



ST MARK
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

**ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020**

**208 W. BANDERA ROAD
BOERNE, TX 78006**

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FROM THE TRANSITIONAL MINISTER

Reverend Dr. Joan Watson

All years stand alone in their uniqueness, but this one will insist on more than a second look. It was a year that you just could not slide through with “more of the same.”

2020 opened with that January invitation to look both back and forward at the same time. St. Mark was a little more than halfway through the work of the Transition team; most of the groups having met; only a few listening sessions remained; analysis and summary were the tasks before the elected group of eight. A large number of St. Mark members and several faithful visitors had participated in the quest to better understand who the church is in its identity and mission. Former pastors and friends of the congregation were interviewed. Surveys were taken. Clearly to the forefront were St. Mark’s most important things like the centrality of worship in more than one form and the desire to be a welcoming family of faith, one invested in the community. The need to continue healing from several significant “unresolved” events was identified. Ways were being considered about just how to do that. A consultant had looked at our surveys and gave a solid warning to not move forward before we addressed these issues that the congregation had noted. Their investment had been impressive, we were told.

As we moved into February, statistical reports were compiled, and every effort was made to accurately capture a picture of St. Mark. Numbers were noted, particularly those of worship attendance—the average attendance being 141 with about one third of the worshippers in the “contemporary service” and two thirds in the “traditional service.” A deficit budget had been approved in January even though the church had ended “in the black” for two years in a row. It seemed that would somehow keep the doors of possibility open. It was a confident Session that voted once again for a “faith- based budget.”

As always, the church hardly got the Advent wreath put away before it was time to dig out the ashes for Ash Wednesday and to enter another season of the church year. No more waiting “expectantly” as in Advent we were rounding the corner into Lent which demanded a serious look at who we are. Reflection and repentance were called for as we considered the life, death and resurrection of Jesus - his ministry, his words, his faithful sacrifice - which would always be the plumbline by which we would measure our own growth in grace, should such a thing be measurable.

It was a busy church for about 10 weeks into 2020, the year that we hoped to see more clearly, to have great vision. And then, of course, it happened. The news of a coronavirus more than crept into the headlines; it was suddenly upon us. The Governor and Mayor and various principalities were hurriedly meeting; and on Friday, March 13, it seemed the world around us was called to a halt. We cancelled worship for the third Sunday of Lent; the scripture, sermon and pastoral prayer were posted on our webpage; there was an email blast to the congregation to notify them. Several leaders waited at the church that Sunday morning in case there were members or visitors who didn’t get the message. No one came.

The Session officially met the following night to close until St. Mark was guided to reopen. A small presence would be kept in the church office to ensure phone calls and church emails were received and the mail was handled.

Within a few days a team was established to begin videoing our worship services which would be posted each Sunday morning with a link imbedded in an email invitation to join. The services were mostly blended or shared between different music groups. It was an extraordinary, albeit time consuming, effort on the part of many; all done with great attention to detail and with integrity.

Care teams were established to keep connections with people during a time of “shelter in place.” All operations were done from home and most of us admitted that was a “labor intensive” effort, but we were in it together. Zoom was the venue by which staff, session, committees, and small groups met. A Coming Back Together team was assembled with representatives from the Session and Congregation, including a Trustee who is a physician. This team would be an advisory group to the Session, as it would be challenged with when and how to reopen.

Spring edged its way to summer and as the state and local authorities lifted the bans on gathering, there was a push for St. Mark to reopen, including having in person worship. The Session voted to have May 31st, Pentecost Sunday, be that day. There was a long delayed Congregational Meeting that happened also that day to elect the Congregational Nominating Committee so they could begin to nominate church officers and the Pastor Nominating Committee. The service was handled with significant attention to detail; it was both in person and livestreamed for the first time. The office opened later that week, but with less attention to detail which resulted in a scramble to develop some sort of protocol for groups meeting at St. Mark.

Things went along smoothly for a while, but notification of a potential Covid-19 scare on campus and family plans on the part of several key leaders seemed to make the in- person worship while livestreaming more difficult. The number of people “in the pews” dwindled to about half of those actually leading or helping with the service. As a result, in late July the Session voted to return to video and livestreamed services without having worshipers present. That lasted until September 20th. Mostly meetings continued via zoom as well as classes and small study groups.

Again, with Covid-19 numbers ticking up and several cases of people testing positive including on our staff, in our Session or with their families, in our Early Learning Center, in our music ministry and the youth group the Session voted at its December meeting to cease in-person worship from December 20th-January 17th. That decision happened the night before I had emergency surgery which required the worship ministry to have to recruit leaders and preachers for the services I had been scheduled to lead and to recruit those with skills to video the services since many of our “tech team” were unavailable during the holidays, particularly for Christmas Eve.

The above summary clearly focuses on the Session's decisions regarding Covid-19 and the challenges of worship during the multiple seasons of dealing with the virus. This summary captures the business of the elders, as the Session met 23 times, in both called and stated meetings, not to mention e-votes. Mostly they were dealing with the changing dynamics of Covid-19 and with unpredicted challenges. This summary is also an attempt to capture the creative and tireless work of worship ministry, but it in no way captures the breadth and depth of what happened at St. Mark in 2020.

The church ended both 2019 and 2020 with the budget in the black. Finances remained stable throughout the year; a reasonable stewardship campaign went on, though things were anything but "usual." Staff and lay leaders worked hard to continue ministries including education of youth, children and adults, small study groups, etc. Our Outreach elders kept the needs of people--both local and beyond on our radar—front and center as they sought to deliver concrete help to those in need.

The Deacons, Prayer and Care team leaders tried to improvise ways to stay connected to those most vulnerable and isolated, and to support each other through prayer. There were house visits, phone calls, notes...all in an effort to keep the community spirit alive. The Congregational Life ministry attempted to plan ways for the church retreat to happen, but ultimately the Session decided the church should wait until the pandemic was over.

The property committee kept the buildings and grounds in good shape. The Host committee continued welcoming visitors and trying to gently guide them into membership; in fact, three of those who joined in January of 2020 have become some of our new leaders for 2021.

Communications became a strong link through our webpage and other forms of communication. Personnel continued its support of staff, including keeping income to part time and contract staff stable. During the summer, new officers and a PNC were recruited.

Ironically, our Early Learning Center has the best enrollment now in 2021 than it has had in four years, though opening during the throes of Covid-19 was challenging.

In all the church worked; but it was not always easy nor were the decisions always those that people liked. Some have threatened to leave the church because the Session made decisions not to have in-person worship. Some saw the "on again/off again" way of dealing with the virus irritating, though mostly it was tied to direct threats.

In conclusion, the decisions of the Session based on information gleaned from the Coming Back Together team were always to ride the edge of doing the most with the least risk. It required constant reassessing. There was no objective standard that would be put in place for automatic protocol for the church...when to open...when to close. It was a hard year for many made harder because of the context of a highly political year and the onslaught of differing information by way of social media.

In the fall of 2019, at the All -Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch, those in attendance learned through a series of exercises that St. Mark is actually a rather diverse church; members really think differently. That came as a surprise to many, and as something of concern to some. Efforts were made to emphasize the great value of diversity in the context of unity under the Lordship of Christ. To be a body not only with differing gifts but with differing perspectives is itself a gift, but it is also a challenge. I think Covid-19 and the recent past and current political environment has heightened the challenge.

If Covid-19 has given this church anything, it has revealed the unifying role of worship together; and that, it, in many ways, defines this church. It has revealed St. Mark's need to be in each other's company. Somehow personal presence has allowed the diversity to still work; absence has caused—in some cases-- ideology to overtake love and care and investment in one another. What clarity Covid-19 brought has also threatened some of the church's unity. It has also revealed the strong need in some for personal freedom and revealed the resistance to authority in others...resistance even to the elected representative body that makes up the Session. In short, Covid -19 as a crisis was unifying; as a chronic situation, has been divisive. That is not unusual. Crises can unite; chronic situations tend to exhaust resources and drain patience and energy.

