

Annual Report

January 20, 2019

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Port Royal, South Carolina



Our Mission:

St. Mark's is an inclusive fellowship called by God,
through Christ, to love and serve the world.

www.stmarksc.org



St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Port Royal
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Port Royal, SC 29935
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AGENDA
of the
Annual Parish Meeting
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
January 20, 2019

Opening Prayer and Remarks

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

Review of the Past Year

Treasurer's Report & 2019 Budget

Vote to Approve 2019 Budget

Introduction & Selection of New Vestry Members

Vote to Approve Vestry Slate

Introduction of Proposed Change to the Articles of Association,
Article IV, Section 2a.

Vote to Approve Proposed Change to the Articles of Association

Introduction & Selection of Convention Delegates

Vote to Approve Convention Delegates

Questions and Comments

Benediction & Adjournment

Rector

The Reverend Roy Tripp

Rector Emeritus in Perpetuity

The Reverend Roger Wm. Smith

Bishop

The Rt. Reverend Gladstone B. "Skip" Adams III

Current Vestry

Barney Forsythe, Senior Warden

Westley Byrne, Junior Warden

Beth Campbell

Patty Crower

Linda Finnin

Tom Miller

John Moses

Jim Rowe

Mike Seymour

Vestry Clerk, Charlie Davis

Lewis Tabb, Treasurer

Staff

Julie Petroff, Parish Administrator

Carter Hoyt, Programs Associate

Diane Mullis-Waddell, Music Director

St. Mark's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

Minutes of the January 21, 2018, Annual Meeting

The St Mark's annual meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by the Rev. Roy Tripp, who led us in an opening prayer. Both our Senior Warden Barney Forsythe and our Junior Warden Teege Culp were out of town due to family commitments so Roy conducted the discussions.

Roy began with a review of the past year. Our first full time rector (Roy Tripp) arrived in March 2017. Roy's invitation to all to "Come and see" has been very successful. St Mark's has grown in numbers of weekly worshippers. New fellowship and education programs have been introduced. New outreach requests have been presented. New liturgical aids such as our lovely baptismal font and our processional candles have been placed in the sanctuary.

St Mark's future presents many "good problems" with both our opportunities and challenges centering on growth. A task force has been appointed to examine our worship space. How and where do we accommodate the St Mark family needs? These include both worship and fellowship requirements.

Bob Pinkerton then gave the treasurer's report. Financially St Mark's is healthy. The balance sheet for 2017 indicates a deficit; that shortfall was anticipated due to the expenses involved in hiring a fulltime rector. While Bob anticipated a \$27,000 deficit, the 2017 year end deficit was only \$12,767. This over 50 percent reduction was due to both growth in numbers and generosity of the church family.

In explaining the budget for 2018, Bob announced that St Mark's has 25 new pledging units. The congregation unanimously affirmed the 2018 budget. The Vestry will vote on the budget at the next meeting.

Roy introduced the three nominees for vestry. Jim Rowe was nominated for a first term. Beth Campbell and Patty Crower will continue to serve another term. Candidates were elected by affirmation.

Nominated for delegates to the Diocesan Convention were Teege Culp, Beth Campbell, Sally Dombly and Don Altman. Alternate nominees were Maggie Seymour, Mike Seymour, Woody Rutter and Kathryn Gray. They were elected by affirmation.

Roy then opened our question and answer time. There were several questions concerning St Mark's outreach programs. There was also a question asking for expanded explanation of what is happening with the court cases. There were many thanksgivings from both old and new members.

At 10:50 AM the meeting was adjourned. Roy led us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully,
Patty Crower

Rector's Report The Rev. Roy Tripp

2018 was a wonderful year at St. Mark's. Almost every area of our lives together as a community of faith saw growth, energy and joy in the Spirit. Our Sunday attendance continues to grow with an average Sunday attendance of 122 (up from 80 per Sunday a year ago).

