



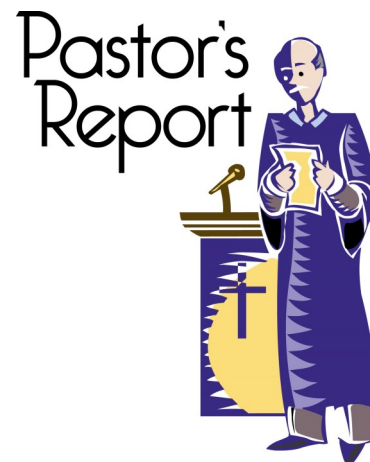
St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**2018 ANNUAL
REPORTS**

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

In the opening verses of St. Paul's letter to Philemon, his dear friend and co-worker, we read:

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. (Philemon 1:4-7)



St. Paul's relationship with Philemon as a co-worker in mission captures my sense of the relationship that we share as pastor and people of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Ministry with you is a joy.

As many of you are aware, St. Mark's provided a nurturing church home for me during my early years growing up in Asheville. Since that time, I have followed with great interest your growth in grace. It was therefore with eager anticipation of experiencing your ministry first hand that I accepted and your council affirmed Bishop Smith's invitation to serve as your interim senior pastor. For many years your former pastor Chris Webb told me about his love of serving Jesus alongside you. Through my life and ministry with you since Pastor Chris' departure, I have experienced your love and appreciation for his ministry as well.

Not long ago a St. Mark's disciple asked me, "Well, what do you think of us?" I responded with the following descriptors:

**Hospitality thrives + Leadership abounds + Vision grows + Worship enriches
Community ministry thrives + Racial Healing continues + Generosity abounds**

Seven months into our life together I'm pleased to report that I can now link specific examples with each of these characteristics:

Hospitality thrives among St. Mark's disciples. A more formal relationship with our Living Waters, Cherokee companions in Christ is underway. Visitors tell me how warmly they are received upon visiting St. Mark's.

St. Mark's **leadership**—whether official (council, officers, executive committee, program committees) or more informal—embodies enthusiasm and dedication that ranks far above average. The same goes for St. Mark's excellent staff as well as our seven-member Call Committee.

Vision 20/20 provides a compass for our ministry. Bishop Smith led an open meeting with our disciples to explore and sharpen our vision of God's preferred future for St. Mark's.

Regular Sunday morning **worship**, occasional special services linked to church year festivals, and our ecumenical midweek services during Advent as well as World Communion Sunday centers us in Word and Sacrament.

Examples of St. Mark's **community ministry** embrace the poor through regular participation with ABCCM, hosting Asheville's Hunger Walk, providing quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and a multitude of other Christian action offerings.

Sharing our building facilities with the community continues with many groups and promises to be expanded with the Loving Neighbors Initiative, providing early childhood education and care for disadvantaged young children.

Racial Healing initiatives bless us with a variety of educational and outreach experiences.

Healthy **stewardship** of financial resources supports our synod and church wide partners as well our *Rooted in Faith* building renovations for which we expect to break ground in 2019.

Conflict comes in many packages. **Healthy congregations** like St. Mark's experience conflict as a way of life and discover ways to hold in tension diverse opinions.

As we move into 2019, I pray for St. Mark's during this time of transition that will include welcoming the pastor God is preparing to shepherd St. Mark's in its next season. Thank you for making Christ known, and thank you for welcoming me into your community of faith!

Pastor Trexler

MEMBERSHIP STATICS FOR 2018

MEMBERSHIP	2017	2018
Baptized	409	404
Confirmed	365	352
Average Sunday worship attendance	173	172



GAINS

New Members—By baptism: 3

Gage Hampton	Annalise Roe
Frankie Rosario Leal-Kopp	

New Members—By transfer/affirmation of faith: 23

James Aydelotte	Linda Kinsinger	Marilyn Turner
Eloise Brinson	Ray & Beryl Mack	
Norman & Patricia Bumby	Gail McKitterick	
Mark & Dana Fitzsimmons	Thomas & Stella Pagan	
Sharon Godfrey	Ruth Smith & Tommy, Theo and Tal Ransdell	
Gerri Hill	Cat Slater	
Alva Holk	Carol & Karl Sturm	

LOSSES

By death: 4

Alva Holk	John Rauschenberger
Dot Holzworth	Dorothy Trexler

By transfer: 3

Christine Kidd	Chris & Janine Webb
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Other reasons (by request/inactive): 21

Cheryl Cawley	David Moore	Hudson Schneider
Heidi Cole	Ryan Mott	Lillian Schneider
Linda Cosaboom	Simon Ray	Sean Schneider
Evan Flanders	Roscoe Reeves	Vincent Schneider
Kirk Johnson	Thomas Rice	Rick Smith
Martha Johnson	Diane Saccone	Karl Smithson
Jonathan Kittel	Elizabeth Schneider	

EVENTS

Confirmation celebration:

Zachary Hutson	Nicholas Mueller
Torin Linton	Aaron Neighbors

Marriage/Weddings:

Ed Malkin & Linda Palazzolo	Al Seale & Donna Macon
Shelby Montgomery & Joseph Robinson	

Funeral/Memorial Services:

Dot Holzworth	Dorothy Trexler
John Rauschenberger	John Yoder

**2018 St. Mark's Lutheran Church Ministry Team Highlights—
Created by Eve Kindly, 2018 Council President
Read reports from each team for more details and information**



Benevolent Foundation

Assisted with creation of new gift policy.
Rewrote governing documents.
Increased distribution percentage from Endowment Fund.

Building

Exterior renovations, waterproofing, and flat roof repair are finished and the last invoice for \$566,058 has been paid to Western Specialty Contractors. (Contract was for \$ 568,000.)
Interior renovations are in final stages of preparation for completed plans, drawings, and bids. Building team is meeting regularly with architect (John Yurko) to clarify details as they arise.

When finished, we will have:

- Renovated church office wing with sufficient office space for all staff that will provide optimal accessibility and security
- 5 handicapped accessible and renovated restrooms – family restroom in office wing; two restrooms in commons, each with two stalls and child-changing tables; two restrooms opposite columbarium adjacent to Faith Formation classrooms, each with a shower.
- Childcare space that will meet code for quality, licensable, childcare program
- Adult Faith Formation classroom with media upgrades as in library.
- Childcare Director's office space
- Fellowship space adjacent to columbarium (storage in one end)
- Storage cabinets in hallway adjacent to and inside Adult Faith Formation Classroom
- Property Workshop

Christian Action

Giving Tree for 2018 very successful.
400 Tooth savers kits assembled and delivered to ABCCM's medical ministry.
Successful blood drive held (in the future, it's suggested to coordinate more with American Red Cross to learn of those who sign up who aren't church members).
Sponsored Andrew Webb through Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM).
Continued ABCCM In-Food Gathering throughout the year.
Asheville/Buncombe CROP Walk raised \$19,000.
And the list goes on and on and on....

Evangelism & Hospitality

Studied the book "Radical Welcome" at most meetings.
Participated in the Ministry Fair.
Followed-up with inactive members.
Developed and conducted a series of five discipleship classes on "Finding the Evangelist Inside You."
Developed a job description for an expanded role of New Member Sponsor.
Identified pew neighborhood ministry and introduced it to the congregation.
Conducted two new member classes.
Produced a new, online, photo directory.
Sponsored Halloween Party and "Luther" movie.