With the upcoming ordination and installation service, more than a third of the Session will be new adding to other newer elders currently serving. This session will be made up of one third of its members new to St. Mark and to the Presbyterian denomination –within the 3 -4 years or less. One third of its members have been members less than 7 years but more than 3 or 4, many of those lifelong Presbyterians; the final third have been in the church a long time and have seen many changes, many losses, many gains.

It is a Session with the possibility of fresh vision and great hope; with roots that run deep in memory but with not so much as to harness it to the past. This will be a year to stabilize, to pick up pieces, to heal wounds, but also to break free to new things the Spirit reveals. The Pastor Nominating Committee's work is in motion. The Session begins its work with two big agendas: when and how to return to worship in person and what will be the 2021 budget ...balanced or faith based?

I have great hope in St. Mark's future. I believe it will be different than it has been before; most churches will be changed because of this year. But I think it can be better. The call is to remember that this church, as all churches, is God's church and God is ever faithful... and always the Spirit is at work bringing new life.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Elder Theresa Gateley

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Foremost in this ministry is the continuing education of adults in the teachings of Christ through scripture and discussion. Currently, the adult classes that meet weekly are Engaging God's Word, the Friendship Group, a special needs class, Monday Evening Ladies Group, A Few Good Men, WOW, Morning Glorias and Mid-Week Men's.

Present Word and Breakfast Club, were able to meet until March but were dramatically impacted by COVID and as such, have not met since.

The pandemic has impacted group meetings, but every effort has been made to continue this ministry with the aid of technology, particularly Zoom.

This ministry's goal for 2021 is to continue to meet, both in person and virtually.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

This ministry seeks to nurture the spiritual growth in children and youth attending St Mark. Again, COVID affected meeting in person. Ministry meetings have taken place to plan for VBS in 2021, along with other plans for the future. For highlights in this area, please reference Angela Grover's report.

When children did meet for Sunday School, it was productive and engaging. Once the pandemic hit, attendance dropped off dramatically and continues to suffer even with Zoom meetings. It was difficult to capture online attendance. The ministry group is currently trying to develop ideas to better engage this group while online worship continues.

The youth group was able to have some group meetings while adhering to group meeting protocols. COVID impacted regularly scheduled activities such as the Youth Christmas Party, Iron Chef and the Parent vs. Youth volleyball game. We plan to resume these activities once health restrictions allow.

Vacation Bible School had to be rewritten to accommodate the circumstances of the pandemic. Supplies, curriculum, and activities were saved and will be implemented for VBS 2021.

It is the hope and prayer for this ministry that we will be able to continue to nurture the spiritual growth of the area youth in the upcoming year.

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Angela Grover

Mission: to provide Christian nurture and growth for the adults, youth, and children in our midst through sound biblical teaching and experiences.

2020 Highlights and Lowlights:

- Organized Epiphany Party for Youth, children, and adults
- Planned, replanned and co-directed VBS in June -- serving 60 kids in two sessions at two days each with 35 youth and adult volunteers.
- Organized one Back-to-School pool party and one VBS pool party for Youth.
- Coordinated meals from members to the youth group meetings.
- Led virtual children's activities on Easter Sunday.
- Organized "Back 2 School Blessings" with gifts and blessings for all students and teachers, delivered gifts (masks and backpack tags) to student and teacher homes.
- Assisted, promoted, and supported Youth led worship (pre-recorded)
- Coordinated 12 youth and 3 adults (including myself) to attend Midwinter Retreat at Mo Ranch
- Attend Communication meetings
- Attend weekly staff meetings.
- Attended Congregational Life meetings
- Assisted in planning, programming, and leading of Youth and children at annual all-church retreat, replanned a virtual retreat. Retreat cancelled due to poor registration turn out after going virtual.
- Attended Outreach Ministry meetings
- Promoted and encouraged youth and congregation participation in "Souper Bowl of Caring" giving 2,163 "cans" to Boerne Community Coalition
- Promoted and planned Black Light Dodge Ball as a new year kick-off for the Youth program. Invited incoming 6th graders (current 5th graders) to help them ease into the youth program.
- Planned and attended youth meetings, service projects, or activities. Switched to virtual meetings when we could not meet in person.
- Attended:
 - BHS Choir Concert
 - BHS Graduation
 - CHS Soccer games
 - Clark HS Soccer Game
 - BHS Cross Country local and state Meets.
 - UTSA Rugby Match
- Had lunch at Voss Middle school with 5 students.
- Assisted in selection of Youth Sunday School lessons and scheduled class leaders for each Sunday.
- Assisted anyone who needed help with zoom for classes or meetings.
- Organized middle school sleepover for six girls and two adults.
- Organized opportunities for members to host youth group in their homes or outside.

- Organized events to honor Graduates and celebrate their achievements.
- Planned a beach trip to Corpus Christi with 13 Sr. High Youth and two adults, staying at First Presbyterian Church of Corpus
- Met with youth to plan upcoming activities.
- Registered 14 youth and two adult sponsors for Synod Youth Workshop – only four of the youth attended due to it being online only.
- “Attended” Synod Youth Workshop as a small group leader.
- Organized Parent vs. Youth Volleyball offsite, six parents and 12 youth attended.
- Participated in PYCC Youth Cohort (virtual)
- Sent text and emails to graduates regarding upcoming events for young adults.
- Organized Rally Sunday activities for outdoor drive thru-ice cream social, about 15 people helped and 10 people drove thru.
- Organized First Fridays for 3 months, serving 15+ children and their families each event.
- Organized Summer Sunday School lessons and teachers from the congregation, students could participate online or in-person, participation dropped to only one student by end of June.
- Began plans for a new program for Family Christmas Eve Worship Service, cancelled due to Covid.
- Emailed families from VBS and other events on upcoming events for children at St. Mark.
- Planned Guatemala Mission Trip, registered 30 youth and adults to attend, cancelled due to Covid.
- Organized and trained youth servers for the Dinner Theater Fundraiser, great success in fundraising and enjoyment for all who attended or participated.
- Worked with team to organize a St. Mark Women’s Gathering, that will invite women from the community and St. Mark in January 2021, postponed TBD.
- Assisted hosting Women’s Gathering 2020 for about 50 participants.
- Sent out emails to families with children informing them of upcoming events.
- Sent out emails to youth and parents with upcoming events.
- Assisted in selecting and/or ordering curriculum for adult classes and small groups.
- Kept the church informed with submissions to the weekly Happenings newsletter, updates to the website, Instagram and Facebook posts and flyers in the hallway.
- Assisted in the supervision of the nursery on Sunday mornings, in absence of Nursery Coordinator.
- Communicated regularly with Nursery Coordinator about staffing/nursery needs.
- Member of CE committee and attend or led meetings as needed.
- Attended Breakfast Club Sunday School regularly, led as substitute (Jan.-March)
- Organized and led virtual backyard campout, 12 youth and children attended.
- Organized and attended youth camping trip, including Sunday worship, 15 youth and four adults attended.
- Planned Youth Christmas party, cancelled due to Covid exposure.
- Delivered craft and story kits to children’s homes.
- Planned and registered 40 children for God’s Gift Factory, cancelled the day before event due to possible Covid exposure, all craft supplies, and plans are saved for 2021.

