

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT**



**I love you,  
Kyle**

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**SENIOR WARDEN  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
By Donna Blankman, Senior Warden**

It has been a great honor to serve as Senior Warden of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Marco Island, and I thank Fr. Kyle for the opportunity to be of service in this capacity.

It is with great humility that I undertake to write a précis of the past year which has been a tumultuous one for all of us. With the courageous and visionary leadership of Fr. Kyle Bennett, we have grown stronger in our resolve to serve God, following the example set for us by his son Jesus Christ, and, filled with the Holy Spirit, we move on.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Vestry gathered to elect a Junior Warden, John Morgan, and to welcome new members, Jennifer Dixon-Abbott, Larry DeBauge, John Kenny and Susan Darrow. Jennifer agreed to fill Bill Klug's remaining 2 year term. Bill Klug remained as Secretary to the Vestry, Liz Bryan was reappointed as Treasurer and Susan Darrow was elected as Clerk of the Vestry. Commission assignments were made at the Vestry Retreat where the new Vestry had an opportunity to become better acquainted with each other and with their duties to the Rector, the parish and their commissions. Praying for each other, our congregants and our Rector and his family is at the center of all we do.

During the course of the year there were many firsts as we sought to enhance the working of the Vestry to provide even better stewardship of our facilities and leadership of our parishioners. Two new commissions were established in 2008: the Facilities Commission and the Stewardship Commission; and the Communications Commission was revitalized. It was determined that each Vestryperson would chair one commission and serve on at least one other. As we became more familiar with the new structure, we determined that it would be advantageous to expand the Vestry from nine members to twelve. With twelve members there will be opportunity to "understudy" a Commission Chair and be ready to step into that role when the outgoing member steps down. This eliminates the learning curve of a few months and gives each Commission continuous leadership. Bill Klug, our Secretary, put on his lawyer hat and wrote the appropriate amendment for the By-laws. The amendment passed. In order to make this change, one additional Vestry member will be elected each year for three years, beginning with the 2009 election, until the total reaches twelve.

2008 saw the building of our Labyrinth. Led by Jason Bailey and his company, Allied Pavers, we all pitched in and placed red pavers in ever widening circles until the dimensions were correct. Then Jason and his team removed some red pavers and inserted the yellow ones that form the outline of the path. All was ready for the Easter Vigil Service – a miracle, many thought. The Labyrinth was dedicated on Pentecost and celebrated with a parish family picnic in the courtyard. Cathy Weis and her committee and the donors were lauded for their work and for their unwavering faith that this would be accomplished.

Stewardship was a large component of our Vestry year. We started with the commissioning of Randy Lindquist and Betty Allen to once again chair the Annual Pledge Drive. Next we asked Kevin Fitzgerald to head up a Capital Fund Drive and lastly reestablished the Endowment Trust. Bob Allen, Bill Klug and Tom Weis were elected by the Vestry to serve one, two and three year terms, respectively, as Trustees, and the Endowment Trust Agreement was amended to establish guidelines for designated funds within the Trust. We invited The Rev. Corky Carlisle to work with us in December as we prepared to kick off our Annual Pledge Drive. He also met with the Capital Drive Fund group, the Endowment Trust, spoke at the "Low Country" Dinner and preached on that Sunday.

The Facilities Commission performed a walk-through of all the parish buildings and grounds with the purpose of determining what and when things will need to be replaced, painted, updated, etc. and developed a timeline for these things. Some repairs were given to the Brotherhood and some Dick DeAnna did over the summer.

As we are all aware, the economy became a major focus of not only our personal lives but also the life of St. Mark's. Unfortunately due to the downturn in our nation's financial markets, we decided to postpone our Capital Campaign and concentrate on our Annual Pledge Drive. Liz and the Finance Commission worked tirelessly to draft a realistic budget for 2009. In addition, several parishioners contributed to close the gap in our 2008 annual budget. Note was made, thanks to the input from the Facilities Commission, of projected capital expenditures for the year 2009, e.g., air conditioners and handlers for the sanctuary and resurfacing the parking lot. To that end, we put back the line item: Capital Reserve. We determined that Outreach Ministries would be financed by special fund-raising events rather than be a part of the Operating budget. The staff agreed to go without raises or cost of living increases this coming year in an effort to bring the budget into balance for 2009.