There seems to be an enthusiasm and welcome at St. Mark's that's contagious. On any given Sunday, we have visitors who have decided to "come and see." The joy present in our worship, in word, sacrament and song is reflective of our love for God and for each other. Time after time when I greet visitors after the service or at Coffee Hour, people comment on how warm and genuine the welcome is at St. Mark's. More and more first-time visitors return and many become members. God has poured upon us blessings and grace.

2018 was a year of "firsts" at St. Mark's. In January, we had our first pilgrimage tour. Twenty-six people made the journey to the Holy Land. It was truly a life-changing experience as we walked where

Jesus had walked, prayed where so many, many people had prayed, and visited countless places where events that shaped our faith took place. Our next pilgrimage will take us to Rome in 2020. Look for details over the next few months.

Our church community is healthy and our finances strong. (Please see Lewis Tabb's treasurer's report.) Our pledge drive for 2018 saw us not only meet our pledge drive goal, but surpass it by almost 20 percent. And for 2019, our pledge drive exceeded its goal once again. There is a deep love for St. Mark's that is manifested in our commitment to one another and to our church home.

In 2018 we learned that the town of Port Royal announced its intent to sell Historic Union Church. This announcement put in motion a review of the options available to us as we explored where our permanent church home would be. A task force looked at several possibilities and it was determined that the best option was to purchase Union Church, where we have worshiped for the past nine years.

The Port Royal Town Council held several public hearings on the sale of Union Church to St. Mark's. I was deeply moved by the many individuals who came forward to voice their support of the sale. In late summer the sale was completed.

Over the past few months, our dedicated Buildings and Ground Team has coordinated much needed improvements to our new church home. Now new steps and new doors greet all who come and see. A beautiful new sign lets everyone know that the Historic Union Church is home to St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Now we are responsible to care for this historic building and to assure its doors remain open to welcome all.

Having our own building provides the opportunity to explore new and additional worship experiences. 2018 saw new services, including relocating our mid-week service of Holy Eucharist and Healing from the Center to the church. We added a new family service on Christmas Eve, as well as a Community Caroling service. Look for additional worship services during 2019.

Worship is at the very core of who we are as a faith community. In 2018 we saw the purchase of a new piano and new vestments. My thanks to the many individuals who contributed to these worship enhancements. As always, the dedication of our many volunteers who serve on our Altar Guild, and participate as members of the altar party, or as lay readers, and ushers, make all the difference. Our worship was also enhanced by the addition of flowers provided by the generosity of our members and artfully arranged by Peggy Dixon, with assistance from Paula Miller.

Few groups of volunteers do more to guide St. Mark's than the members of our Vestry. Barney Forsythe (Senior Warden) and Westly Byrne (Junior Warden) along with the other members of Vestry add insight and guidance (along with a healthy dose of fun). I have learned much from each of these servant leaders. A special thank you to Linda Finnin and Mike Seymour, both of whom leave Vestry this year. Your dedication and insights reflect your love for all who call St. Mark's home.

Along with a wonderful cadre of volunteers, I have the pleasure of being with one of the best professional staffs I have worked with. I do not say this lightly. It is a gift to be with them and I learn a great deal from each of them. Each week, Julie Petroff and Carter Hoyt work daily on the many programs that keep St. Mark's humming. Diane Mullis-Waddell crafts our music program and directs our ensemble. These three ensure that the many details that make up our lives at St. Mark's happen smoothly.

Although we continue to be challenged to bring families with children to St. Mark's, Sally Dombay and Judy Utter make sure that when they do come, there is an engaging education experience in place. The passion and love for our children is remarkable. Along with Linda Goodman who hosts our nursery, our children are well cared for. I thank you.

Throughout the past year, many of you have participated in a variety of opportunities for adult education at St. Mark's. From structured classes held both morning and evenings on Wednesdays, to free-wheeling discussions at God-On-Tap, to the more intimate and casual conversations of the Wandering

Rector, adults have explored their faith. Add to the list, our first Parish retreat, (plans are being made for our next parish retreat in the coming fall), along with our Confirmation Classes, and you can discover many ways to enhance your faith journey.