- Led and promoted women's Bible study on Thursdays, serving up to 12 women.
- Promoted and helped pack shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, packed 40 boxes and drove the youth to deliver them to St. John Lutheran Church
- Organized Hearts of Love bag decorating, collected about 50 bags.
- Packed Hearts of Love weekend food bags at St. John Lutheran Church with five young adult volunteers from St. Mark
- Promoted Sunday School Classes and Small Groups as new studies begin.
- Cancelled most Sunday school classes by October, leaving Engaging God's Word and an Intergenerational class both available online and in-person (when church was in-person)
- Gathered children to create Christmas cards for nursing home residents, delivered 39 cards to Riverview Nursing Home
- Assisted in planning a festival for World Communion Sunday, cancelled due to Covid.
- Registered five middle school girls and one adult sponsor for Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch, event was cancelled two days prior to leaving.
- Assisted in promoting a kite flying day after worship, about six youth and children and four adults attended.
- Met with leadership coach for three months, completed Enneagram and Spiritual Intelligence analysis
- Attended ELC Coffee & Conversation to build relationships with ELC parents (Jan. – March)
- Taught Sunday School for Special Needs group, children, and Youth on substitute basis
- Assisted in planning lessons and curriculum for children's Sunday School.
- Held brief training on child and youth safety policies at each Christian Ed meeting
- Assisted with website.
- Posted youth events and photos on Instagram.
- Texted youth group each week to keep them engaged and informed.
- Encouraged and provided youth opportunities to lead children's Sunday School lessons and/or activities.
- Youth created "Thank You" gifts/cards for people in the congregation that have provided meals, love, or support.
- Led Chapel Time at Ambleside School
- Confirmed background check status of volunteers and ensured new volunteer applications were completed by all volunteers working with children.
- Presented Bibles to two 3rd grade students.
- Presented gifts to one child who was Baptized.
- Trusted God a lot more

2021 Goals:

- Pray for and encourage youth to grow together as a group and in their individual faith.
- Encourage new volunteers to serve at First Fridays and other events.
- Find a new interactive worship service for Christmas Eve family worship.
- Continue to work with so many wonderful volunteers, encouraging participation and leadership to fulfill the work God calls us to

- Pray for and plan meaningful mission trip to Guatemala or wherever God is calling us.
- Offer variety of service opportunities for youth, children, and families.
- Collaborate with Early Learning Center Director to ensure families are informed of and welcomed to St. Mark events (women's bible study, First Friday for Kids, etc.).
- Encourage sr. high youth to attend Teen Leadership Conference at Mo Ranch and/or Synod Youth Workshop
- Encourage jr. high youth to attend Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch
- Pray for, encourage, and empower youth sponsors to attend and lead youth activities, conferences, trips, etc.
- Attend events (ie. dance recitals, sporting events, concerts) involving children and youth of St. Mark.
- Assist youth in planning and leading worship on Youth Sunday and an encourage further understanding of worship.
- Support all ministries and participate when called to help.
- Promote Sunday school and small group attendance, as well as revive classes that are not meeting.
- Personally, encourage visitors and members to attend Sunday School and Small Groups
- Organize and facilitate youth and children events for the All-Church Retreat
- Plan a Spirit-filled and engaging confirmation class.
- Assist in promoting fellowship activities, especially those with opportunity to serve others, in hopes for our church to grow spiritually together (again)
- Create a Lenten Devotional written by St. Mark members and regular visitors.
- Work toward better communication in church office and between staff and session
- Love, pray, study, and meditate more.

CLERK OF SESSION

Becky Collie

NEW MEMBERS

Crystal McElhenny
Jay McElhenny
Nona Annett
Linda Jerdet
Debbie Culver (reinstated)
William Long
Suzanne Long

DEATHS

Gerry Pfeil
Foxie White

TRANSFERS FROM ST MARK

Lamont Beckett (transfer to University Presbyterian)
Melinda Beckett (transfer to University Presbyterian)
Dana Stewart (transfer to Christ of the Hills)
TJ Allred
Ken Carlson
Jean Carlson
Tanner Fields
Gentry Fields
Kris Cox
Kyle Cox
Keaton Cox
Kennedy Cox

BAPTISMS

Logan Ann Jamerson

MEMBERSHIP

Gains: 7
Losses: 14
TOTAL for 12/31/20: 272

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NURSERY MINISTRY

Marilyn Bonaguro, Nursery Coordinator

The Nursery Ministry started 2020 with and included Marilyn Bonaguro, Nursery Coordinator, and caregivers: Eloisa Chavez, Sara Foster, Sydnee Hodge, Jessica Haberman, Kim Hodge, and Bonnie Weaver. With the onset of Covid-19 and suspended worship services mid-March, Eloisa Chavez and Bonnie Weaver submitted their resignations due to health concerns. Jessica Haberman also resigned in June upon graduate school admission. In September Kayla Young joined our caregivers' team.

We are under the oversight of Angela Grover, Director of Christian Education, and elder Theresa Gately. In 2020 the following childcare needs were provided:

- Sunday worship services
- VBS
- First Fridays (4)
- Prepared for God's Gift Factory Our dedicated Caregivers: Kim Hodge, Sydnee Hodge and Sara Foster were adaptable to the changing circumstances of St. Mark throughout the past year. They were prepared to teach Preschool Sunday School during the one worship service at 10am.

The Special Considerations for Infectious Control in Child Care Settings during COVID-19 were carefully adhered to in every instance:

- Temperatures taken prior to admission
- Admission of only children at the front door to Nursery Building
- Added cleaning with consideration of ELC needs. Our caregivers are trained in Pediatric First Aid/CPR, child abuse reporting and receive updated training and review.

Please acknowledge them as they continue to provide excellent care and love to all our children. Childcare on weekends is provided in the Children's Ministry Building in Room 2 (ages 2 and up to Kindergarten) and Room 3 (infants to toddlers). The rooms are set up each Sunday in the shared facility used weekdays by the Early Learning Center. We have rocking chairs for the use of nursing mothers and fussy babies. The equipment is sanitized and returned to storage Sunday after use. We also make use of the playground area weather permitting.

Weekday childcare is provided in the FLC Room 106. The equipment is stored in the closet and must be set up, sanitized, and replaced after the weekly needs are met. The room has a toddler bathroom with changing table next to the church's onsite washer and dryer. We invite you to visit the Children's Ministry Building to see them in action after COVID-19.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Elder Carol Trono (Communications Chair in 2020)

Committee Chair Carol Trono and Elder Patricia Porter (inactive)

Purpose or Mission Statement:

- To ensure consistent, high quality, and appropriate communications to all members of the church, prospective members, guests, the neighboring community, and the general public.
- To ensure all communications are accurate and appropriate within the context of a PC-USA faith community.
- To effectively utilize the limited budgeted resources for approved communications.
- To protect the privacy of all church members and others who use St. Mark facilities and resources and/or participate in St. Mark ministries.

Members of committee:

Elder Patricia Porter, Committee Chair Carol Trono, Christian Education Director Angela Grover, Office Administrator Naomi Koudouris, and Church Members Lynn Bellow, Jay McElhenney, and Elsa Poole.

2020 Highlights:

- Established a communications policy for St. Mark approved by Session and effective 09/28/2020. The policy is now part of the St. Mark Operations Manual that is posted on the church website.
- Maintained and updated the St. Mark website to accommodate more photos, videos, and social media links as the need for online communications grew due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Established an ad hoc Realm Communications Team to work with church staff in reviewing and evaluating current data in Realm, identify and begin using additional features available through our Realm subscription, and work toward giving all members access to their Realm profiles and an online Realm directory.
- Managed production and distribution of the weekly Happenings and the quarterly member directory; coordinated social media posts on FaceTime, Instagram and YouTube; created and updated messages for video screens in the Sanctuary, Hospitality Center and Family Life Center; communicated with members and visitors through targeted email blasts and mailings/phone calls to members who do not use email; coordinated the posting of messages on the Bandera Road sign and temporary Bandera Road banners; submitted public service announcements to local media as needed; and worked with ministry elders to keep the hallway bulletin boards maintained.

2021 Goals:

- Complete a review of membership data in Realm, make needed revisions, test opening up individual profile access to church officers first, and then launch member profile and online directory access to all active members of St. Mark. Continue to work on using additional Realm features to improve communication with and among members.