Faith Formation

Increased participation in Adult Faith Formation classes

Ministry Teams active in leading and facilitating Adult Faith Formation classes

3 well attended Intergenerational events

Celebrated the Confirmation of 4 young men

Current need: Nursery Attendants

The Nursery is looking for loving people to love and care for the youngest among us during worship and Faith Formation. This is a wonderful and important ministry that St. Mark's is able to offer and support parents with young children, but need the help and support of members to continue. Please speak with Deacon Katie or Ginger Dixon if you are interested in serving in the Nursery.

Fellowship/LMIM/WELCA

LMIM

Interfaith House was completed.

Continued monthly breakfast fellowship meetings.

Continued the Thursday Lunch bunch every third Thursday.

Three fishing outings.

Began monthly fellowship meetings at Happy Hill Restaurant in September.

Fellowship

Fellowship team was busy with lots of events and activities throughout the year.

Hosted Pastor Webb's send-off successfully!

In the future, there should be conversation about what congregation desires from Lutheridge Sunday.

WELCA

Provided dinner at Steadfast House

Partnered with Men of St. Mark's and the Kairos Prison Ministry to present fundraiser for weekend opportunity for inmates of Craggy Prison.

Participated in Manna Food Day

Enjoyed summer picnic for all women of the church and their families.

Finance

Church insurance carrier was changed in 2018 resulting in the same level of coverage, but at a cost of approximately \$1,700 less per year.

Continued to monitor the church's expenses since the approved 2018 budget was in a deficit position of approximately \$30,000. Due to the diligence of each ministry team, as of October, we are showing a small surplus.

Participated in the Ministry Fair.

Performed a detailed review of Designated Funds to clean up inactive funds.

Implemented most 2016 audit recommendations and responded to 2017 audit findings with plans to remedy the findings.

Went "green" by eliminating the printing of mid-year contribution statements. Mid-year statements are now made available my request only. Year-end statements will continue to be printed.

Prepared and presented to Council for approval the 2019 budget.

Long Range Planning

During the past year, 3 new members were added to the Long Range Planning team: Vickie Hauser, Dave Epley, and Shelby Gonzales. Those who continued to serve on Long Range Planning team were Ken Clark, Mark Fritch, and Jenny Simmons. The team continued to track the goals and objectives of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. We hosted 2 congregation updates between services. One in May and one in August. The team will host another update within the first quarter of 2019.

Personnel

Personnel Committee provided their guidance and expertise with the following initiatives: creation of Ministry Coordinator position, selection of new Ministry Coordinator, revisions of the Personnel Handbook, and updates to various Position Descriptions. In addition, the Committee continues to provide support to the SMLC staff while a new Sr. Pastor is selected.

Property

Supported to its conclusion, the water intrusion abatement project (including 100 tuck pointing, and moisture barriers under all capstones on all parapet walls. Removed and replaced landscaping plants damaged in the process. Repaired all interior walls damaged by the water intrusion.
Repaired/replaced all things broken. (The list is long.)
Reconfigured robe racks in sacristy.
Supported and set up for all worship services, festival Sundays, healing services, dramas, dinners, the ministry fair and all congregational events.
Ordered/installed ice maker in new kitchen refrigerator.
Installed new TV in youth room.
Re-adjusted pastors' archive wall and prepared additional spaces.
Built shelf units in the Fellowship Hall closets for materials storage from the "Way Back" closet being dedicated to the nursery area.
Updated all First Aid kits.
Repaired floor tiles and re-painted men's room. Other painting as needed.
Straightened/repared gate to Chiavaras parking lot bent in half by bears.
Added "No Trespassing" signage.
Loaded quilts and kits for LWR.
Installed new grease trap, lines and two clean-outs for kitchen plumbing lines.

Racial Healing

Conducted "Journey away from Racism" faith formation 4 week class that included three sessions with Father Jim Abbott of Christians for a United Community, and viewing and discussion of the film, "Traces of the Trade, a Story from the Deep North". Sessions were well attended.

A joint Celebration was planned and conducted together with WNC BF on June 23. More than twenty parishioners and staff from St. Marks and an equal number from WNC BF attended, as well as more than 60 children. Games, food, bouncy houses, snow cones and incredible fellowship. It was a totally joyful and wonderful experience!

Eight members of the team participated in a pilgrimage to the National Memorial/Museum of Peace and Justice, at the invitation of First Congregational UCC. At least four different faith communities were represented. The memorial/museum experience was deeply spiritual and emotional, but left visitors with a sense of peace and forgiveness.

In September held a Unity Service with WNC Baptist Fellowship, then completed a facilitated review of the Unity Service/planning process with the joint planning committees of WNC BF and St. Mark's, with Tyrone Greenlee and Father Jim Abbott. Scheduled next year's event (JUNE 2, 2019) in conjunction with St. Mark's W&M Team and Staff.

18 St. Mark's members and 3 guests from First Congregational UCC participated in a Hood Huggers tour of Asheville, to develop a better understanding of local African American history, landmarks, and how we might do a better job together of planning for a future free of racism.

We continue to deepen our relationship with our brothers and sisters from WNC Baptist Fellowship.

Stewardship

Thank you for supporting the activities of this congregation.

Stewardship for All Seasons 2019 focus – generosity and the act of faith involved in tithing.

Consecration Sunday was November 4th.

The season for stewardship has no beginning and no ending, just a chance annually (or more often as needed) to pray, reflect and respond with gratitude.

We give because God provides all we need; we give back because of God's love in our lives

Worship & Music

Special Passion service held

Artisan series services held during Lent

Debut of foot washing for Maundy Thursday

Assisting in Pastoral transition

Youth Ministry

Increased number of active Youth (average about 12 per event/activity)

ELCA Youth Gathering Trip to Houston, TX

Preparing to attend the NC Synod Lutheran Youth Organization's Assembly with middle and high school students in February

VICAR MATT HOFFMAN

FROM THE



Worship

- *Preached 6 times at St. Mark's, 9 times at Shepherd of the Hills
- *Participate in 8 Monthly Healing Services (preached at 3)
- *Led worship as Assisting Minister & Vicar/Deacon Role
- *Active participant & preacher at Shepherd of Hills in Sylva
- *Planned two dinner church-style worship opportunities, one at St. Mark's
- *Participated in various Lenten, Advent, Christmas, & Holy Week worship
- *Took part in 4 funeral services for members of both congregations
- *Provided pastoral care to 10+ congregants from both congregations
- *Attend Weekly Staff Meetings at St. Mark's
- *Worked on skill, confidence in chanting & singing with Cantor David

Outreach

- *Active participant on Evangelism & Hospitality Team
- *Led a E&H Team book study on Stephanie Spellers, "Radical Welcome"
- *Accompanied St. Mark's Youth to National Youth Gathering in Houston
- *Helped organized and lead Lutheran Campus Ministry at Western Carolina University, including weekly Monday meetings during the semester and one-on-one meetings with students on campus
- *Held weekly office hours at both congregations (M in Sylva; W in Asheville)

Learning

- *Helped lead High/Middle Sunday School & Confirmation Classes
- *Occasional participant in adult faith formation classes
- *Helped with Vacation Bible School
- *Led Evangelism Team in a successful faith formation class (5 weeks)
- *Bi-weekly supervision with Pr. Rosemary, Monthly Check-ins with Pr. Webb & Pr. Trexler at St. Mark's
- *Took part in Synod Convocation
- *Met regularly with Vicar Committee, Local Vicar Group

Fellowship

- *Active participant in fellowship activities, including Wednesday workday lunches & potlucks/events at St. Mark's & Shepherd of the Hills
- *Participated in Fellowship team various outreach & youth events
- *Participant in numerous young adult events
- *Development of collegial, friendly relationships with staff, congregants

YOUTH MINISTRY



St. Mark's Youth Group gathers every other week through the year, usually on Sunday afternoons. This group of 6th-12th graders enjoys time together serving their community, growing in faith, and strengthening relationships with each other and their congregation.