From our founding, Outreach and Mission has been part of our DNA. Over 2018, we have participated in opportunities to help our neighbors, both near and far. Please see the report from our Outreach and Mission Team for details on the many projects with which we are involved.

I am excited as we begin 2019 at St. Mark's. We have much to be thankful for as we look at the many ways we gather for worship, fellowship and education – not to mention fun. Each day I rejoice as I see what God's Spirit and Jesus' love is doing at St. Mark's. I hope you can see it too.

I invite you to prayerfully consider ways you might deepen your involvement at St. Mark's. Perhaps you'll consider being an usher, acolyte, or a lay reader. Your interest may lead you to the joys of teaching Sunday School for children or adults. For you the blessings may come from helping with the Altar Guild, or arranging flowers. Serving on Outreach and Mission, or Pastoral Care may be the place where God touches your heart as you help bring God's love into the communities where we serve. There are so many ways your presence is a blessing and there are so many ways St. Mark's can be a blessing to you. Nowhere is this more evident than when we gather for worship. First and foremost, we are a worshipping community. When we gather together, we experience God's presence, Jesus' love and the Spirit's breath unlike anywhere else.

My thanks to every one of you for letting Liz, Preston and me be with you. It is my prayer that throughout the year ahead you will continue to be a blessing and to be blest. This year, as always, come and see!

Senior Warden's Report

Barney Forsythe

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Senior Warden for another year. It's exciting to see how the Holy Spirit is moving in powerful ways in our congregation. Through your faithful efforts, we are bringing the gospel message of God's love, grace, peace, mercy, and justice for all to full fruition in this community.

It has been a joy to work with Father Roy, the parish staff, and the Vestry as we do God's work in our community. We are blessed with a dedicated leadership team, and it is an honor to serve the congregation with these faithful folks.

Throughout 2018, St. Mark's continued to focus on service to the community and the world through a full range of outreach ministries—to the poor, the hungry, the homeless, those in need of physical and spiritual nourishment, those abused and in danger, prisoners and captives, those in need of education, safety, justice.

Thanks to Jane and Michael Frederick, the parish has a comprehensive plan to remodel and expand our church home. We will launch a capital campaign in 2019 to raise the funds to make the plans a reality. In the meantime, we have already taken preliminary steps at "home improvement"—new doors and front steps, a beautiful new sign, and enhanced landscaping. Dave Strange and George Utter volunteered to chair our Home and Grounds Committee, and with many dedicated volunteers, our church is looking good.

The generous support for this year's pledge drive illustrates how the Holy Spirit is moving at St. Mark's. We exceeded all expectations for the 2019 pledge drive. Everything was up—pledges, pledgers, and total giving. We exceeded the amount of pledge revenue needed to meet the proposed 2019 budget, giving us a buffer against the unexpected. The proposed budget provides salary increases for the

Rector and staff, allocates significantly more resources for outreach and pastoral care, and provides funds to operate and maintain our church home. We are grateful for Nicole Passeggio's leadership again this year.

In the fall of 2018, we conducted a Mutual Ministry Review to engage the congregation in appreciative inquiry about our congregational life and ministry. To support the review, we constructed a survey to gauge the views of parishioners about important aspects of our mission, and ninety-seven parishioners responded to the survey. The Vestry then met to review and summarize the survey data.

What did we learn? The survey affirmed our core identity as a faith community. We are a welcoming, inclusive congregation. We value worship, ministry, and outreach, and we live our values in our mission to love and serve the world. Worship is clearly important to our members, and it is perceived as being joyfully guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Overall satisfaction with St Mark's is high as is the appreciation for Father Roy and the staff.

We also identified some areas for enhancement. We learned that Vestry members need to be more visible and approachable to members of the congregation. While we have many effective modes of communication, greater face-to-face engagement with parish leaders would enhance our corporate life. The survey results also affirmed the importance of our music ministry and identified the desire to expand (ensemble at both services) and broaden (wide variety of music and musical instruments) our music program. Activities and programs remain important to the congregation, and we should ensure our programs continue to meet the needs and interests of the congregation. Two clear themes emerged for future direction: the desire to attract younger families and children, and the desire to have a parish hall for fellowship, spiritual formation, and outreach.