- Refine criteria for content and timeframes for submitting and publishing the weekly Happenings e-newsletter.
- Recruit more Communication Committee members & hold regular bimonthly meetings on the 3rd Friday at 10 am in all even months of the year – February, April, June, August, October, December.
- Promote greater use of the St. Mark website and social media sites among members and encourage the use of online registration options, activity sign-ups, and meeting venues in 2021.
- Work with Property Committee to revisit campus signage needs and plans.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY

Elder Larry Warren

Committee members: Angela Grover, Marilyn Bonaguro, Marzi Rust, Sandi Warren, Mary D D'Alessio, Rick Eckersley, Wanda Eckersley, Lynn Bellow.

Mission: Congregational Life's focus is the care and welfare, both physical and spiritual, of the members of St. Mark. It endeavors to build and enhance Christian fellowship within this community of believers.

Because of the Covid 19 Virus, the year 2020 is more about what Congregational Life was not able to do rather than fulfilling many of its goals for the year. We began the year with weekly Tai Chi classes, but they were suspended after the first week in March. The Chronologically Gifted (CGs) had to scrap planning for the always fun All Church Olympics which usually occurs sometime in Spring.

Our Sunday Services fellowship gatherings in the Hospitality Center were deemed to be unsafe for congregants and 5th Sunday meals were cancelled. Additionally, the ministry team hoped to continue plans for our annual All Church Retreat at Mo Ranch, initially as an in-person and then as a virtual event, but it eventually was cancelled as well. Finally, neither the Chili Cookoff nor a hoped-for All Church Christmas Party could be held because of the pandemic.

On the positive side, the new women's ministry at St. Mark, Party of Grace, was initiated and has met throughout the year via Zoom. Also, the Lunch Bunch has gathered several times at one of the local restaurants. Most importantly, we continued throughout the year to be a praying church as we lifted our fellow Christians and our community up to our Lord. And it is our hope and prayer that we may resume many of the activities listed above as we move into 2021.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER (ELC)

Kristine Luisi, Director



As a mission and ministry of St. Mark Presbyterian Church, we will provide an excellent program for young children and their families which is

- *affordable*
- *developmentally appropriate*
- *with active learning opportunities*
- *respectful of diverse cultures and races*
- *and built upon the foundation of a loving, Christian environment.*

Addressing the “opportunities” here in the ELC requires that we constantly nurture ourselves as adults and teachers. In order to do this work well, we must have His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit for all of our staff in this program and also ask for your prayers daily.

Parents appreciate the effort to not only provide a weekday, licensed, NAEYC accredited program, but they always mention the loving and skilled teachers who have so often changed their lives and those of their children. We thank God for our talented and loving staff!

Please continue to pray for God’s guidance and continued blessing for this ministry/mission of St. Mark. It is very clear that the quality and accomplishments of our program are directly linked to the generosity and vision of our church. We would like to express our appreciation to all of our church family who help to make the mission and ministry of the Early Learning Center a reality each of these last 24 years.

Overview: Our Early Learning Center is under the authority of the church Session and is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a majority of members from St. Mark. The Board also has several members from the community and includes some parents and/or grandparents of children enrolled. Currently we have 100 children enrolled in nine classes with 25 regular staff. Brochures are available in the foyer, narthex, church office and ELC office. Our center operates on the Boerne Schools’ calendar. We are licensed by the state of Texas, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and recognized as a Texas Rising Star by the Alamo Workforce Commission. Please visit during operating hours. We would love to give you a tour! Our website is www.stmarkelc.org.

Board Members: Bill Brant, Chairperson; Betty Crowell, Session Liaison; Doug Mikus, Finance Chair; Rob West, Personnel Chair; Monica Phillips, Secretary; Mary Beth Thomas, Member at Large; Mary Jane Ely, Member at Large; Amanda Hullum, Community Member; Diana Rendon, Community Member and Kristine Luisi, Ex Officio.

Now in our twenty-fifth year, we continue to be blessed with dedicated board members and staff who have many opportunities to share the love of Jesus with children and families. The opportunities are exciting and continuous as we serve children with special needs, children with exceptional ability, successful families and also families in crisis. Please pray with us that God will use and bless this ministry to children and their families. We thank God for the personnel He has provided to us! We are committed to pleasing God with all that we do here, and we delight in sharing the Good News with all who enter our door.

Highlights 2020

- The 2019-2020 school year was altered due to COVID-19. We did not return to in-person learning after Spring Break in March.
- Provided “virtual learning activities” for families via Facebook and Zoom for enrolled families for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
- We did have a “drive thru parade” on what would have been our last day of school in May. This gave children, parents, and teachers the opportunity to say goodbye before the summer.
- 2020 Swing Fore the Kids Golf Tournament and Auction was cancelled in April due to COVID.
- Most tuition payments for April and May 2020 were not paid. The ELC Board decided to keep all staff on payroll through May 2020 and depleted our contingency fund to do so.
- Established COVID-19 Policies/Handbook for staff and families.
- Equipped all classrooms with Air Purifiers and with Ultraviolet sanitizing light.
- Hired 2 lead teachers and 2 substitute teachers, for the 2020-2021 school year. (replacements, not adds to staff)
- Received our Re-Accreditation from NAEYC (accreditation must be renewed every 5 years).
- Orientation in August for each family previous to first day of the year, this was the only opportunity parents had to be inside the classrooms as our COVID policies prohibit parents from entering the buildings.
- Our annual FALL FEST fundraiser in October was cancelled due to COVID. In lieu of the Fall Fest, we held 2 bake sales, a “Spirit Night” at Willie’s IceHouse, and a Christmas Ornament Sale.
- Adoption of a “mission” supported by each of our 9 classrooms. (i.e., Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center, Hill Country Daily Bread, Hill Country Family Services, and others).
- Two children assisted through need-based scholarships totaling \$12,000 in commitments.
- Chapel on Thursdays in the church sanctuary.
- Parent Conferences for parents/teachers of each child, spring and fall of 2020. This effort includes providing resources to special needs children and families as needed. Written summaries using the Brigance Inventory provided to each parent.
- Continued coordination with Parent Advisory Committee to assist with communication and fundraising.
- Collaboration with Pastor, Youth and Christian Education Ministries to invite ELC families to St. Mark Bible Studies, Christmas events, Youth Ministry events, VBS, and Sunday School and church.

Early Learning Center of St. Mark Presbyterian Church
208 W. Bandera, Boerne, TX 78006, Phone [830-249-3813](tel:830-249-3813), fax [830-249-8233](tel:830-249-8233), email elcstmark@gvtc.com
website www.stmarkelc.org, www.facebook.com/ELCStMark

FINANCE MINISTRY

Elder David Thomas

Mission Statement: Ministry assures that adequate financial resources are available to enable the church to fulfill its mission through programs approved by Session. As directed by Session, and with the support of the Trustees, this ministry administers the financial resources of the church, reports on its financial status, and provides financial guidelines to committees or ministries that have budgets. Beginning in 2019, this ministry worked with the newly formed Stewardship Committee which executes the annual Stewardship Campaign and addresses other financial matters throughout the year. It is the responsibility of the Finance Ministry to protect and grow the financial assets of St. Mark.

Members of the Committee: Rob West (Treasurer), Steve Crowell, Kim Heinze, Carl Lyles, Doug Mikus, Neal Patton, Andy Phillips, Robert Thompson, and David Thomas

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2020

Assets	
Liquid Assets	
General Fund	\$280,600
Special Account	35,520
Capital Account	32,506
G2G Fund (Unrestricted) (9/30/20)	271,870
G2G Fund (Restricted) (9/30/20)	159,689
Pastor's Benevolence Fund	<u>5,983</u>
Total Assets	\$786,168

Prior Year Income and Expense Summary: St. Mark finished the 2020 Operational year with a surplus of \$30,070 on revenues of \$463,383. This is in spite of a COVID-19 pandemic and reduced in-person worship. However, expenses in 2020 were also lower at \$433,313 due to limited ministry programs. With some belt-tightening factored into the 2019 budget, the Elders focused on making best use of more limited financial resources. Some notable highlights and challenges include:

The Special Account is comprised of funds for specific restricted purposes in support of Facilities, Memorials, Children, Youth, Adults, Vacation Bible School, Music, Worship, Scholarships, etc. Any funds remaining at the end of the year will roll-over and be available for the next year.