Pastoral Care was in the capable and compassionate hands of Bill Hutchinson, who, with Carol, has moved to be closer to their daughters who are having health issues. They will be greatly missed at St. Mark's as friends and dependable and faithful stewards of God's gifts. In recognition of this ministry, the Vestry will create a Pastoral Care Commission in 2009.

Our Youth Minister, Katie Walsh, left us in May to continue her career, and Luke Gautier arrived in the fall to work with our youth, especially the EYC. He left in December with a promise to return in January. We were excited to welcome Lavinia Brito from the Dominican Republic as part of the National Church SIPS program. She was here for 10 weeks and worked principally with our young people, but helped out wherever she was needed. We really hated to see her go back home, but she needed to get back to college. The Diaz family saw her back to her family when they visited the D.R. in November. We were blessed by the presence and commitment of these young people. 2008 also saw the Vacation Bible Camp for St. Mark's children, Camp St. Mark's, the Neighborhood Bible Camp and the Immokalee Summer Camp – great successes coordinated by Kathy Campbell, Director of Christian Education and Missy Bailey, Youth Minister.

On the staff side of St. Marks, Nanette Moll continues to do a superb job as our Parish Administrator. Her time and talents are used to the max! And she keeps smiling. A treasure to be sure! Stan North continues to keep us on track with our books and pledges, and he and Barb handle the Sexton duties with grace and dedication to St. Mark's. Many, many thanks to the three of you for all you do.

As our parish-wide questionnaire in November showed, the Music Ministry at St. Mark's continues to be a beloved part of our parish life. In listing reasons for worshiping at St. Mark's the majority cited the music program and the friendliness of the parishioners first! Praise to Dr. Ronald Doiron and his choir, bell choir and cherub choir. The special music offerings are also to be praised, drawing people from all Marco Island as well as Naples and Bonita Springs. Thank you Ron for your energy, talent and service.

Not enough can be said about Liz Bryan, our Parish Treasurer. She is tireless, dedicated to St. Mark's and a great fiduciary watchdog. While she hasn't resorted to printing money, the work she has done to help keep us within our budgets has been put to extraordinary use this past year. She has worked overtime on many fronts but especially in drafting a realistic budget for 2009. Blessings, and thank you, Liz.

St. Mark's chose well when it called the Rev. Kyle Bennett to be its Rector. His faith, energy, creativity and dedication are beyond measure. It is a challenge to work with you, Kyle, but that only brings out the best in your Vestry and in your parishioners. We all have grown in our service to God and St. Mark's through your inspired leadership. With you "no" is not an option; rather "how" defines your expectations of us. That is how we have been able to vision and implement so many new ministries. Thank you for your leadership – a true and good shepherd.

Finally my thanks go to you, the people of St. Mark's, for allowing me to serve you, for putting your faith in me and for giving so generously of your time and talents to support our wonderful ministries. We are all part of the fabric of this church family and I, for one, am blessed to know and work with you as we strive to do God's work here and in the world. Amen. Donna

**JUNIOR WARDEN  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
By John Morgan, Junior Warden**

One of the responsibilities of the Junior Warden is to be the People's Warden, and in this regard a number of concerns and suggestions were passed along to our Rector and the Vestry.

Responsibilities also include the care and maintenance of the St. Mark's Church property. We were truly blessed in 2008 not to have any hurricanes or major tropical storms. Our property continues to flourish in a great part thanks to the hard work and dedication of Dale and Randy Lindquist and their helpers. The courtyard is truly a special place at St. Mark's. Now the courtyard flows through the gate and down a brick paver path to the Columbarium and around through the trees to the beautifully landscaped Labyrinth Meditation Garden, which was completed in 2008. Cathy Weis and Susan Darrow had the vision for the Labyrinth, and together with Tom Weis, John Fedor, Jason Bailey, David Darrow and Don Goetzmann the project was completed on time and paid for by contributions. It is truly a wonderful addition to the St. Mark's campus.

In addition to routine maintenance performed in 2008, we had to replace an air conditioning unit at a cost of \$9500. This surprise caused us to put together a Facilities Commission to identify depreciating capital equipment and plan replacement capital projects and depreciation expenses in the future. Susan Darrow did a great job in chairing this Commission and documenting and scheduling these projects. We will put approximately \$44,000 for depreciation in the budget for the 2009 projects. Additional smaller maintenance projects were added, many of which can be completed by St. Mark's folks. Should you like to be part of the Men's Group, The Brotherhood, contact Kevin Fitzgerald.