The Vestry will follow-up on the Mutual Ministry Review by initiating quarterly town-hall meetings between services to share information with the congregation and engage in face-to-face dialogue about specific aspects of parish life and ministry. Early in 2019, topics will include the capital campaign for renovation of the church, enhancements to the music ministry, and activities/programs.

Mike Seymour and Linda Finnin are completing their service on the Vestry. We are grateful for their strong leadership and wise counsel over the past few years. They have made enormous contributions to the success of our mission as a faith community.

We pray that God will continue to bless our mission and ministry in 2019. May people come and see, and in so doing discover a faith community that lives the Gospel message through worship, fellowship, and service.

Junior Warden's Report

Westley Byrne

Traditionally, the Junior Warden, also known as the People's Warden, primarily is responsible for the parish's property. So that's easy, I thought, when asked in December of 2017 to assume this position for the Vestry. The only property St. Mark's owns is the green; I can handle that...

What a milestone year it's been.

After nine years of carting instruments of worship back and forth, setting up and putting away, always as "borrowers," the members of St. Mark's finally can call historic Union Church their true home.

Inexpressible thanks go to Michael Frederick, Barney Forsythe, Scott Graber, Tom Miller, John Moses, Lewis Tabb, and Fr. Roy Tripp for shepherding us to that wondrous point in 2018.

As Fr. Roy wrote to all of us last September, "We are not simply the new owners of this historic building, but also the caretakers of this house of worship. As such, we will lovingly care for the building and grounds. We will be the ones to make sure the legacy lives on for us and for generations to come."

To lead the congregation's caretaking and help secure the legacy, a Buildings and Grounds Team was formed, headed by two of the ablest souls I've ever had the pleasure of partnering with: Dave Strange and George Utter. Dave applied his considerable knowledge and skill, not to mention great eye for what looks good, to guiding the transformation of the front of the church by means of beautiful new doors, porch decking, and wide steps. Using the famous Colonel-Utter-Military-Precision Playbook, George and Dave began transforming the grounds as well—pulling weeds and overgrown vegetation, trimming plants and hauling in and spreading pine straw, raking and sweeping. Some of the members of their talented crew—consisting of Teege Culp, Peggy Dixon, Jim Durkan, Barney Forsythe, Charlie Jones, Susie Kearney, Sally Mayse, Johan Peers, Jim Phelps, Woody Rutter, Mike Seymour, Lewis Tabb, Jim Turk, and Wendy Wilson—brought their tools and muscles to a Saturday morning work party. Spring planting time will bring all the team out in force to further beautify the yard. Jim Turk made the church's windows sparkle, and Jim Durkan repaired and painted the corner fences. Thanks to Michael Frederick's expertise, a gorgeous new sign invites everyone to "come and see."

Again taking from Fr. Roy's September missive: "The prophet Isaiah, speaking to a people who were returning to freedom from slavery, from exile to home, 'My house shall be a house of prayer for all people.' (Isaiah 56:7)" Amen.

Pledge Drive

Nicole Passeggio, Chair, and Committee Members Senior Warden Barney Forsythe, Treasurer Lewis Tabb, Bookkeeper Donna Altman, Vestry Member John Moses

It was an honor and a privilege to serve for a second year as Pledge Drive Chair. The theme of our campaign was *Called to Opportunity: Together, We Make a Difference* – and what a difference we made! As of December 31, 2018, the 2019 campaign received 119 pledges (up from 105 last year, and significantly more than the 80 and 91 pledges received in the 2016 and 2017 campaigns, respectively) totaling \$317,180 – topping last year's pledges by \$57,288 and almost 5 percent above \$303,000 in pledge receipts budgeted for 2019 by the Vestry. There is much to celebrate: Total pledge giving increased 22 percent compared to last year. Twenty-two of this year's pledgers are *true* first-time givers. Three people who pledged in the past but *not* in the 2018 drive returned as contributors of record. Forty-four pledgers increased their support. For all this, and so much more, I am deeply grateful.