The **Generation to Generation** Fund was established to allow members to remember St. Mark by bequests from their estate and directed charitable contributions. Legacy giving is important to sustain the future of St. Mark with capital improvements and operational programs.

Debt: St Mark remains debt free!

2020 General Fund Budget:

In the preparation of the 2021 budget, the Finance Committee considered a zero-based budget philosophy, requesting ministries to detail their expenditures. The Finance Committee was

determined to present a balanced budget to the Session and Congregation. Ministries budgets were historically reviewed to compare actual expenditures for the year against the 2020 budget requested. And, where ministries had a Special Account available, they were encouraged to apply these funds toward their 2021 Budget. In summary, these actions helped the ministries of St. Mark to arrive at a budget that reflects the actual amount that will be spent. At the end of each year, any amount of unspent funds in the ministry budgets is zeroed out and does not carry over to the next year.

Pledges:

- 2019: 71 Pledges for \$342,784. Actual received was \$361,011, a positive \$18,227
- 2020: 71 Pledges for \$357,464.

Summary: St. Mark remains in a viable capital position despite the pandemic headwinds we face. And in spite of its many challenges, 2020 has proven to be one of great achievement in terms of meeting our budgetary needs. We continue to welcome members into our church. God has blessed us with a wonderful interim pastor, a talented staff, and a dedicated Session who love this church. God’s grace is good and by His blessings, we will continue to prosper and spread the good news in our community and beyond.

Budget: On January 26, 2021, the Session will vote on a budget reflecting expected revenue of \$501,554 and projected expenses of \$501,554, resulting in a balanced budget. Further detail is available by request from the Treasurer or Financial Administrator.

2021 BUDGET (\$)

Revenue	Amount
Source	
Pledges	\$360,980
Excess Giving	45,123
Attrition	(18,049)
Unpledged	75,000
Plate	3,400
Rentals	15,000
Royalties	7,500
Interest, Dividends	11,000
Visa Points / Amazon Smile	1,600
Revenue Total	\$501,554
Expenses	
Source	Amount
Adult Connections	\$1,200
Christian Education	2,850
Communications	1,700
Congregational Life	5,750
Deacons	1,000
Finance	4,250
Host Ministry	840
Outreach (10%)	50,155
Personnel	309,590
Property	116,077
Stewardship	500
Worship	5,002
Youth	2,640
Expenses Total	\$501,554
Budget Delta (+ / -)	\$0.00

HOST MINISTRY

Elder Dottie Dunham

Team Members: Carol Trono, John Merritt, Rob Klein, James McCarthy, Susan Penrod, Bill Lemoine, Elizabeth Smith, Larry Smith, Karen Walker, and Marzi Rust

Mission Statement:

- Create an authentic, welcoming, and safe environment for everyone – guest and members – who attend worship and events at St. Mark Presbyterian Church
- Facilitate multiple points of involvement for all based on skills and/or interests.
- Be intentional with creating the best possible first impressions for our guests.

Consist of four teams:

1. **Connection Team – Carol Trono:** Manages outreach and follow-up with guests, leads a class for guests considering becoming members of St. Mark and coordinates receiving and recognizing new members.
2. **Greeter/Host Team – Dottie Dunham:** Recruits, trains, schedules, and coordinates Greeter/Hosts for each worship service and manages refreshments for the Hospitality Center.
3. **Security/Safety Team – James McCarthy:** Oversees overall security for entire campus; currently working on the safety plan.
4. **Facilities Team – John Merritt:** Coordinates the weekly placement of guest parking signs and spaces, preparation of beverages in the Hospitality Center each Sunday, permanent exterior signage, grounds maintenance, and furniture purchases to support the Host Ministry.

2020 Highlights:

1. Held Next Step Classes – March classes were cancelled due to COVID; September class was conducted via Zoom.
2. Communicated with four potential members.
3. Added two new members.
4. Reached out to visitors.
5. Continued to contact members to serve as greeters and host.
6. Continued to contact members to provide refreshments in the Hospitality Center after worship services each Sunday.
7. Continued to work on security plan for St Mark.

NOTE: Hosting duties ceased when St Mark was closed due to COVID

2021 Goals:

1. Reestablish greeter and host schedule.
2. Reestablish refreshment schedule.
3. Establish guidelines for refreshment providers.
4. Coordinate with Security/Safety Team in completing plan.
5. Hold one Next Step Class

NOTE: All goals are on hold until St Mark is reopened without COVID restrictions

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Elders Calleen Friedel, and Toni Hensley

Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do, **whether in word or deed**, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Outreach Ministry Mission: Goal is assisting the congregation in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ by extending the hand of justice, mercy, and compassion throughout the world.

Responsibilities:

- a. Managing and disbursing funds to our ministry partners
- b. Being aware of the needs of our church members and others
- c. Determining each year who we can support through the Outreach budget.
- d. Praying for God's Will in all that we do
- e. Arranging for "Minute for Mission"
- f. Looking for various way to include our community in our mission efforts.
- g. Focus areas: St. Mark supports the mission efforts of PC (USA), Mission Presbytery, and the efforts of local, regional, and worldwide ministries.

Outreach Ministry Regular Attendees: Angela Grover, Toni Hensley, Calleen Friedel, Crystal McElhenney, Lynn Bellow, and periodically Marzi Rust and Marilyn Bonaguro

2020 Highlights:

PC (USA) Special Offerings

- One Great Hour of Sharing – Easter Sunday (2019 \$1915; 2020 \$895)
 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
 - Presbyterian Hunger Program
 - Self-Development of People
- Pentecost Offering – Pentecost Sunday (2019 \$670; 2020 \$386)
 - Young Adult Volunteers
 - Ministries for Youth
 - Children-at-risk
- Peace & Global Witness Offering – World Communion Sunday (2019 \$692; 2020 \$1490)
 - Presbyterian Peacemaking Program
 - PC (USA) World Mission
- Christmas Joy Offering – Advent Season (2019 \$705; 2020 \$355)
 - The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions
 - Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color
 - Leadership Development for People of Color

2020 Continued Highlights of Service, Outreach and Mission:

- **Jan – Dec:** St. Mark provided "Friends in Need" with blessing bags. If anyone enters the church office that needs help, they are provided a bag with some snacks, toiletries, socks, and a list of referrals/resources.

- **January:**
 - January 1st: Souper Bowl of Caring – one month of gathering can goods from the congregation by our youth.
 - January 11th; Human Trafficking Awareness Day; article in The Happenings re. No Strings Attached
 - January 25th: Women’s gathering/ No Strings Attached Ministry to speak
 - Checked on Love Boerne Neighborhoods to help with poverty-stricken homeowners and house repairs; not forming groups at this time.
 - St. Mark’s “Good Grief Group” for grievors of loved ones is ongoing since Sept 2019. It’s an ongoing group that meets Tuesday mornings in the FLC Room 109. Group has been put on hold due to COVID.
- **February:**
 - Feb 2nd: Souper Bowl of Caring Complete
 - Feb 29th: 6p.m. play performance/silent auction (fundraiser for July Mission Trip)
 - Gave to Boerne Community Coalition for “Fund the Bunks” \$450
- **March:**
 - Mar 1st: 12:30p play performance/silent auction (fundraiser for July Mission Trip)
 - Church closing face-to-face worship due to COVID; worship online.
 - Habitat for Humanity project canceled due to COVID (church and Habitat both canceled)
 - Emailing Boerne Homeless Coalition to be a part of the meetings/serving.
- **April:**
 - Grant was completed for “Better Together Fund” from Mission Presbytery (Gina Klein wrote it with input); wanted to have an October Festival outside with a service, music, carnival and to partner with Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) to welcome people of all colors and to raise scholarship funds for PPAS. Grant was denied since they felt Presbyterian Pan American School was already being supported.
 - Voted to cancel Intergenerational Mission Trip to Guatemala July 2020 due to COVID. Researched other ideas to do locally perhaps this summer.
- **May:**
 - St. Mark’s Congregation adopted 12 children for Hill Country Daily Bread Ministry School Clothes Drive.
 - Even though the grant was denied, discussed hosting a festival on 10/4 (World Communion Day) with PPAS to raise scholarship money and inviting the Boerne community to a free festival.
 - Moved storage units for St. Mark visitor.
- **June:**
 - 10/4 festival for World Communion Day was denied due to COVID.