Well Played Board Game Cafe – The Youth Group enjoyed an afternoon of fun at Well Played, a board game café in downtown Asheville. The Youth learned new games and reconnected after time away at Christmas Break. (January)

Souper Bowl of Caring – The Youth Group collected food items and cash donations to support ABCCM's crisis center. For this annual food drive, Youth place bags in the pews, sort, and count donations. (February)

40 Days, 40 Envelopes – The Youth Group raised money to attend the National Youth Gathering by organizing this fund raiser. During Lent, members were encouraged to take an envelope, fill it with the specified dollar amount, and to pray for the Youth preparing for the trip. It was an easy, successful fund raiser. (March)

Youth Show – The Annual Youth Show did not take place in 2018. It was scheduled and the Youth Group was prepared to have the event. However, after Pastor Webb announced that he was taking a new call, the Youth Show was canceled so that a farewell event could happen that day instead. The Youth participated in Pastor Webb's farewell event, instead, and are looking forward to the return of the Youth Show in 2019. (April)

Steam/Park Clean up– Annually, the Youth Group has a picnic lunch at Weaver Park then picks up trash on the grounds and in the small stream. (June)

Senior Send-off – In 2018, St. Mark's had 1 member, Juliet Dixon, graduate from High School. The Youth Group celebrated this graduation, and the St. Mark's quilters made her a beautiful quilt. (June)

ELCA National Youth Gathering- Houston, TX – Four Youth and three adults from St. Mark's attended the ELCA's National Youth Gathering in Houston in 2018. This week long trip included interactive learning, worship, service work, and a lot of hours in a 15 passenger van singing "Deep in the Heart of Texas." It was an incredible faith formation event for youth and adults, and those who attended are already planning for the next Gathering in Minneapolis in 2021. (July)

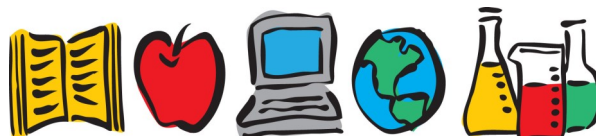
Game Night – The Youth had a game and dinner night at St. Mark's this year. They were invited to bring a friend to participate with them. As a result, we have two friends who participate regularly in events and are part of the Youth Group at St. Mark's! (September)

Lock-in, Steadfast House meal, and Thanksgiving Baskets – Youth provided a meal to this nearby shelter for women and children. Food is prepared and served to residents. After, Youth enjoyed an evening of fun at our annual lock-in. Also in November, the Youth assembled Thanksgiving Baskets for Claxton families while they played a "Guys Grocery Games" style game at Harris Teeter. (November)

Other activities – Filling and hiding Easter eggs for young children, bowling, mini golf, and the Annual Christmas party.

Respectfully submitted, Deacon Katie Rivers – Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION



Education News

Faith Formation Ministry Team at St. Mark's helps to provide opportunities and lead the Congregation in lifelong learning. Through Sunday morning classes for people of all ages, Confirmation Ministry, First Communion, intergenerational events, and Vacation Bible School, there were many exciting ways for people to learn and grow in faith in 2018.

Children's Faith Formation – Faith Formation classes for children Pre-K-12th grade continued this year. The Pre-K/K and 3rd-5th grade classes continued using Whirl Lectionary based curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. The 1st-2nd grade class continued to use One Room Sunday School (Deep Blue) from Cokesbury. 6th-7th graders used Collaborate: Lutheran Theology and Old Testament from Augsburg Fortress. The high school class used a variety of different materials, focused on discipleship, including videos, articles, and books. Average attendance for Children's Faith Formation during the school year was 30.

Confirmation – Four of St. Mark's 8th graders were confirmed in 2018 – Zachary Hutson, Torin Linton, Nicholas Mueller, and Aaron Neighbors. These four young men attended mid week classes in preparation of their confirmation on Pentecost.

First Communion- Liza Volk, Julia Volk, Lila Niedenthal, Mason Frisella, and Miles Webb celebrated their first Communion in 2018. They class met three times, meeting once at Fired Up! on Wall Street to paint chalices. First Communion was celebrated on Maundy Thursday.

Vacation Bible School- St. Mark's used the Group Publishing Vacation Bible School "Shipwrecked" in 2018. There were about 25 children who attended each evening to learn that no matter what happens in our lives – Jesus Rescues! Children had the opportunity to sing, make crafts, act out bible stories, and play games. There were approximately 20 youth and adult leaders who served in a variety of roles throughout the week, as well as 5 teams who provided dinner each night.

Adult Faith Formation - The Adult Faith Formation Team chose a wonderful variety of classes this year. The classes included: The Church in Society, Short Books of the Bible, The Wired Word, Philipians, A Journey Away from Racism, Nooma, Domestic Violence awareness, The Extraordinary Ordinary (Foundations of the Liturgy), Finding Your inner Evangelist, Lutherans in Colonial America, The Bible and Theology, and Mary Had a Baby. Attendance varies by season and classes offered, ranging from 15-75 adults per Sunday participating in an adult class.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Katie Rivers, Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation

CHRISTIAN ACTION TEAM (CAT)



Here's a list of OUTREACH PROJECTS supported through your generosity of time and finances. Additional support came through Thrivent Financial grant programs Choice Dollars (TCD), and \$250 Action Grants (TAG). Some outreach projects were done in conjunction with other teams. Please read their reports as well, for a more complete picture of St. Mark's outreach projects. Also read the Thrivent report for additional details.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY: Collected \$350 in cash (including \$250 from Thrivent TAG), and food items (60+ bags) for ABCCM's (Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry) ABCCM pantry.

ROOM IN THE INN (RITI): Two sessions. In cooperation with St Mary's Episcopal Church, The Asheville Ethical Society, Temples BethHaTephila and Beth Israel, we participated with transportation, meals and supervising of a dozen homeless women. (\$100 TCD). Gave hats and scarves made by St. Mark's "Yarn Angels".

ABCCM STEADFAST HOUSE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN: Provided dinners on the third Friday of every month. Throughout the year, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, snacks, books, underwear, pillows and pillowcases, mattress covers, shampoo, hair conditioner, body wash, bars of soap and other items were collected at St. Mark's for the residents of the shelter. A \$250 TAG was used to purchase gifts for the kids. Gave 40 sets of woolen hats and scarves made by St. Mark's Yarn Angels

TOOTHSAVERS: Collected dental supplies to create dental hygiene kits (toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss) for the ABCCM Medical Dental clinic. Created over 400 kits. (\$250 TAG).

YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION (YAGM). Sent \$1000 to the ELCA to support a young person's mission work overseas. Invited a representative of ELCA YAGM to talk to St. Mark's about the program during Sunday School hour.

