC members who regularly volunteer and all of you who participate in fellowship.

Our formal mission lists governance over...
Funeral Receptions & the Messenger - Bless Ellie!
Membership Directory
Deacons
The kitchen, its tools & the FOOD
Church staff/employee recognition
New Event Planning

But there may be more or less involved!

We strive with your contributions & donations to spend as little as possible on activities. The goal is always to make SMPC relevant, fun & participatory; but not to glorify our selves.

In 2015 events inspired or led by **PL** included:

Coffee Hour on Sundays
The Annual Meeting with meal & Youth led Souper Bowl fundraiser
The Joint World Communion International Potluck
The joyous Easter brunch (with our services in the SANCTUARY!!)
Pentecost celebration & outdoor Picnic
Lemonade on the Lawn (summers instead of coffee hour)
The Consecration Sunday Joint Brunch with Stewardship
Numerous lunches for prospective "new: members
A meal for those working all the services of Christmas eve.
Teddy Ferguson continued as our Elder and Elizabeth Bono (we miss her) as Convener with loyal members, Mariechen Bresler, June Colliia, Ellie Hagner, Kay Hanes, Carol & Les Henig, Lyn Hill, Dreaama Laroche, Tonya Lee, Lucy Leuchterburg, Karen Prelosky, Kathy O'Brien, Dorothy Alexander, Barbara & Michael Welsh & Carol Wood. SMPC welcomed new members: Carmen Alexander and Jessie Devlin and they chose **PL** for their Ministry.

Today the design, set up and staffing of the Annual Report was supported by all of the above and **You.**

In closing thanks to frequent volunteers:

Meisie & Guy Roberts, Claudia Howard, Phyllis Norrie, Champion family; Sarah Milholen, Mary & George Casper, Stephanie Lai, the Kaufmanns, Jane Karakashian, The Ramm family, Bebel Delgado, Ellen Kiel, Nancy Shea, Alison Dewey, Mitt & Kathy Johnson, Tamra Hutton, Angeline Butler; Gina Vitale, Carey Stipe,

Many thanks!

Teddy Ferguson

Welcoming Ministry 2015

Welcoming Ministry is responsible for advertising and other forms of outreach activities that will increase the visibility of Saint Mark Church in the community, for the website, for organizing and carrying out effective means of welcoming visitors to Saint Mark, for providing a welcoming and nurturing environment for new and prospective members, and for overseeing the administrative aspects of inquirers' and new member classes.

During 2015, ruling elders Diane Wirono and Stephanie Laguna led the Welcoming Ministry with the faithful service of Alison Bennett.

In 2015, Welcoming Ministry continued many successful activities and implemented new ones to reach out to the community and to support visitors and new members.

- We installed a guest register book on a podium in the narthex of the sanctuary, allowing visitors to register contact information (and we still use Friendship Registers!)
- Secured funding in March through the Memorial Fund to support production of seven new videos, including one new welcoming video and six additional videos, each focusing on one of our core values. The videos were intended to introduce Saint Mark to a broader audience and to effectively communicate who we are through our core values. All videos were completed and posted on the Saint Mark website.
- For Easter we sent out 5000 color postcards containing information about worship services and a map to residents of our community. We also displayed a large banner for the holiday in the atrium, visible to users of our education rooms during the week.
- We continued to take photos of all new members that were displayed in the atrium for our members to see, familiarizing them with new faces in the Saint Mark family.
- We helped oversee content on the Saint Mark website: saintmarkpresby.org, ensuring information is correct and current
- We continued using and updating Instant Church Directory, a secure photo/contact information directory app available for download onto the Internet and onto mobile devices for our members
- We continued to distribute Welcome folders to visitors. Included in these folders on display in the narthex of the sanctuary and the atrium of the education building are a letter of welcome from Roy, a current copy of *These Days* devotional magazine, our Welcome booklet, our trifold Discipleship brochure, Roy's and Shelby's business cards, and a pen imprinted with Saint Mark contact information
- For Advent, we sent out 5500 outreach Christmas postcards to neighbors and members of the community, and displayed a banner in the atrium, visible to our weekday guests, as well as to members.
- In December we completed the redesign of Saint Mark's Welcome booklet for visitors and newcomers, containing information about our staff, core values, schedules, Christian education, local and global missions, and church history
- Very special thanks to former convener Alison Bennett, for her dedicated continued guidance and input to our ministry team and Christina Stefanelli for her consistent help with our many lists, folders, packets and brochures!