First United Methodist Church asked to use our facility for their math and reading camp (similar to Kids Can) since their church declined. After talking with Session,

- we voted yes to use our facility. Later they said FUMC reconsidered and will be using their facility.
- VBS – how do we do it? Outreach efforts? Mint tins were taken to Methodist and a hand-print banner was made.
- **July:**
 - Marzi presented to partner with a church in Amsterdam to pray together, do an ornament exchange and possible future mission projects. Completed ornament exchange in Dec 2020.
 - Lynn reached out to 5th Ave. Presbyterian Church in NYC. Instead of doing a face-to-face mission trip locally, members of the congregation signed up to be pen pals with people effected by COVID in NYC.
 - Calleen joined Mission Outreach and Justice Committee Task Force to help the presbytery review several international mission partnerships, including a Guatemala Partnership.
 - Started a food drive for HCFS for specific items liked canned meats, beans, and refried beans. It's our intentional fiesta food drive for the first Sundays in Aug, Sept, and Oct.
- **August:**
 - Starting to look at Kids Can and see if we can enter the school to help tutor.
 - Moved St. Mark visitor/homeless person into an apartment in Kerrville.
- **September:**
 - Prepared nearly 40 hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; they could not take them, so they were sent to HCDB.
 - No volunteers currently are welcomed at BISD so there will be no Kids Can program at this time.
 - Gave \$1,000 to the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center and its virtual gala.
- **October:**
 - Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Provided articles and resources in The Happenings for people dealing with domestic violence, abuse, trauma, depression, and other mental health needs.
 - Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child www.samaritanspurse.org/occ; the congregation filled 40 shoeboxes with Christmas toys, hygiene items and the Good News of the Gospel to share with a child in a "hard to reach" village. The child is given the gifts and then 10 opportunities to share the story of Jesus with his/her village.
- **November:**
 - Delivered over 300 cranberry sauce cans to Hill Country Daily Bread for families in need for Thanksgiving.

- **December:**
 - Angel Tree – St. Mark’s congregation adopted 37 children with their toy wishes; all families got a \$25 gift card to HEB, \$10 card to Taco Cabana and wrapping paper, tape, and a bow.
 - Outreach Budget Expenditures on things such as HCDB, ELC Scholarship, Mo Ranch, Emergency Relief, etc: \$31,466.27.

PERSONNEL

Elder Rob Klein

Purpose or Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to provide direction and decision making for employee policies, compensation and benefits within our purview, performance management and staff training for St. Mark.

Members of committee:

The following members made up the Personnel Committee for the year: Neal Patton, Susan Penrod, Chuck Morgan, and Chair, Rob Klein. Member Chuck Morgan resigned from the committee during the year. The Reverend Dr. Watson provides executive guidance.

2020 Highlights:

- Performance reviews of staff were conducted and completed.
- Annual Budget was reviewed and presented to finance. Some changes are requested and have been submitted.
- Staff changes included allowances for ‘work from home’ during COVID-19 spikes and church office shutdowns as well as carrying forward throughout the year based on need.
- Office administrator hours adjusted based on need.

2021 Goals:

- Maintain a healthy and happy working environment for our staff.
- Make recommendations about staff training needs.
- Develop reward and recognition programs. Develop a program that recognizes outstanding performance for church employees and volunteers.
- The Personnel Committee will ensure employee policies (handbook) will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

PROPERTY MINISTRY

Elder John Merritt

Members of Committee:

Robert Griffee, Andy Phillips, Wayne Seewald, Dick Fossler, Ruben Trono, Mike Penrod, John Stassi, Pam Brant, Larry Smith, Rob West, Bruce Kopper.

Purpose:

- Provide direct oversight of church physical plant, grounds, and all real property, including equipment, furniture and vehicles including purchase, maintenance, and repair.
- Develop needed improvements, obtain approvals, and supervise installation.
- Recommend adequate insurance coverage for buildings and vehicles.
- Establish and enforce policy on the use of all buildings, grounds, vehicles, and equipment.
- Purchase and/or lease copiers, computers, printers, software, and audio video equipment.

2020 Highlights:

- As expected, the Pandemic has had a significant impact on Property matters.
- Lower building usage has reduced electrical consumption as we placed most of our systems in vacation mode.
- We still had a large number of HVAC system failures. As thermostats failed, we have replaced them with Wi-Fi connected thermostats to allow us to better monitor system settings.
- Property participated with the Coming Back Together Team in developing and obtaining Session Approval for the use of our facilities, including use by outside groups and their use for sports. These guidelines comply with State and Local Guidelines and are documented in the St. Mark Presbyterian Church COVID-19 Handbook Agreement and Acknowledgement.
- COVID-19 protocols have required the purchase of additional cleaning supplies and has required the Sexton to spend additional time for cleaning and sanitizing.
- On May 31st we began live streaming our worship services using new equipment purchased by Property.
- Since the onset of the Pandemic, we have not been allowing sports activities. Our FLC was opened up for the Boerne Youth Volleyball Club use in December without any adverse issues.

2021 Goals:

- Continue to support our community by making available use of our facilities. The YMCA will be using our FLC during January and February for youth basketball. In March, another volleyball organization will be running a league using our gym.
- Our annual All-Church Workday is tentatively set for March 20th. We hope to paint the exterior stucco on the FLC before it experiences further water infiltration damage and to complete painting railings that we started last year.
- We hope to complete the conversion of all HVAC thermostats to Wi-Fi control systems.
- We hope to install security systems for the unsecured buildings.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Elder Paul Mebane

In 2020, the Stewardship Committee worked with the Treasurer and Finance Administrator during the annual pledge drive during October, leading up to Consecration Sunday on November 8th. The theme for the pledge drive was "Fully Alive with Faith in the Future." About 180 stewardship letters were sent to the Congregation. The committee reminded the congregation that pledging is important, as it is an expression of their intent of giving in the coming year. It provides the session an idea of how large the church can think. During 2021, the committee plans to lead St. Mark in thinking about its commitment to stewardship of our total lives - not just the financial aspects. Stewardship teaches that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We are, therefore, stewards of God's gifts during our lifetime. The gifts we have been given - time, talent, and money - are to be used for carrying out God's purpose in the world. We are challenged to steward everything in our life toward what God wants us to be in His service.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Elders: Jenny Cashion and Betty Crowell

Worship Mission:

In Jesus Christ, the Church is called to be a royal priesthood, giving glory to God in worship and devoting itself to God's service in the world. Worship is a collective activity of the people of God and an expression of our common life and ministry. It demands the full, conscious, and active participation of the whole body of Christ, with heart, mind, soul, and strength."

Every action in worship is to glorify God and contribute to the good of the people. -Book of Order W.2.02

Purpose of Worship:

The Worship Ministry supports the congregation, pastor, and staff by ensuring that the worship experience pays reverent homage to God. Following the reformed tradition, the committee considers all ideas and proposals to enhance the faith of our members.

We are called to worship our God in everything we do...every day in our routine lives and with all of our actions and words. However, we also set aside a special time to worship together to glorify God. That has always been every Sunday morning and several other times during the year (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve).