CROP HUNGER WALK: Helped organize the 2018 Walk for the Asheville area. St. Mark's was the staging point for the Walk. A total of \$19,800 was raised, of that, \$5300 from St. Mark's. 40 of our Church participated. (Two \$250 TAGs; Used \$300 Choice Dollars for two T-shirt sponsorships)

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: Made 250 quilts, collected over 75 pounds of bars of soap, and made over 110 school kits (these kits were made by WELCA). (\$250 TAG).

ABCCM: Attended all quarterly representative meetings to be informed on the programs of ABCCM. Sent \$300 for the Fuel fund using a Noisy Bucket Offering. Collected \$650 worth of groceries for the Crisis Ministry pantry with a Food Ingathering. (\$250 TAG) Donated lots of used clothing, and other items to the clothing room of the Crisis Ministry.

THRIVENT REPORT: Please read their separate report for further details on the interaction between this team and Thrivent Financial. Their financial programs made a huge difference in the number of outreach projects we could do!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE: Gifts for 3 children of a family participating in the ABCCM Christmas Angel program (value: \$300); \$1400 for the ELCA World Hunger program (animals). 57 English and Spanish Bibles for the ABCCM Prison Ministry. 161 pairs of socks, 8 T's for the ABCCM Veterans Quarters. 20 pants, 23 shirts, 25 underwear, 59 pairs of socks, 94 snacks, 5 lip balm for "Our Voice". (TAG \$250)

OUR VOICE: \$250 TCD contribution.

DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAMS: \$2500 For Indonesia Tsunami (ELCA); \$2500 for NC Hurricane (ELCA); \$1000 for Hurricane Michael (ELCA). \$2000 for victims of California fires.

BLOOD DRIVES (2): Collected 55 pints of blood. (\$250 TAG)

Educated congregation on fund raising opportunities, especially Thrivent Action Grants. Set up computers in the Commons.

Shared with interested outreach members the ELCA Advocacy newsletters, NC Council of Churches newsletters, and other related information. ELCA Advocacy newsletters were also posted on our bulletin board.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: St. Mark's members helped with the construction of the Interfaith House.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY (2 events): Members of our Church participated in successful weekend events at a local prison. St. Mark's members provided the prayers and financial contributions for this event. (TAG \$250) Kairos held a Lunch and Learn to inform the congregation of this program.

Additional Events and Financial contributions:

Gave \$300 to the NC Synod Office (Justice and Advocacy Ministry Team).

Congregational Budget: Homeward Bound (\$5000), ABCCM (\$7000), Racial Task Force (\$1000).

Participated in the St. Mark's Ministry Fair. We wore Cat Ears!

Organized tours to two local agencies: Homeward Bound and ABCCM

Participated in a meeting of the "Creation Care Alliance of WNC"

Organized a voter registration drive at St. Mark's.

Gave "Novus Way" \$525 (Noisy Bucket).

Delivered 4 SUV's of food and supplies to BeLoved to support families raided by ICE.

"HUGE" Rummage Sale. Raised \$5025 for ABCCM Transformation Village.

Invited Rev Rick Schilling of ABCCM to give a sermon to St. Mark's on volunteering and helping others.

Contributed \$400 (TCD) to our Youth program for their trip to Houston.

Gave WNC Baptist Fellowship \$200 (TCD) to help pay for family expenses for the funeral of their 7 yr old son.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Committee is charged with leading the congregation in worship in keeping with the Lutheran practice of faith. This committee plans for upcoming services and celebrations in the Church year and continually evaluates our services to make sure we are meeting that charge.



Worship Team

Highlights of our activities during 2018 include:

January

Plans were created for Lenten services and scheduling
The committee confirmed foot washing for Maundy Thursday and planning commenced
Committee members decided to retain confession for Lent

March

Committee members along with other volunteers rehearsed the foot washing sequence

April

Lenten Artisan Series and Passion services were held with positive feedback
The Tenebrae Service had the highest attendance in several years
Pastor Webb answers another calling and gives his farewell sermon
Rev. Dr. William B. Trexler is welcomed as our interim senior pastor

June

The Lutheridge service was held with Vicar Hoffman's interactive lesson

July

The committee decided on some budgetary items for services -- these include new Holden Prayer Books, a few more hymnals, chalice repair and a better book stand

September

Rally Day service held
Unity Service held with Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship

October

Reformation day service held
Celebrated World Communion Sunday with our neighborhood ecumenical partners

November

Christ the King service
All Saints service, with congregation members invited to light individual candles in memoriam
Organ repairs completed (new power supplies and pipe voicing) with moneys from the Benevolent Foundation

December

Advent midweek services with our neighborhood ecumenical partners
Christmas Eve services at 4:00, 7:00, and 10:00
Received a baby grand piano for the Fellowship Hall (donated by Eve Kindley)

PASTOR OF CARING MINISTRIES



From January of 2018 until September I visited shut-ins and those hospitalized or recovering at home as usual. The Lay Ministry Visitors Team was active in seeing that folks who couldn't get to church still got communion and also a word of prayer and love from their church family. I was available to preach and preside as needed and participated in staff meetings and celebrations. I and Vicar Matt or Pastor Jack offered healing services at noon on the usual Wednesday of each month and then shared lunch afterward with the property crew and guests.

In September, I was out for knee replacement and expected to be away 6 weeks. But a few days after the surgery my femur in that leg broke spontaneously as I turned in bed and so I have been back for additional surgery and out to rehab since then. I hope to begin getting back to work in mid March or so. While away my Lay Ministry Team has kept tending to the flock. Pastor Trexler and others have faithfully taken up any slack my absence left.

This time out has been discouraging, depressing, hope filled, growth producing, weird, and challenging. I have felt the prayers of others upholding me, and the healing power of grace sustaining me. It has been a time to rest and reflect and it goes on. I am in rehab until late March and hope by then to be walking without a walker or a cane, but we shall see.

I am grateful to be a part of the St. Mark's family and a member of the staff and look forward to getting back.

Shalom, Pastor Linda W. McHenry

LAY MINISTRY TEAM

Lay Ministers reach out to fellow congregants on a continuing basis, when life is good, and when life is difficult. Lay Ministers commit to pray for their assigned flock members regularly, be available to them, contact each flock member on a regular basis, and provide a Christian example.

We conducted a Lay Ministry training this year; however, the members trained have chosen to postpone serving as Lay Ministers until a later date.

This fall we invited all Lay Ministers to a Labyrinth walk and dinner. Those attending shared great fellowship and renewal.

Unfortunately, Pastor Linda was out of commission this fall, but our Shepherds and Lay Ministers continued their prayers, contacts and visitations.

At year end we have 3 Shepherds and 8 Lay Ministers serving 19 congregants.

In 2018 Lay Ministers provided:

216 face to face contacts, 153 telephone contacts, 247 cards/letters

94 hospital, nursing home or home visits, 42 people given home communion

19 rides/transportation, 5 meals provided at home

0 Good Samaritan acts, 3 other

Total contacts for 2018 = 779

Goals for 2019 include:

Introduce our newly called Senior Pastor to our Lay Ministry Program

Identify potential new Lay Ministers and conduct a training.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Eison and Judy Taylor



BUILDING TEAM

The Building Team is charged with the planning and oversight of two distinct building projects, both of which are part of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan adopted in 2017 and a major focus of the Capital Campaign later in that same year. The two building projects are:



- Exterior wall renovations and parapet redesign/repair to address water intrusion throughout the church building
- Interior renovation to better serve our community and to maximize ministry.