This year, we continued the tradition of inviting parishioners to speak at Sunday services about what St. Mark's means to them and why they give of their time, talent, and treasure to support the parish. Dick Balkite, Alison Davidow, John Duncan, Barney Forsythe and Betsy Millett spoke with sincerity, humor, and grace while sharing their personal stories with all of us.

The generosity of the faithful stewards of St. Mark's enables us as a parish to live into our mission of love and service to God's world. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Capital Campaign Preparation

John Moses, Chair

In anticipation of an upcoming capital campaign to retire the mortgage on our new church home and to fund planned renovations and improvements, the Vestry voted in November to engage the Episcopal Church Foundation as outside counsel for the campaign. Once our plans have been more clearly defined, the Foundation will help us present them to the parish family at an open meeting to ensure that as many questions as possible are answered and concerns addressed. Following that, the Foundation will guide us through a Feasibility Study to help us determine levels of individual support and help us set a final goal for our campaign.

It is our hope to hold the Parish Meeting in February and to be ready to launch our campaign by May.

Treasurer's Report

Lewis Tabb

**NOTE: Detailed financial reports are contained in a separate handout.
Pages 3 & 4 were printed together. No pages are missing.**

I must preface my report by thanking Bob Pinkerton for the masterful job he did as the original treasurer of St. Mark's. Without his organization and setup of the books, this would have been a much more difficult job to take on. I also must thank Donna Altman for her conscientious work as bookkeeper, taking care of all the details. Bob did both jobs in the past, for which we are grateful.

As we all know, 2018 was a transitional year for St. Mark's from a financial perspective as well. Thanks to the faithful support of the congregation over the years, we were able to purchase the building as our permanent sanctuary. Your continuing support has enabled us to upgrade the building and prepare for necessary improvements, while allowing us to expand our ministry both within and outside the congregation. Operating revenue exceeded the budgeted amount slightly and, even with the expenses associated with owning, we kept expenses in control. Exceeding the revenue budget is a great testament to the faithfulness of our members as the budget contained a significant increase from 2017.

The big difference on the statements from last year to 2018 is the purchase of the building and the associated mortgage we took on. Through the generosity of a few members, we were able to keep the amount of the mortgage down and prepay the balance a bit. The mortgage payments are close to what we were paying in rent and the operating expenses are under control.

2018 also reflects a significant increase in non-operating items. These are undertakings of the parish that do not reflect every day ministry and operations. Significant items were the contributions to allow us to purchase our building and piano, plus the new initiatives of the Israel trip and Kanuga weekend. These are not budgeted items but are undertaken with the approval of your Vestry. As you know, some of these continue year after year, so expect to see them in 2019 as well. Neither does the budget contain any expenses associated with a capital campaign to allow us to retire the debt and expand the sanctuary, but these expenses are covered by the contributions that the campaign raises.

The 2019 budget reflects another significant increase in operating revenue, but through the work of Nicole Passeggio and the support of the congregation, we have pledges in hand to cover the budget and allow us to increase our Outreach and Mission budget and the Rector's discretionary account budget significantly. Your vestry has set a goal of tithing, contributing 10 percent of our operating income to these ministries. While we are not there yet, we are well on our way. The other significant expense changes are associated with ownership of the building and its increased use, and managing and ministering to a larger, and growing congregation.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nominees for Vestry

Celeste Nalwasky and her husband Dick felt the magnet of SC sunshine to find a home on Dataw Island. Coming from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA, they found St. Mark's--a parish which had warmth and caring like that of their former church.

At St. Paul's, Celeste was active with youth and taught the Confirmation Class for many years. Because St. Paul's was such a large congregation, she did not take a titled leadership role but served where help was needed, led the organization of the church library, and led many parish life activities.

Until her retirement in 2012, Celeste worked in K-12 and higher ed for 50 years. She was President and board member of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association for 15 years, served as a visiting professor at many universities across the country, and conducted numerous programs.

At St. Mark's Celeste serves as a lay reader, coordinates the weekly Coffee Hour, and assists in the nursery.