2015 New Members:

May 3: Gail Dufek, Erik Laurila, Jack & Mary Anne Lindemuth, Lindsay & Owen McGarity (and Connor)

May 10: Estelle Casper, Rhiannon Hill, Lindsay Hutton, Timothy Manik, Melanie Mputu, Arthur Tang, Jeremiah Whitney

December 13: Faye Frankfort

Welcoming Ministry is committed to growth in our pursuit to live out Saint Mark's mission which invites *everyone* to worship with us and Come Alive! We always welcome new team members and ideas, and look forward to the addition of ruling elder Teddy Ferguson and deacon Bebel Delgado in 2016! If *you* are interested in supporting our ministry (and there are so many ways, even from the comfort of home...) please contact us: dianewirono@me.com, or teddyferguson1@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wirono,
ruling elder

2015 Property Ministry Report

The Property Ministry is responsible for the physical assets of the church which include our buildings, equipment and grounds. The primary purpose of the Property Ministry is to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of our facilities and anyone visiting them. Our goal is to provide a safe, welcoming, hospitable, attractive and comfortable environment for worship, Christian education, fellowship, group meetings and special events for Saint Mark as well as for the use and rental of our facilities by outside community organizations.

2015 Property Ministry Improvements & Initiatives:

- 2015 was a busy year for the Property Ministry. Major projects included:
 - ✓ Continued maintenance of Education Building's HVAC & Fire Suppression (i.e., sprinkler) System;
 - ✓ Eventual overhaul of the Fire-Suppression in the Fellowship Hall, as well as repainting Fellowship Hall's ceilings & walls from work damage.
 - ✓ Continued maintenance of our property's expansive tree canopy & removal of numerous dead trees.
 - ✓ Removal of hazardous river rock along both sides of the path to the Sanctuary & creation of retaining wall.
 - ✓ Repaving of decaying sidewalk outside kitchen door (on west side of building)
 - ✓ Replaced existing cleaning service with new service.
 - ✓ Ongoing investigation of cell phone tower located on church property. *(Please note that it has been determined that there is not sufficient space anywhere on the church property to build an access-road required for a cell phone tower, so the issue of whether or not our church could accommodate a tower for rental fees has now been closed.)*
- We continue to work closely with Ron Wolfe, our Property Manager, who manages the daily needs of the facility as well addresses a variety of special projects. Ron has also taken on the responsibility of overseeing the cleaning service.

2015 Property Ministry Expenses:

Due to the constant maintenance of --and capital improvements to-- the Saint Mark facilities, 2015 budget pressures for the Property Ministry were high. Our 2015 Property budget was \$159,000, and we actually spent close to \$171,000, for an overage of \$11,000. Property also completely depleted the remaining savings in its reserves, so the balance in the Property Ministry's Reserves is now zero.

- The majority of the budget overage was due to the overhaul of the Fellowship Halls' Fire Suppression system which cost nearly \$42,000.
- Before the overhaul, we had spent close to \$10,000 on maintenance of the Fire Suppression System in the Fellowship Hall which is what finally prompted the need for a more permanent solution.
- Spent over \$15,000 on HVAC maintenance work.
- Replacement & upgrade of lighting in Sanctuary.
- The Property overage (the third in as many years) was drawn from the Property Reserves account, which has now been depleted to zero.

Property Ministry Challenges & Opportunities for 2016:

Moving into 2015 and beyond, we must realize that our facilities, primarily the Education Building, will need continued increased maintenance & capital improvements as they continue to age. As such, the Finance Ministry has recognized the need to increase our 2016 budget to \$170,000 to meet both foreseen & unforeseen demands. Additionally, the loss of our sister congregation, Living Springs, who recently purchased their own property, means the loss of an additional \$20,000 in income every year. It is imperative that we continue to recognize the need to maintain our facilities as they serve as the literal & spiritual 'home bases' for Saint Mark's work not only for our congregation but for the myriad communities we serve.

To that end, we must consider the following:

- With Property's Reserves at zero dollars, the church must find alternative and additional ways to fund its facilities' expenses beyond its current operating budget so it is imperative we locate another renter. Session members and the pastors are currently meeting with new churches to fill the loss of Living Springs.
- The Property Ministry must raise the rental rates with our current tenants to be commensurate with other private rental rates in the Bethesda/Rockville area.
- Session should continue to apply a portion of our Church's internal revenue funds to the Building Reserves to account for the various organizations who use our facilities as part of St. Mark's "local mission work."