Exterior Renovations

Completed!

Final payment made in November, 2018

Under budget (\$566,600 total; budget was \$568,000). We celebrate all blessings!

Interior Renovations

Progress is sure but steady on the planning for the Interior Renovations. We have plans in hand that have been thoroughly vetted several times to assure that the needs that we have are being addressed. These plans involve several areas:

New construction in office area to add a second story over nursery/early childhood education classrooms. This area will add two new offices, one of which will be a shared office and will also contain a family restroom.

Two new restrooms adjacent to and actually in the commons, both of which will be handicapped accessible, have changing capabilities for infants and small children, and will each have two stalls.

Renovation of the remainder of the office wing to better serve staff, visitors, members, and guests.

Renovation of the current nursery and early childhood education classrooms to be able to offer a full-time, accredited childcare program focused on children up to age 4. Our Vision 2020 Strategic Plan includes the need to address generational poverty in our community. After careful study and in conjunction with our Loving Neighbors partners, the greatest need was determined to be among the infants and children younger than 4 years of age.

Renovation of the basement area that leads to the columbarium and the Christian Education classrooms.

An adult classroom with technology similar to the library will be added. The small closet that holds both janitorial and property maintenance/building supplies will become strictly janitorial while the property team will have a space for its building/repair supplies and equipment that are used weekly.

The community room will become a fellowship space with storage and refreshment capability. This area will be able to serve a variety of folks and needs Sunday and throughout the rest of the week.

Renovation and updating of restrooms opposite the columbarium to each include a stall and a shower.

Current progress: We have contracted with John Yurko who is the architect who has been involved in most of the renovation work of the church for the last few projects and who knows this building and its behind-the-wall structures and quirks.

Basic utilization plans have been reviewed

Preliminary Code Review with city planning officials, including fire marshal's office, has been conducted assuring that we can address our desired functionality.

Staffs and individuals who will be utilizing and/or who will be affected by the renovations have been consulted for their input.

Preliminary moves have been made in preparation (bell choir practice room; kitchen storage room in nursery has been emptied with contents relocated)

Plans are currently in MEP phase which is a phase that puts us close to being able to send the plans out for bid. M = mechanical (basically heating and cooling); E = Electrical (including coordinating solar energy electricity, phone lines, network needs, hard wiring for security); P = Plumbing (including reactivating current recirculating pump for hot water)

Solar energy panels will be added.

Staff is working on plans for displacement during construction.

Cost estimate review performed; approved by council.

We are getting so close. It is possible **if everything goes according to plan** that we will be able to have construction completed by the end of 2019. That's a big "if", but we are getting there, and we can hope and pray that such will be the case. In any case, the heaviest and hardest part of the planning is completed.

Please, help me in thanking the many folks who have worked diligently to assure that the plans will meet our current needs and as many future needs as can be foreseen. We started many years ago with assessing needs by the Long Range Planning Team under the leadership of Steve Linton, Carl Schreck, and then Jenny Simmons after the Congregation Study performed by Rev. Doug Johnson and his team. Michelle Kopp, Katherine Laveck and Carl added their expertise and passion to the early childhood care and education portion of this plan. The councils over the last few years have worked hard to sort out the best way to meet all the opportunities, challenges, and needs resulting in a Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and then a Capital Campaign to meet the plan. Eve Kindley recruited an army to help spread the news of both the plan and the campaign to every corner of the congregation. And to all who have served on the Building Team under the leadership of Eric Van Tassel, Steve and Linnea Linton, and myself (Roseanne Doane), I offer a most hearty thank-you. This is a monumental task that at times seemed overwhelming, but with the steady hand of God and of a lot of talented folks, we are getting closer to finishing.

Your Building Team: Roseanne Doane (chair), Chuck Baer, Ken Clark, Steve Linton, Linnea Linton, Eileen Cram, David Schuetze, Mitch Williams, Mark Fritch (2018 council liaison), Amy Zellers (2019 council liaison), Albert Morgan with active help and input from Pastor Bill Trexler, Katherine Laveck, Scottie Miller, Katie Rivers, Henry Ulrichs, Deb Layne, and David Anderson.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

St. Mark's Lutheran Men in Mission is a chartered organization of the nationwide Lutheran Church. Officers for 2018 were the following: George Kroncke, President; Bob Mihara, Vice President; Chuck Kopp, Secretary and Al Tenty, Treasurer.



There is a regular monthly meeting the third Saturday of the month. We meet for breakfast and fellowship at the Happy Hill Restaurant on Patton Avenue at 8 AM. After the Business Meeting we have a Bible Study using the "Master Builders Bible for Men" that is specifically for personal and small group study.

There is also a regular meeting of our "Lunch Bunch" every three weeks. We meet at noon at various restaurants during the year for more fellowship. The host chooses the restaurant each time but Bob Sachsenmaier is the coordinator.

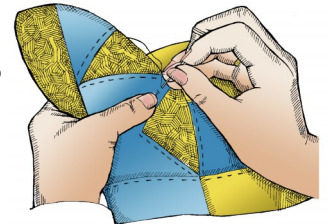
We have a fishing ministry which gets together several times a year. It is catch and release. Those in charge are Al Morgan and Jerry Ray.

The men are involved with multiple activities during the year including but not limited to working on Habitat Houses, Wednesday Church Property tasks, supplying a meal for Summer Bible camp and volunteering help for storm clean-ups. All men of St. Mark's are invited to attend any or all of these activities.

George Kroncke

QUILTERS

The faithful group of about 20 ladies of St. Mark's meets every Tuesday morning to assemble quilts that provide warmth and comfort for our local homeless through ABCCM and to many other countries through Lutheran World Relief. There are additional ladies who help out behind the scenes at their homes ironing, cutting squares, sewing tops, and sewing backs to be ready for the Tuesday workers. Special quilts always get worked into the schedule as well. This past year a special departure quilt which featured pictures from their ministry at St. Mark's was made for the Webb family, as well as several baptism and graduation quilts. With the help of two Thrivent Action team projects many needed supplies were purchased.



QUILTING GROUP

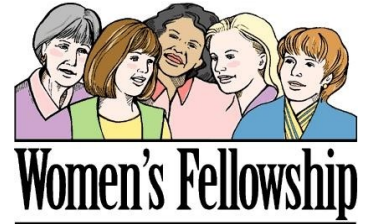
In addition to the quilting mission, the group has also been staying after quilting several times during the year to tear flannel. The torn 6" and 9" strips are then used by a group in the Pinebrook Farms community for liners for the Days for Girls hygiene kits. www.daysforgirls.org

Additional workers are always welcome. No experience is necessary.

Lutheran World Relief	255
ABCCM	60
Lap rob for ill members	7
Quilts for Graduates	2
Baptism Quilts	3
Special Quilts	1
Total 2018: 328	Grand Total: 6,280

WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)

The members of the Women of St. Mark's are part of the North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization. We meet monthly with the exception of the months of July and August. Our June meeting was our annual summer picnic which was at the KOA Campground West this year and hosted by Hildie Polasky. Our Christmas Luncheon at Trinity View was our December meeting and open to all women of the church and their friends.



Our Purpose: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to Grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world.