Celeste loves to read, cook and play golf. She is currently President of the American Association of University Women, Beaufort Branch. Her enjoyment of people and learning makes her a willing member of groups wanting to make the world a better place for all.

Dick Balkite and his wife Susan moved to Beaufort in 2017. He is a native of Connecticut, with 21 years in Maine prior to his "get warm" stage of life. His professional life was in corporate marketing and product development in both the packaged goods and information industries, and finally in residential real estate. He served three years with the US Army Security Agency and received his undergraduate and MBA degrees from Columbia University.

He brings an extensive background in Episcopal parish life with roles as Stewardship Chair, Vestryman, and junior and senior warden in Connecticut and as Finance Chair and Trustee for an independent summer chapel in Maine.

He has quickly engaged in our parish life, volunteering for Kairos and Family Promise, joining a foyer group and, on occasion, speaking on behalf of St. Mark's in church and in public. He loves reading, travel and any excuse to share laughter.

Nominees for Annual Diocesan Convention

Delegates

Jim Phelps, George Utter, Susan Grimes and Katey Seibels

Alternates

Bill Libert, Lewis Tabb, Jane Forsythe and Paula Miller

MINISTRY REPORTS

Outreach & Mission

Louise Moses (Co-Chair) with Team Members Tom Miller (Co-Chair), Barbara Anderson, Bill Libert, Anne Errington, Patricia Turk, Gale Swan, Judy Utter, Patti Griswold, Scott Graber and Vestry Liaison Jim Rowe

Once again we had a most generous budget provided to our committee by the members of the Vestry. With the \$18,000 we were able to grant all fund requests with some form of a grant, though not always the full amount as some requests were significant in nature.

The highlight of our meetings (generally the third Monday of the month) were presentations by members of the charities that requested funds: Mildred Vasquez from HELP of Beaufort; Lyndsay Roberg from Friends of Caroline Hospice; Richard Drake, Founder and Director of Under One Roof; and Melanie Hooper on the impact of our funding for the Friends of Shanklin Elementary..

As of December our disbursements were the following:

Dominican Republic	\$ 500
ABLE	1000
St. Francis Center.....	1000
HELP of Beaufort	2500
Prosper (M. Seymour)	750
Lowcountry Habitat for Humanity	1000
Kairos.....	500
Zariki School (Nieterts).....	750
Good Neighbor Free Medical Clinic	500
Under One Roof.....	2500
Beaufort Walk for Water	1000
Friends of Shanklin.....	1200
Family Promise	1500
ERD Hurricane Relief.....	1000
The Giving.....	400
Dominican Republic travel expenses (Roy)	200
Kairos Christmas Dinner	400
CAPA Gift Cards.....	480
St. Andrews Church fire	700
TOTAL	\$17,880

Anne Errington and Linda Landsberg held a successful Christmas sale in November and proceeds were donated to HELP. We participated again with The Giving and donated funds as well as 500 cans of yams. Our final gift of the year was \$40 gift certificates for 12 teenagers through CAPA.

Christian Education: Adult

The Rev. Roy Tripp

This year many of you have participated in a variety of opportunities for adult education. From structured classes held mornings and evenings on Wednesdays to free-wheeling discussions at God-On-Tap to the more intimate and casual conversations of the Wandering Rector, adults have explored their faith. Add to the list our first Parish retreat (watch for details of our next one in the fall) along with our Confirmation Classes, and you can discover many ways to enhance your faith journey.

Our Lenten Covenant provided yet another opportunity for growth as we journeyed together. With daily bible reading and prayer for one another, many individuals from St. Mark's and around the country discovered their Lenten experience strengthened and enriched. Your opportunity to be part of this year's covenant group will be announced as we get closer to Lent.