"For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise." -1 Chronicles 16:25

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on St. Mark Worship:

Due to the increasing presence of Covid-19 in the world, the U.S., Texas, and the area, this past year has indeed been different and challenging. With the global pandemic, the "presentation" of worship had to change as never before.

While in the church building itself, all wear masks, all social distance of at least 6 feet (if not from same household), all use hand sanitizer, all must sign in (contact tracing if needed), no paper bulletins, singing only by spaced out ensembles and with masks, no formal collection of monetary offerings, no Bibles, or hymnals in the pews.

In addition to that, the tech team had to research, purchase, and learn to use new equipment quickly in order to be able to live stream services and for St. Mark to have an online presence. Microphone usage had to be individualized. Extra licensing and copyright subscriptions had to be researched and purchased or enhanced.

Attendance of those in-person, as well as those viewing online were followed and tabulated to be sure we are reaching our members and others. 2 surveys were created and sent out to members to receive input regarding the pandemic and worship fulfillment and accessibility.

Communion changed from coming forward and being individually served by intinction to picking up a pre-packaged wafer and cup that had been placed in the pews with gloved hands, or by taking communion at home with crackers and juice.

Several times, worship services already planned and ready to go, had to be changed significantly at the last minute due to Covid-19 illness or exposures. Some of our supports that are necessary for worship to happen (music, tech, ushers, etc.) were down in numbers or unavailable.

Add to that our Rev. Dr. Joan Watson had to be hospitalized with a medical emergency and surgery during Advent and then re-hospitalized during the week of Christmas.

As the care and stewardship of our congregation is part of our mission, worship committee meetings moved from the regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the FLC with a shared lunch, to many hastily called zoom meetings on demand. Meetings were called to discuss the safety of continuing in-person worship. Several times, due to the local health crisis and health risks involved, services at St. Mark had to be discontinued in person. These decisions were not made lightly. Each time, the Worship ministry offered a carefully deliberated recommendation to the Session of St. Mark. Session votes on the time and place of worship. Session is charged with making the final decision.

When not holding the single worship service on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, special arrangements had to be made to either live stream a service start to finish with carefully spaced participants, or to record individual segments, which then had to be edited together to create a single video to upload to YouTube.

Contributing Members of the Committee:

Pat Anderson, Cindy Bagwell, Dave Bagwell, Pam Brant, Jenny Cashion, Betty Crowell, Dave D’Alessio, Dottie Dunham, Tina Fischer, Debby Heitzke, Rob Klein, Julie McCarty, Helen Mikus, Stephanie Snyder, Mary Beth Thomas, Rev. Dr. Joan Watson

2020 Highlights:

- Served Holy Communion first Sunday of every month and special services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve. Most of this communion was offered with pre-packaged individual cups and/or people taking at home with available bread and juice.
- Helped pastor with planning all ordinary time worship services, as well as special services including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints' Day, World Communion, Advent, and Christmas Eve.
- Prepared sanctuary for each service according to the liturgical calendar (paraments and banners).
- Scheduled and worked with pulpit supply for several Sundays during the year.
- Tech team researched, purchased, and learned how to use new equipment to live stream and make videos for online home worship.
- Chancel Choir Director, Mary Beth Thomas, researched and purchased new licensing to cover for streaming and videos and any online formats.
- Decorated church for the Advent and Christmas season.
- Helped create some power point videos for use during recorded services (masked members, new grandbabies of members, visitors, reaching out to members with deliveries of Easter lilies and goodie bags and meals.)
- Scheduled liturgists and readers for each service, as well as Advent candle lighters and any other special speakers for various services.

All in all, it was a very challenging year for the worship ministry at St. Mark (and most likely for EVERY worship ministry in the world!). Even if it looked different, St. Mark Worship Ministry did make every effort to fulfill our mission to pay reverent honor and homage to God!

2021 Goals:

- Continue to monitor pandemic situation and return to in-person church when it is deemed safe.
- During the above-mentioned time, continue to support creative and fulfilling recorded worship services.
- Consider getting outside support to help our tech team enhance and use our equipment to its capabilities.
- Upon return to in-person worship, monitor attendance and make decisions regarding one or two services.
- When the new pastor is called, work closely with him or her and be a stable support and help for worship.
- Grow the worship committee slightly with specific jobs for each member and lessen the load on the worship elder.
- Once things are more back to "normal", place more time, effort, and creativity into sanctuary service.
- Work with the pastor and diaconate to reinstate extended communion for those members who cannot attend worship in person.
- Praise God in all we do!!

DEACON REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

Cathy Cockrell Newton, Moderator

DEACON REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

Mission Statement: To serve God following the example of Jesus Christ by serving others, both within and beyond this community of faith, through ministries that provide support, care, love, compassion and prayer.”

Assistant Moderator: Lynn Bellow, Served 2020 and Pat Anderson, Incoming 2021

Recording Secretary: Allison Boykin / Nalga Mebane

Elder Liaison: Larry Warren

Classes: 2020: Lynn Bellow, Delanie Cravey (Now have rolled off, as of Dec. 31st, 2020
2021: Cathy Cockrell-Newton, Curtis Freidel, Nalga Mebane
2022: Pat Anderson, Allison Boykin, Andy Phillips, Wanda Eckersley
2023: Bobbie Pfeil, Linda Jerdet

The Diaconate includes 10 Deacons (9 positions currently filled) involved in the following ministries:

Member/Visitors Coordinator: Nalga Mebane. Purpose: To determine member and visitor status and needs through visits and phone calls, then coordinate with other Deacons, Pastor, and other ministries to meet identified needs. This includes, but not limited to meals, prayer requests, communion to shut-ins, visitations, and transportation. Calls have been made to members on a regular basis to provide support and identify needs, and also to convey information to those who cannot receive The Happenings through e-mail.

Memorials/ Baptisms/ Receptions: Delanie Cravey (now rolled off) Wanda Eckersley, Bobbie Pfeil. Purpose: To prepare or facilitate memorial, baptism and other receptions as requested by members of the congregation, Session, Pastor, or other ministries. Activities were more limited due to COVID19.

Meals Coordinator: Delanie Cravey (now rolled off). Wanda Eckersley, Bobbie Pfeil. Purpose: To coordinate with Members/Visitors Coordinators and other ministries to identify and provide meals for members families in time of need and distress who otherwise would likely not have adequate food. Meals have been provided to those in our congregation when recovering from surgeries, when home bound, or just a way to keep in touch.

Driving Assistance Coordinator: Cathy Cockrell-Newton. Purpose: To maintain a list of volunteer drivers and coordinate driving services as needed for congregational members who require assistance with transportation for appointments, attending church services, or other identified needs. Driving assistance has been offered but not utilized as much this past year with COVID19.

Card Ministry: Andy Phillips. Purpose: To express care and concern for church members through the sending of cards for occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, and loss of loved ones. Birthday cards have been sent to each church member throughout the year, as well as sympathy, get well, and concern, for some members. Also, many cards were handmade by Adam Cashion, who is no longer a Deacon but continues to offer this service.

Deacon Of The Month: Rotating. Purpose: To ensure that the Sanctuary flowers are delivered to the appropriate individuals after services each Sunday. The Deacon of the Month also offers an opening devotional and closing prayer at the bi-monthly Deacon Meetings. The Moderator maintains a schedule to include all Deacons which rotate on a monthly basis.

Prayer Chain Coordinator: Lynn Bellow. Purpose: To coordinate a group of volunteers and communicate requests for prayers to the group. All members of St. Mark are encouraged to join this prayer chain. This is a very active ministry, and currently there are over 100 Prayer Warriors participating. As Lynn rolls off the Deacon group, she continues to send out Prayer Chain messages and new Deacon, Linda Jerdet, will assist in the reporting at Deacon Meetings and coordinate with Lynn.