Our 2018 projects and activities included:

- Provided a pizza supper for the Vacation Church School in June
- Members attended the Spring Gathering at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd; Fall Gathering held at Grace Lutheran in Hendersonville; and a One-Day Retreat was attended Nativity Lutheran in Arden.
- Provided two meals for the ABCCM Women and Children's shelter
- Support the Quilting Ministry
- Gather items and assembled 110 school kits for LWR
- We collected 5 gallon zip lock bags of pop-up tabs from drink cans for a Young woman on dialysis in Cherokee and 3 gallon zip lock bags to the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville.
- We support Church Women United and encourage our members to attend their events: World Day of Prayer, Area meetings, May Fellowship Day, and World Community Day.
- Sent U. Rose Boblak to the ELCA Annual Gathering at Lenoir-Rhyne
- Donated to the Christine Bohr Anderson Scholarship in honor of members: Dorothy Trexler and Dorothy Holzworth. We also donated \$100 to honor Pastor Chris Webb for his service while at St. Mark's.
- We did a Manna Food Bank gathering for WELCA Sunday and provided 63 families with food.
- We supported a service event to help the Food Bank Distribution at Living Waters Lutheran in Cherokee.

Our publications are:

Carolina Vine: contains news of NC Synodical Women's Organization

Gather Magazine: contains Bible study and other informative articles

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the church library and include a short program such as a bible study, video or workshop relating to one of our projects. All women of St. Mark's are welcome to join us.

Alice Silver
President

MARY HUBBARD SCHOLARSHIPS

Mary Hubbard was a teacher and long time member of St. Mark's Church. At the time of her death, a scholarship was established for a St. Mark's Member who, after high school, wanted to attend a university, college, trade school, or technical school. Forms are available in the Church office. Deadline is August 1st each year. The scholarship committee members are Connie Chaplin, George Kroncke and Martha Price. No scholarships were awarded in 2018.



YARN ANGELS

As I think of those in need of comfort and warmth, I'm so thankful for our "angels" who have served with their HEARTS AND HANDS. In the past year we have donated over 100 hat/scarf sets, 20 prayer shawls/lap robes, 100 baby hats, and 100-200 pocket crosses (too many to count). These figures represent only part of the amazing efforts of time, talent, and love our group has for doing God's work. Projects come not only from those who attend our meetings, but from other St. Mark's family who want to be a part of our ministry.



In addition to attending our meetings, the Yarn Angels took some time to enjoy a fiber tour at Oriole Mills, organize our second Youth Yarn Workshop (included friends from WNC Baptist), and participate in a Thrivent event in which we added yarn and accessories for all to use. The laughter and friendship grew as we enjoyed our first brunch/meeting at a private home. What a great way to build church family relationships in a different setting!

As this new year begins, we pray that with God's help, we will again serve the needy through ABCCM, Room in the Inn, Eblin, and our hospitals. We also plan to continue supporting needs at St. Mark's, such as the Youth Auction and all those with individual concerns.

With every bit of gratitude and love, I want to thank each and every "angel" who has given so much of their individual talents toward this ministry. Please consider joining this amazing group, no matter what your level of talent is--we have many who will help you.

Barbara Ulrichs

LONG RANGE PLANNING

During the past year, 3 new members were added to the Long Range Planning team: Vickie Hauser, Dave Epley, and Shelby Gonzales. Those who continued to serve on Long Range Planning team were Ken Clark, Mark Fritch, and Jenny Simmons.



The team continued to track the goals and objectives of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. We hosted 2 congregation updates of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan between services. One on May 6, 2018 and one on August 26, 2018.

EVANGELISM TEAM

The evangelism team met nine times during the year. At each meeting we spent a significant amount of time studying the book “Radical Welcome”, subtitled “Embracing God, The Other and the Spirit of Transformation” written by Stephanie Spellers an Episcopal priest. It is described as “a practical theological guide for congregations that want to move beyond mere inclusivity toward becoming a place where welcoming “the Other” is taken seriously and where engaging God’s mission becomes more than just a catch-phrase”. The team felt this study would give us a better understanding of what it is we are called to do.



We participated in the Ministry Fair at which we attempted to acquaint members with what it means to be an evangelist as well as recruit members to assist in our efforts.

The team made a concerted effort to follow-up with inactive members.

In an effort to bring a better understanding of how each of us can spread the Gospel message, the team developed and conducted a series of five discipleship classes on “Finding the Evangelist Inside You” To make sponsorship of new members more than a one-time introduction to the congregation, the team developed a job description for an expanded role of New Member Sponsor. This expanded role is “to enter into an intentional relationship primarily as a friend and guide to one or more visitors/inquirers who are moving toward formal membership in the church.” “Sponsors are encouraged to continue their intentional relationship with their sponsors for at least the first 12 months of their membership.”

We Identified pew neighborhood ministry and introduced it to the congregation. The expectation is that a member of the neighborhood would contact a neighbor who hasn’t been seen in a while to make sure everything is ok and if not, offer some assistance.

There were three new member classes conducted during the year after which 26 individuals joined our congregation.

A new online photo directory was developed by the team. Members are encouraged to become familiar with it and to provide a current picture so that the directory is more complete.

Finally, we sponsored a Halloween Party and the movie “Luther”.

ARCHIVE TEAM

The archive team continues the task of maintaining and organizing the records of St. Mark's and our members in a manner that allows the retrieval of information as needed. Following the Ministry Fair in 2018, we have been blessed with the addition of three new team members; Mark & Gloria Fritch and George Kroncke. This additional help will allow us to address some areas of archive task that have recently fallen behind.



PROPERTY TEAM

It's time to cast your VOTE! Which of each of the following entries do you think most qualifies for the PROPERTY TEAM TOP TEN



MOST ENJOYABLE

- Set up and decorated the Chrismon Tree and set out three crèche sets
- Supported and set up for all worship services, festival Sundays, healing services, and dramas
- Wrapped and hung gift boxes from the ceiling of the Fellowship Hall for the Ministry Fair
- Worked on the landscaping in the out-of-doors in the warm sun
- Fellowshipped together over lunch

MOST UNEXPECTED

- Straightened and re-hung the gate to Chiavaras parking lot which was bent in half by bears
- Re-adjusted pastors' archive wall upon the departure of Pastor Webb
- Replaced the bent down "No Parking" sign post
- Replaced the glass top on the buffet in the Welcome Center damaged by overheated tea pot

MOST BACK-BREAKING

- Set up and tear down tables and chairs for many dinners, events, and outside groups
- Loaded a truck full of boxes for Lutheran World Relief
- Carried wooden frame pieces from attic to Merrimon Ave. and back to install temporary seasonal signs
- Carried wooded chairs in and out of the chancel and replaced them with narrower folding chairs for occasions with combined choirs
- Removed altar from chancel for special concerts
- Leveled compressor unit for SE corner sanctuary air conditioner

MOST EXPENSIVE

- Supported the water intrusion abatement project to its conclusion (including 100% tuck pointing, and moisture barriers under all capstones on all parapet walls as accomplished by Western Specialties Contractors) Removed and replaced landscaping plants damaged in the process and repaired all interior walls damaged by the water intrusion
- Installed new grease trap, plumbing lines, and two clean-outs for kitchen drainage (Ben Franklin Plumbing)
- Acquired and installed a new refrigerator and hooked up the new ice maker
- Replaced glass in door by elevator foyer (Britt and Tilson)

MOST GRUNGY

- Vacuumed the cracks in the pew upholstery
- Cleaned the ovens and stovetops
- Stained and installed new landscaping timbers and rebar to rebuild Chestnut St. terrace
- Weeded, raked, trimmed and hauled debris to curb for pick-up
- Tore up attic floor boards, installed dehumidifier, dried out moisture and replaced boards

MOST REPETITIVE

Carried materials up and down the attic stairwell (including office records, costumes, wreaths, seasonal decorations, band instruments, convalescent equipment, fabric, table decorations, Easter baskets and eggs, banners, pew candles, crosses, spare ceiling tiles, dehumidifiers, and other property maintenance equipment.