Christian Education: Children

Judy Utter & Sally Domby with Vestry Liaison Mike Seymour

St. Mark's Nursery, headed by paid nursery attendant Linda Goodman and supported by volunteers from the congregation, is available for both the 9 and 11 AM services. We currently have one toddler regularly attending at the 9 AM service. In Sunday school, we are now using the Holy Moly Series, Year 2/Unit 3, New Testament Stories, grades K-2, that was donated as a gift in kind. Sunday School meets at 11 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We have attending on average two students between the ages of 3 and 7. Judy Utter and Sally Domby share teaching responsibilities.

A "family-friendly" service took place at 11 AM on the first and third Sundays. This service was slightly shorter with a homily directed at children, but always including something for adults as well.

Pastoral Care

Vestry Liaison Linda Finnin with Committee Members Debbie Dawsey-Davis, Judy Utter, Paula Miller and Bonnie Connolly

Pastoral Care is vital to our senior congregation. As our congregants continue to age, it is anticipated that there will be a greater need for these volunteer services, and keeping our congregation informed of these available services should be an ongoing priority.

Prayer Ministry: Two types of prayer requests are available: 1) Confidential List whereby the Rector and a small number of individuals appointed by the Rector pray privately; 2) Public List whereby the names are listed in the bulletin each Sunday for prayer from the entire congregation. This ministry continues to be enthusiastically accepted by our parishioners. Contact: Debbie Dawsey-Davis.

Helping Hands: Meals and transportation are provided by volunteers to those in need due to health problems or other issues. This past year meals, transportation to and from doctor appointments, visits, and flowers from our Sunday services were provided. Judy Utter maintains a list of volunteers willing to serve. Contacts: Judy Utter, Linda Finnin

Bereavement and Comfort: Light refreshment is offered to the bereaved family at St. Mark's Center prior to the funeral or memorial service. Meeting at the Center provides a place for the family to gather before proceeding to the church. Paula and Bonnie will contact Rev. Tripp regarding requests from the bereaved family. Contacts: Paula Miller, Bonnie Connolly

Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Individuals are authorized by the Bishop to deliver Holy Communion to those who cannot attend church. A group will be relicensed in 2019. Contact: The Rev. Roy Tripp.

Community Connections

Vestry Liaison Mike Seymour

Community Connections at St. Mark's means reaching out in love to the world with gracious inclusiveness and acceptance, especially to those most in need. Whereas our Outreach and Missions Ministry involves giving financially, Community Connections provides personal ministry opportunities for members of our congregation to bring the presence of Christ to the people of our community. This includes a variety of events and programs:

Kairos Prison Ministry International: This ministry addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, and youth and those who work in the prison environment. Based on the Cursillo movement, this four-day event fosters a ministry supported by St. Marks twice a year at Ridgeland Correctional Institute, an SC Department of Corrections facility. This male facility requires a team of 40 Kairos volunteers to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to them become loving and productive citizens. All who are called to this ministry are welcome to join this ecumenical group. Contact Ken Kraft for more information (kraftken4340@yahoo.com).

Bible Study at Estill Federal Correctional Institution: Seven lay ministers from the Southern Deanery of our Diocese, including three members from St Mark's (Mike Seymour, Linda Jones, Ken Kraft) provide a bible study to residents of the federal penitentiary in Estill, SC. Between 14-18 men attend each study, which has included the gospels of Mark and Matthew, practices in prayerful reading of scriptures known as *lectio divina*, and a contemplative prayer of silence. Many men have reported an authentic deepening of their walk with Christ. Contact Mike Seymour (mike@hol.edu).

Souper Bowl of Caring: Organized by Carter Hoyt, this event harnesses the energy and excitement of Super Bowl weekend to mobilize young people to fight hunger. In 2018 the youth raised \$461 and collected 100+ food items for Phoebe's Closet at Port Royal United Methodist Church.

The Giving: St. Mark's participates in a community-wide, multi-church Thanksgiving effort to collect and distribute the makings of a Thanksgiving meal to local individuals and families in need.

Trunk or Treat: St. Mark's partners with Port Royal United Methodist Church, Port Royal Elementary School and Beaufort County YMCA for a Sunday afternoon Halloween gathering in downtown Port Royal. This event draws a very large crowd and offers a safe trick-or-treating experience for ghouls, goblins and ghosts of all ages. Volunteers conduct games and costume contests and distribute treats from their trunks. Trunk or Treat takes place the last Sunday in October, and we always need both donations of goodies and people bringing their "trunks." Contact Mike Seymour (mike@hol.edu).