“Prayer Chain Mission/Purpose: to communicate requests for prayer, thereby initiating prayers by the volunteers who compose the group. Prayers can be requested by anyone for conditions that are stressful (i.e., illness, accident, surgery, death, emotional crisis, etc.)

Hospital/ Nursing & Home Visitation: Curtis Friedel - Hospital Visitation. Allison R. Boykin and Pat Anderson - Nursing Home and Shut In, - Purpose: To visit members of the church who are confined to a hospital, rehabilitation facility or nursing home, or home bound, to offer prayers, nurturing and support. This year we created a Homebound Care Group list of church members which is now updated at each meeting. Using the list, the Deacons keep in contact with our homebound members.

Summary and plans for the future: We currently have discontinued the Bunco group at Riverside Nursing Home, which was well received there, due to COVID19 restrictions. When restrictions lift, we will plan to resume that ministry in the community. Our Deacons feel blessed to serve this congregation as needs arise and life presents opportunities to grow as a group. Our meetings and activities have been more restricted due to COVID19, but there’s no doubt the Deacons touch so many lives in Christian love and caring.

**ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A TEXAS NON-PROFIT CORPORATION**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS, 2020
Marilyn Bonaguro, Chair**

Under our corporate by-laws, your Board of Trustees has responsibility in three major areas: protection of the church's real and personal property interests, ensuring the books and records are properly maintained and ensuring that the financial health of the church is sound. Trustees also have the exclusive authority to bind the corporation (the church) to contracts, open and close bank and investment accounts, and execute deeds and mortgage instruments whenever called upon to do so by the Session, which remains the exclusive policy-making body. These responsibilities also translate to an "oversight" function that spans much of the Church's operational life, as many of those activities reflect upon and influence the assigned areas of responsibility.

In addition to the above-listed responsibilities, the by-laws also provide that the Trustees shall report periodically, no less than quarterly to the Session of St. Mark Presbyterian Church and no less than annually to the members of the Corporation, regarding the condition of the corporation and the state of its property, real and personal, and the financial activities of the corporation. These reports summarize our areas of activities, observations, recommendations and commentary concerning its areas of responsibility. The Session and the congregation where necessary act upon the Board's input, as they believe appropriate. Since the current Board re-assumed its responsibility in 2014 it has considered the areas of responsibility and has centered its efforts in four major areas:

1. Property issues, including risk assessment and insurance, building security, and tangible property inventory.
2. Document and records management.
3. Close monitoring of the financial condition of the church.
4. Review of both corporate and church by-laws.

PROPERTY ISSUES:

1. According to our insurance policy coverage, payment claims would be for replacement value. Since Fall of 2019 we have worked on an inventory of our physical property. Incomplete data as of Fall 2020 was listed on excel spreadsheets for the church Pdrive. Another review of the inventory was done in November 2020 with the exception of the sound equipment and updated as indicated.
2. The renewal contract with SWBC (PEO) was signed in January. In June we signed for the services of Edward Jones in regard to a stock donation to the church.
3. The project of rekeying all the church locks and installing security cameras has been on hold with the advent of Covid-19 lockdowns.

DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS RETENTION This effort has been in limbo through 2020.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE CHURCH The trustees attended session meetings regularly in person/zoom and reviewed the monthly financial statements. We continue to monitor the actions and supported the financial committee's recommendation for a balanced budget for 2021. The 2020 Full Financial Review was done on June 13, 2020. The review committee included Marilyn Bonaguro, Nancy James and Wayne Seewald. Also present were Sarah Hinman, St Mark Financial Secretary and Rob West, St. Mark Treasurer. All items and records were found to be correctly reported and in good order. The Trustees agreed that Sarah Hinman continues to perform her duties and responsibilities exceptionally well. The Board thanks Nancy James, Mike Penrod and Ruben Trono for their ministry and faithfulness to this work of the Church. The Congregational Nominating Committee recommended reducing the number of trustees to three and that the third member is one of the active session elders. We welcome Dottie Dunham to the Board of Trustees.

GOALS FOR 2021 The Trustee Board is committed to their responsibilities in monitoring property, finances, completing property inventory to the Pdrive and document retention policies.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC) - 2020

Rebecca “Becky” Graham, PNC Chair

Committee Members: Becky Graham, Julie McCarty, Nina Jacobs, Lindsay Mangum, Rob Klein, Steve Crowell and Ruben Trono.

Greetings from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The first meeting of the PNC was September 4, 2020. We are meeting weekly via Zoom and will continue to meet in this manner until it is safe to resume meetings in person due to the Coronavirus.

The month of September and half of October were dedicated to writing the Ministry Information Form (MIF) which was approved by the session of St. Mark and the Committee of Ministry of Mission Presbytery. The MIF was then forwarded to the Office of the General Assembly - Church Leadership Connection (CLC) and a match with potential candidates for pastoral leadership began for St. Mark. Each and every Pastoral Information Form (PIF) sent to us, together with self-referrals from possible candidates are reviewed and evaluated. The next step will be to schedule interviews from the preferred list of candidates.

The committee wishes to thank you for your faith in our abilities to represent your wishes in seeking our next pastoral leader.

ST. MARK TRANSITION TEAM

Convener/Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Joan Watson

Purpose or Mission Statement:

The Transition Team was an ad hoc committee appointed by Session in September 2019 to conduct a Mission Study – the first step in the process of calling a new Pastor/Head of Staff. Interim Pastor Joan Watson was convener/facilitator for the team. From November 2019 through February 2020, the Transition Team explored the story of St. Mark, and in doing so, identified qualities that give St. Mark its unique mission in the world. All at St. Mark were invited to participate in a time of reflection and sharing through listening sessions. Fifteen separate listening sessions were held with a total participation of ~150 members and active nonmembers. All participants and congregation members were also asked to complete a questionnaire. Sixty-one questionnaires were completed. Additionally, conversations were held with former members, former pastors, Mission Presbytery Commission on Ministry members, and other friends of St. Mark.

The Transition Team’s Mission Study was approved by St. Mark Session on June 8, 2020 and forwarded to Mission Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry which accepted the report and approved St. Mark forming a Pastor Nominating Committee. The full report and appendices are available in the Resources section of the church website at stmarktx.org.

Team Members:

Dave Bagwell, Dave D’Alessio, Calleen Friedel, Gina Klein, Lindsay Mangum, Paul Mebane, Nina Morgan and Carol Trono

2020 Highlights:

The Transition Team sought to explore with members and others close to the Church our past, our dreams for the future, and our gifts and callings that are at work in the present.

The following are key observations from the listening sessions:

- St. Mark Ethos/Spirit of the Church: This church is very much like a family. Caring, friendly, and welcoming were used over and over to describe St. Mark.
- Participants’ comments in general were very positive. Not many negative comments were made.
- There was very little comment about issues with the PC(USA).
- The information gathered from the eras of joining groups was very similar, i.e., it seems things didn’t change much over the years.
- Many members are here because we are a Presbyterian Church. St. Mark seems to be distinctly Presbyterian in how we see ourselves and how we do things.
- The worship experience is very meaningful at St. Mark. Music is very important.

The questionnaire data supported the belief that St. Mark has a loyal, devoted, caring congregation, that we care for each other in times of need, that kindness is part of our church culture, that most of us are devoted Presbyterians who embrace the reformed theology of St. Mark, and that we would recommend St. Mark as a church of choice to friends or family.

Challenges revealed were that we need to better articulate how we define our church mission, that we need to communicate better in times of conflict, and that we need to learn how to heal after conflict. Questions regarding what is wanted in a new pastor drew varied responses, but these attributes were central: relatable, caring, and community involved. When asked about specific skills, preaching, teaching, and pastoral care were most often noted. People mentioned wanting a pastor who is collaborative rather than authoritarian; a spiritual leader who will inspire and love the church; someone who truly wants to be part of this church and this community.