- 2016 Property Issues, Concerns, & Aspirations include, but are not limited to:
 - Exploring genuine revenue opportunities (e.g., sister congregation, daycare, or school) for our Education Building;
 - Working with outside legal counsel to navigate the for-profit/non-profit tax Implications of welcoming alternative revenue streams.
 - Continued pursuit of new energy-savings opportunities for Sanctuary & Education Bldg.
 - Major cosmetic & physical overhaul of our Kitchen due to wear-and-tear;
 - Continued maintenance of our tree canopy;
 - Bracing for the real prospect that our HVAC is nearing the end of its lifespan & will need to be replaced & how we would pay for this;
 - Replacing carpets on first floor of Education Building (i.e., Pastors' office, Parlor, & Music Room);
 - Working to establish a monthly or quarterly "Saint Mark Day" to coordinate volunteers for cleaning, organizing & special projects such as Spring and Fall ground clean up;
 - Focus on what more the Property Ministry Team can do to facilitate the learning & teaching of God's word in our space.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Welsh,
Elder Property Ministry

Memorial Garden Ministry

No report submitted

**NEW BUSINESS
Balance Sheet**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1111 · Eagle Bank General Fund (General Fund)	290,233.63
1112 · Eagle Bank LLC-SR account	126,591.19
1130 · Petty Cash	81.41

Total Checking/Savings	416,906.23
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Total Current

Assets	416,906.23
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Other Assets

1246 · Eagle MM HseSale(on-going at 1%)	51,265.73
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Total Other Assets	51,265.73
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TOTAL ASSETS

468,171.96

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2001 · Eagle Bank Construction Loan	278,735.12
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2200 · Designated Payments & Receipts	
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2218 · Publctns & Wrshp	690.30
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2220 · Specified Contrib	775.47
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22201 · Specif Contrib-Church Retreats	-244.80
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2242 · Global Mission	
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224206 · Haiti Outreach Ministry	
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2242061 · Haiti Fund	280.00
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Total 224206 · Haiti Outreach Ministry	280.00
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2242066 · LCC Int'l University Scholarshi	1,935.00
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2242 · Global Mission - Other	161.25
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Total 2242 · Global Mission	2,376.25
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2246 · Michelle Miller Memorial Fund	100.00
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2263 · Adult Fellowship	
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226304 · Fellowship Events (For Receipts & Payments)	1,493.27
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Total 2263 · Adult Fellowship	1,493.27
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2267 · Youth Mission Trips	3,033.38
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2268 · Souper Bowl of Caring	981.13
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Total 2200 · Designated Payments & Receipts	9,205.00
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2210 · Special Offering Fd Balances	
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2214 · Children's Offering	380.60
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Total 2210 · Special Offering Fd Balances	380.60
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2400 · Employee Fund Balances	
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2273 · Minister's Cont Ed Cum	465.97
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Total 2400 · Employee Fund Balances	465.97
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2500 · Other Liabilities	
2215 · New Year Pledges Received '11	21,150.00
Total 2500 · Other Liabilities	<u>21,150.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>309,936.69</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>309,936.69</u>
Total Liabilities	309,936.69
Equity	
3001 · General Fund Balances	177,032.86
	-
3055 Building Replacement	393,141.13
3005 · Saint Mark House Mission	51,265.73
3010 · Staff Housing Reserve (Reserve Account for loan fund)	50,000.00
3012 · Estate Gift	4,319.66
3021 · Mission	25,523.54
30211 · Mission Interest	949.37
3022 · Education - Restricted	75,082.37
3024 · Education - Unrestricted	26,289.79
3030 · Scotland Scholar	1,715.00
3032 · Designated Contributions Funds (Primary Account)	
303201 · Library Fund	2,567.72
303202 · Memorial Fund (Contributions & Payments)	13,264.72
303203 · Memorial Garden Fund (Contributions & Payments)	18,594.01
303204 · Pastor's Emergency Mission Fund (Contributions & Payments)	2,495.66
303205 · SM Lecture & Special Events Fd (Contributions & Payments)	<u>2,529.88</u>
Total 3032 · Designated Contributions Funds (Primary Account)	39,451.99
3050 · Bldg & Grnd Reserves	
30501 · Geraniums	<u>303.83</u>
Total 3050 · Bldg & Grnd Reserves	303.83
3060 · Kitchen Reserve	5,587.81
3070 · Furnishings Reserve	2,892.31
Net Income	<u>90,962.14</u>
Total Equity	<u>158,235.27</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>468,171.96</u>