Parish Life

Beth Campbell

Parish Life encompasses activities that provide opportunities for celebrations, fellowship and fun. Successful events in 2018 were the annual January Oyster Roast, the Newcomers Reception, Bishop's Reception, Pentecost and Welcome Back Parish Picnics and the annual Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis of Assisi Day. Foyer groups (organized by Debbie and Jim Phelps) allow small groups of members to connect with one other by meeting once a month in each other's homes for covered dish dinners October through May. Our first annual Parish retreat was held at Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC, this fall. Sunday Coffee hour, organized by Celeste Nalwasky, offers coffee, tea and cookies in the Center between Sunday services during the "school year." Cool lemonade is served on the lovely, shady lawn during the summer months.

Worship

Carter Hoyt, Programs Associate

As I often say to people, there's good news and there's even better news when it comes to the life of St. Mark's!

As we grow, though more challenges arise, so does more opportunity to serve and to share our love of worship. Currently we have more than 85 women, men and youth who lend their time and talent to enhance our worship experience at St. Mark's, many in multiple ways! These individuals serve as acolytes, communion bread and love loaf bakers, gospel bearers, lay eucharistic ministers (chalice bearers), lay eucharistic visitors, lectors (readers), Music Director, sacristans, ushers, Vestry Person on Duty, ensemble members, floral arrangers, nursery and Sunday School teachers, gospel/sermon recorders, prayer team members, linen caretakers, and of course Rev. Roy, Patricia Turk, Jack Nietert and Roger Smith who lead us on our spiritual sojourn.

We continue to update our online Liturgical Manual which provides instructions for many of these ministries, and links to the service schedule and to the list of servers make it easy for folks to find a substitute when circumstances change. In addition, the website provides access to each Sunday's sermon, to the service bulletin, and the prayer list.

Rev. Roy continues to introduce new liturgies and Diane identifies just the right music to complement. But the even better news from 2018? We own our wonderful, lovely and sacred Union Church! No more restricted access, no more moving furniture each week or transporting vestments. And as we enter 2019 and consider a capital campaign, we look to the opportunities for expanded worship and outreach to our community. Thanks be to God and to the faithful of St. Mark's.

Music

Diane Mullis-Waddell, Music Director

St. Mark's Ensemble consists of a group of singers who wish to sing in four-part harmony during the Offertory at the 11:00 AM Sunday service. Each week members receive via email a PDF file and an audio file of the selection to be sung. The Ensemble rehearses 30 minutes before the service. Anyone who likes to sing is invited to participate when available to do so.

Administration & Communications

Julie Petroff, Parish Administrator

The Parish Register: St. Mark's is required under Canon 20 to keep a book in which all baptized members' names, as well as baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals that occur in the parish, are recorded. This year we had one baptism but no confirmations, weddings or funerals. Twelve people had their "letters" transferred from other churches and three people transferred out by letter. The Parish Register currently lists 210 baptized members. That number compares to 315 in our database. If you were previously a member of an Episcopal church and would like a formal transfer, please contact the office. This is purely to insure accuracy of St. Mark's records, as well as those of your previous church.

Communications: Our e-newsletters, "Red Lion Weekly" and Roy's "Rector's Thoughts," have approximately 200 unique opens per issue. St. Mark's is also a presence on Facebook and posts pictures and news several times a week. Carter Hoyt is in charge of our webpage. Anything you want to know about St. Mark's, you can find there! It's up-to-date, attractive and full of information.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
PO Box 761 ~ Port Royal, SC 29935
The Rt. Reverend Gladstone B. Adams III, Bishop
The Reverend Roy Tripp, Rector
The Reverend Roger Wm. Smith, Rector Emeritus
843 379-1020 www.stmarksc.org

Office Hours at the Center
9 AM to 2 PM on Tues., Wed. & Thurs.