Cleaned appliances, dusted, wiped down cobwebs, straightened hymnal ribbons and racks

MOST UNOTICED

Hung concave mirror in office hall to show who is approaching the office

Filled ceiling holes in elevator mechanical room with fire rated red caulk

Change wreaths in the Fellowship Hall to match the liturgical seasons

Made hundreds of small repairs (door stops, coffee pots, chairs, kitchen carts, tables, stools, hymnal racks and boxes, sewing machines and cabinets, door knobs, light fixtures, fans, guest book stands, podiums, broken step at Chestnut St. door, doorbells, kneelers, downspouts and gutters, ceiling tiles, bulletin boards, wooden fence boards, etc.

Installed new chain basketball net

MOST UNPOPULAR

Cleaned up candle wax on pews, floors, bobeches, pew candles and glass globes

Replaced floor tiles and painted men's room

Trimmed Leyland Cypress hedge between parking lots

Added "No Trespassing" signage (unpopular with the trespassers anyway)

Continued changing out fluorescent lights with LED bulbs

MOST TIME CONSUMING

Built shelf units in the Fellowship Hall closets for storage of table cloths and items from the "Way Back" and moved all materials into new storage boxes or shelves

Updated all First Aid Kits

Moved emergency button closer to administrator's desk

Scrapped, hardened and painted rusty metal folding chairs

Harvested grapes and made communion wine

MOST EVANGELICAL

Made life better for all worship leaders and assistants by reconfiguring robe racks in the sacristy

Installed new TV in Youth Room for Senior High Sunday School Class lessons

Highlighted special services on the outdoor lighted sign on Chestnut St.

Restored and repainted church name sign and re-installed on wall facing Merrimon Ave

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

If you like reading old dusty books with yellowed pages you are out of luck in the church library. This year the committee has withdrawn approximately 150 older books that have lost their appeal. The project will continue into next year, but the shelves will not be barren, thanks to the donation of a large number of new books from Pastor Trexler, Pastors Jack and Linda McHenry, Connie Koiner and others.



As of the end of 2018 we have 3,403 books entered into the computer to allow easy searching by subject, title, author, donor, etc. The card file also has these titles plus all of the children's books if you prefer looking them up on paper instead of on computer.

The library team has two regular members, Evelyn Reinhold and Eileen Cram, and receives occasional assistance from Carol Sturm, Megan Cram, and Ed Malkin.

THRIVENT CONGREGATIONAL TEAM



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

The St. Mark's Thrivent Congregational Team (TCT) in conjunction with the Christian Action Team coordinates the direction of Thrivent Choice funds and encourages and supports Thrivent Action Teams in applying for project grants. In addition the TCT sponsors social and educational activities for members of St. Mark's and the community, and supports the Thrivent Builds Habitat for Humanity program. In 2018 the TCT fulfilled its directives in the following ways:

Thrivent Choice Funds/Social Outreach Programs:

Members directed \$7315 of Thrivent Choice funds to St. Mark's, all of which are designated for social outreach projects. Projects and programs funded included Room in the Inn, CROP Walk, Our Voice Women's Rape Crisis Ministry, disaster relief for the Indonesia Tsunami, NC hurricanes, Hurricane Michael, and the California fires, the youth trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, and a donation toward funeral expenses for a WNC Baptist Fellowship family.

Thrivent Action Team grants are available to Thrivent benefit and associate members. Benefit members are eligible to receive \$250 of seed money for any two service projects, educational events, or fund raising activities each year. Associate members may apply for funding for one project per year. Grants were awarded for 23 projects at St. Mark's in 2018 for a total of \$5750 donated to the community, but the impact was far greater in terms of additional donated time, service, and money. A sampling of the grants awarded were for projects that supported Souper Bowl/ABCCM Food pantry, CROP Walk, Steadfast House/Children's gifts, ABCCM Dental Clinic/Toothsavers, ABCCM winter clothes drive, WNC Baptist Partnership Picnic, WNC Baptist Unity Services, Yarn Angels, Ministry Fair, VBS, Homeward Bound, Cancer Care Blankets, and Operation Christmas Child. See the Christian Action Team report for more information on these projects.

Social/Educational Programs:

The Christian Action Team and the TCT set up tables and computers in the church Commons one Sunday morning to help make the congregation and Thrivent members aware of the Thrivent funds available to them. Members were encouraged to sponsor action teams and also to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars available to them to St. Mark's or other eligible charities.

There were no other programs or meetings for members in 2018. Current TCT leadership positions remain: Chair, Dan Dudde; Recorder, Paula Lindsay; Financial Recorder, Walter Hitch; and Project Coordinator, Alice Silver.

Thrivent Builds Habitat for Humanity Program:

While the Thrivent Builds and Thrivent Repairs programs are still taking applications, there were no projects in western North Carolina this year. St. Mark's members did participate in helping to build an Interfaith house.

Many thanks to all members of St. Mark's, whether Thrivent members or not, to the Christian Action team, and to the Thrivent financial representatives for supporting the work of the Thrivent Congregational Team.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Lindsay

TREASURER'S REPORT



I am pleased to report that we ended the year with a surplus \$29,093 in the operating fund. Of that excess \$17,914 will be used to bring the Emergency Maintenance Fund back to the desired \$20,000. That fund had been substantially reduced during the year as the result of extensive kitchen remodel and repair. The remainder of \$11,279 will be added to the Future Ministries Fund. The following Statement of Income and Expense for the operating fund shows operating costs were well under control. Each major budget category was at or below budget.

The building fund balance increased \$19,451 resulting in a more than comfortable balance that covers over 17 months of loan payments. This is due, in part, to a reduction in required loan payments following renewal of our loan early in the year.

The Statement of Account Balances shows that undesignated operating cash is \$92,295 which covers more than two months of operating expenses. The Statement also shows amounts that are designated for specific purposes other than budgeted items as well as the Endowment Fund balance.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Ulrichs
Treasurer

BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION



Chair: Pat Patton (2018)

Board Members: Florence Rowe, Chuck Baer, Tina Mueller, Kari Warren, Natalie Haynes, Henry Ulrichs (Church Treasurer)

Selected Actions:

Using the newly established formula, the Endowment fund balance for 2014-18 will result in a distribution of \$15,581.95 for the coming year. The new formula calls for a distribution of 5% of the average end of year balance for the last five years (like the prior formula) but eliminates the prior restriction that the distribution could not exceed 80% of the Fund's income from the last year.

The Board worked with Mitzie Schafer from the synod to rewrite the governing documents for the Endowment. Together with the Church's new gift policy, the changes will allow the Board to focus on growing the Endowment Fund and increasing the annual distribution from the Endowment. The old Current Ministries Fund will now be directed by the Church Finance Team.

The Board also worked with Mitzie Schafer on a planned giving initiative for 2019.

Walter Hitch and Mitch Williams were elected as new members of the Board at the annual congregational meeting to replace Florence Rowe and Chuck Baer at the end their terms.