	<u>2016 budget – no change</u>	<u>2015 budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income			
4010 · Pledge Collections	565,812.00	561,300.00	4,512.00
4010 · Pledge Collections			
Less: 5% for pledges not collected	(25,535.10)	(27,465.00)	1,929.90
4014 · Per Capita Contribution - congr	4,125.00	4,125.00	0.00
4020 · Prior Year Pledges	1,000.00	8,000.00	-7,000.00
4030 · Loose Collections	24,000.00	22,000.00	2,000.00
4050 · Building Use/Service Income	35,000.00	50,000.00	-15,000.00
4060 · Interest on Investments	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00
4070 St Mark internal funds	7,500.00	20,350.00	-12,850.00
Total Income	611,901.90	644,310.00	-32,408.10
Expense			
5100 · Parish Life Ministry	800.00	1,000.00	-200.00
Health & Wellness Ministry	280.00	350.00	-70.00
5200 · Education Ministry	6,880.00	8,600.00	-1,720.00
5300 · Worship and Music	11,660.00	14,575.00	-2,915.00
6100 · Local Mission	30,000.00 *	45,000.00	-15,000.00
61000: Youth Mission	2,800.00 *	3,500.00	-700.00
6200 · Global Mission	4,000.00 *	16,000.00	-12,000.00
6300 · Welcoming & Community Outreach	1,750.00	4,550.00	-2,800.00
7000 · Presbytery Mission	1,000.00	3,500.00	-2,500.00
8000 · Personnel	347,889.13	340,175.00	7,714.13
8100 · Finance Ministry	31,042.77	30,830.50	212.27
8300 · Property Ministry	160,000.00	159,229.50	770.50
8390 · AST (Administrative Support)	12,800.00	16,000.00	-3,200.00
8400 · Stewardship Ministry	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Total Expense	611,901.90	644,310.00	-32,408.10
	0.00	0.00	0.00

* **Balance Sheet Account 3021 Mission and Account 30211 Mission Interest have been allocated for use by Local Mission, Youth Mission and Global Mission for 2016. In addition to the budget, Local Mission has an additional \$11,736.45 for use in 2016. Global Mission has an additional \$9,736.45 for use in 2016. Youth Mission has an additional \$5,000 for use in 2016**

**Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**

	26-Local Program			
	Jan - Dec 15	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
4010 · Pledge Collections	532,197.80	561,300.00	-29,102.20	94.82%
40101 · 5% less for pledges not rec'd	0.00	-27,465.00	27,465.00	0.0%
4014 · Per Capita Contribution - congr	4,393.90	4,125.00	268.90	106.52%
4020 · Prior Year Pledges	892.00	8,000.00	-7,108.00	11.15%
4030 · Loose Collections	24,289.42	22,000.00	2,289.42	110.41%
4050 · Building Use/Service Income	49,871.00	50,000.00	-129.00	99.74%
4060 · Interest on Investments	6,283.38	6,000.00	283.38	104.72%
4070 · Saint Mark Internal Funds	0.00	20,350.00	-20,350.00	0.0%
Total Income	<u>617,927.50</u>	<u>644,310.00</u>	<u>-26,382.50</u>	<u>95.91%</u>
	617,927.50	644,310.00	-26,382.50	95.91%
Expense				
5100 · Parish Life Ministry	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.0%
5180 · Health & Wellness Ministry	350.00	350.00	0.00	100.0%
5200 · Education Ministry	8,124.45	8,600.00	-475.55	94.47%
5300 · Worship and Music	14,802.47	14,575.00	227.47	101.56%
6100 · Local Mission	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	100.0%
6101 · Youth Mission	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	100.0%
6200 · Global Mission	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	100.0%
6300 · Welcoming & Community Outreach	4,516.00	4,550.00	-34.00	99.25%
7000 · Other Outreach	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	100.0%
8000 · Personnel	336,092.15	340,175.00	-4,082.85	98.8%
8100 · Finance Ministry	30,163.26	30,830.50	-667.24	97.84%
8300 · Property Ministry	170,716.70	159,229.50	11,487.20	107.21%
8390 · AST (Administrative Support)	18,154.75	16,000.00	2,154.75	113.47%
8400 · Stewardship Ministry	963.20	1,000.00	-36.80	96.32%
Total Expense	<u>652,882.98</u>	<u>644,310.00</u>	<u>8,572.98</u>	<u>101.33%</u>
	<u>-34,955.48</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-34,955.48</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

2016 Terms of Call

Pastor and Moderator of Session

Salary/Housing	\$94,378
BOP	\$34,448
Employers' Contribution to SECA	\$7,220
Continuing Education Allowance	\$1,000
Automobile Allowance	\$1,500
Book Allowance	\$500
Expense Allowance	\$500
Total Package	\$139,545

Associate Pastor

Salary/Housing	\$66,723
BOP	\$24,354
Employers' Contribution to SECA	\$5,104
Continuing Education Allowance	\$1,000
Automobile Allowance	\$1,000
Book Allowance	\$500
Expense Allowance	\$500
Bonus	\$1,000
Total Package	\$100,181