Goals for 2019:

We hope to continue efforts to raise the Endowment's profile with the Congregation through a variety of efforts.

Working with Mitzie Schafer, we will conduct a congregational meeting with follow up planned giving workshops in April and May to encourage planned giving to St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Patton, Chair
St. Mark's Benevolent Foundation

FINANCE TEAM



Team Members

Members: Karen Puthoff, Jason Jones, Bob Taylor, Sarah Dawson, Warren Wheeler and Ex-officio members Congregation Council Liaison Henry Ulrichs and Parish Administrator Scottie Miller: Jim Bassler.

Advisory Actions

According to the St. Mark's bylaws, the Finance Ministry Team shall be responsible for advising on current fiscal affairs as well as long-range financial recommendations. It shall prepare an annual budget for the congregation's consideration. It shall monitor the financial affairs of the congregation, and make recommendations for keeping all obligations of the congregation current.

Risk management and advisory actions the 2017 Finance Team developed or participated in developing included:

- Recommended low risk higher return (than our checking account) mutual fund to increase the return on cash in excess of operations and rooted in faith funds.
- Effective January 1, 2018, changed Property and Casualty insurance carrier resulting in annual savings of approximately \$1,700.
- Installed lock box to improve security of Sunday offerings.
- Participated on the Ministry Fair.
- Went "green" by eliminating the printing of mid-year contribution statements. Mid-year statements are now made available my request only. Year-end statements will continue to be printed.
- Implemented corrective actions for the 2017 audit report findings.
- Implemented insurance policies retention policy.
- Reviewed designated fund accounts for ongoing need/inactivity
- Prepared and presented the 2019 Budget for approval at the Annual Congregation Meeting.

Member Responsiveness

Members of St. Mark's have been both generous and responsive in meeting their Rooted in Faith Campaign pledges, as well as in their 2019 pledges for ongoing operations.

This Spirit-led process has been inspiring to all on the Finance team as well as to all who provide oversight of St. Mark's financial affairs. Each of us at St. Mark's has been truly touched in this endeavor.

Blessings,
Jim Bassler, Chair

STEWARDSHIP

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

– II Corinthians 9:8 NIV



What can we do with our talent, our time, our body, our treasures for others? That is the question that we ask ourselves regularly as we live our lives secure in the love of God. That is the crux of Stewardship.

Stewardship is an all-year event, not just a fall appeal as has often become the practice as the annual budget needs to be prepared prior to the annual meeting at the end of each calendar year. Although the budget is prepared with the amount of funds estimated to be available for the up-coming year, the only part of stewardship that relates to the fall is the declaration of our financial pledge for the up-coming year. Stewardship is separate from pledges.

Stewardship For All Seasons (SAS) focuses on God's love for us and His action in our lives daily, during all seasons of our faith and lives. We respond to that love in our actions, with our time, and with our resources. The focus of **SAS** is to realize the many blessings of God in our lives and to respond generously out of faith to God. The simple acts of stewardship are in themselves faith-building as each of us experience the joy of returning the blessings that God gives us to God and to God's people. We are so blessed in being a blessing to others.

This year's fall pledge theme was "Blessed to be a Blessing". Each week we explored the various aspects of giving including tithing or giving a tenth of all that God so abundantly provides for us. Giving is an act of faith as is tithing. In our giving, we explore and more fully realize the blessings that God has in store not only for us but for all those whom He loves so dearly.

Thank you for your pledge, your promise. Together, we have pledged to return to God over \$312,000 to be used to His glory in 2019. Thank you also for all the time that you spend in helping spread God's love, in sharing your talents with others in worship and in deed, in caring for those who are so in need, in sharing God's love with others both stranger and friend, and in worship joyously thanking God and being nourished by word and sacrament.

Your Stewardship Team – Roseanne Doane (chair), Mitch Williams, Jim Bassler, Warren Wheeler (council liaison), and Deb Layne (volunteer coordinator).

TREASURER'S REPORT



Operating Fund	Budget	Actual
Income - Offering Envelopes	\$495,901	\$469,739
Loose Offerings	7,500	10,287
Other Income	7,000	10,645
Total Operating Fund Income	\$510,401	\$490,671
 Expenses		
Church in the World	\$64,286	\$63,938
Synod Benevolence \$49,286, ABCCM 8,000, Homeward Bound 6,000, Task Force on Racism 651		
 Pastoral Ministry Total	 \$127,448	 \$104,454
Includes Pastors' salaries, housing, health benefits, pension, auto allowance, continuing education, and supply pastors		
 Worship and Music Total	 \$62,621	 \$61,402
Includes Cantor's compensation, worship expenses, music, altar supplies, organ and piano maintenance, and supply organists		
 Parish Administration Total	 \$78,983	 \$74,111
Includes Parish Administrator's compensation, ministry coordinator, office expense, telephone, equipment maintenance, and advertising		
 Facilities Total	 \$87,062	 \$74,894
Includes Facilities Manager's compensation, property maintenance, janitorial supplies, utilities, insurance, and new equipment		
 Faith Formation & Outreach Total	 \$90,001	 \$82,779
Includes Director of Discipleship & Faith Formation's compensation, faith formation materials, Christian action, youth ministry, evangelism & hospitality, library, fellowship/kitchen, stewardship, synod and congregational meetings, and nursery attendant's compensation		
 Total operating Fund Expenses	 \$510,401	 \$461,578
 Excess Income over Expenses		 \$29,093
 Building/Debt Reduction Fund		
Beginning Balance		\$18,773
Income – Offerings		\$46,505
Payments on Commercial Note - Principal and Interest		(\$27,054)
Ending Balance		\$38,224
 Commercial Note - Balance – 12/31/2018		 \$274,295

ACCOUNT BALANCES—DECEMBER 31, 2018

Operating Cash (undesignated)	\$92,295
Dedicated Accounts	
Rooted In Faith Campaign	220,158
Loving Neighbors	93,542
Building Fund	38,226
Future Ministries	20,000
Chapman Fund	14,227
Dorothy Trexler Memorial	13,030
Columbarium	12,190
Current Ministries	8,433
Vicar Matt Hoffman	8,172
Crisis Fund	2,807
Hubbard Scholarship	2,515
Organ Repairs/updates	2,363
Clearing Account	2,204
Emergency Maintenance	2,086
Call Committee	2,063
St. Cecelia Music Fund	1,664
Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,648
Insurance refund	1,590
Continuing education	1,497
Giving Tree	1,490
Information Technology	1,474
Paraments	1,380
Lutheran Men in Mission	1,321
Quilters	1,249
Youth	1,051
Steadfast House	988
Noisy Buckets	787
Campaign Expense Fund	735
CDC Account	549
ABCCM	516
Harold Holler Memorial	500
WELCA	403
Interior Design	371
Thrivent Builds	300
Living Lutheran magazine	192
Flower Fund	143
Souper Bowl	100
Staff Gifts	95
Book Fair – 2017	42
Amazon Smile	40
Tooth Savers- 2017	29
YMCA membership	-305
Endowment Fund balance	340.352
Total Account Balances	\$894,512

STAFF:

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR:

William Trexler
wbtrexler@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP AND FAITH FORMATION: Deacon Katie Rivers

katierivers@stmarkslutheran.net

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Our Mission:

*Making disciples by loving Christ, growing in faith,
and serving all people*

Our Vision:

*Transforming lives through God's grace as an inclusive,
intergenerational congregation in Worship, Outreach, Learning, and Fellowship.*