The beautification project at the church entrance was given by Lauri Shafer in memory of her husband Bill. The beautification project behind the Parish Hall to the back parking lot was given by Dale and Randy Lindquist. Everyone who has worked or contributed to making our church such a beautiful and uplifting place should be very proud. Our members and visitors alike really love the Church and truly appreciate your efforts.

# WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## ACOLYTE AND LAY READER 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

by **Kevin M. Fitzgerald**

2008 brought us many challenges, as you might understand the demand on our Youth's time became somewhat of a scheduling turmoil in 2008. To their credit our Youth is getting older and that means work, cheerleading, dance, band, cross-county, and soccer to name a few extracurricular activities. After losing the services of Ambar and Cristal Parra due to a family move we trained and moved Alexandra Diaz and Camille Richie to the Crucifer/Book positions leaving us Ellie Bennett and Max Kimball to handle the Torch duties. All our Youth rose to the occasion, even our older Acolytes; Dan Diaz, Callie Bennett, Stephanie Abbott and Maddie Richie filling in where and when needed.

St. Mark's is really in need of a regular Acolyte mentoring program that would assist Kevin M. Fitzgerald and Nanette Moll with their weekly duties of making sure everyone has a clean and well-fit robe, is in place, on time and is fully informed of their ministerial duties for that service.

The Lay Readers too were busy this past year. The early service could do with a few more Readers and Chalice Bearers, but we are thankful for those who have volunteered to serve. At the late service we welcome Michael Gaynor as our newest recruit. With the insertion of the weekly 9:15AM service in 2009, we look forward to the services of Joan Pernice, Callie Bennett, Stephanie Abbott and Nanette Moll. The list of current Lay Readers and Chalice Bearers continues to be a terrific group of dedicated men and women who enjoy their service on the altar.

If you would like to join this group at any of our services in or out of season, please come forward and be recognized. Your time and talents will be put to terrific use through active participation in the liturgy. Training is ongoing and designed to fit your schedules. We look forward to many new faces joining the seasoned veterans in 2009.

**ALTAR GUILD**  
**2008 ANNUAL REPORT**  
by **Nancy Shields, Director-Altar Guild**

The 2008 Altar Guild year was a very busy one. The Lent/Easter Season is so wonderful, and this season Fr. John started something new, that we all loved. The Saturday before Palm Sunday, Fr. John invited all women to join him for a breakfast, made by John Kenny, and a morning of meditation, followed by making the palm crosses.

Easter Sunday was the first time we went to a 3-service schedule. The 9am service was outside on The Labyrinth, and was a tremendous success. We even had the Bennett's big white rabbit at the service. The following Saturday was our annual Luncheon prepared by 2 of our members, and a time to thank Betty Prout for all her years of service to the Altar Guild. Then, in church the next day 3 women joined our guild - Kathy Faria, Maria Jackson, and Agueda Giorio. However, 2 months later Maria and her family with Agueda had to move because their company closed its Marco office.

At a Staff Meeting in May, we wound up the season by looking ahead. I knew I had a lot to do to prepare for our next season. Laura Gunderman and I did a full inventory over the summer. We found communion and altar linens that had to be retired and new ordered. Also, several silver and brass communion items needed repair & refinishing.

In July I wrote a note in The Vine, weekly news email that The Altar Guild needed a few new members, and we needed more chalices. I received many calls.

The Guild has three women who are training---June Stride, Randy Lindquist, and Pat Patterson.

The new items we have received in memory or thanksgiving this year are:

2 large silver Chalices

1 small gold Chalice

Blue pottery Communion set made by Janet DeAnna

An Urn cover for Burial Ashes

Brass tree plant holder for Christmas and Easter to hold 10 poinsettia/lily plants.

New Fair Linen & dust cover for the Chapel Altar

“Blue” set of chasuble and 2 stoles made from native fabric brought back from South America by the Lindquists.

Our Altar Guild now has 18 dedicated wonderful women, and I am so thankful to be a part of the Guild. But there are some very special men that are always ready to help us. Stan North always, Bob Hodges at Christmas, John Kenney for great food, Nic Nicolson and Jack Taffe for building and fixing, and Ralph Brenner for Saturday night Altar duty with his wife, Joan. I know there are more men out there that can help us and I will find you, or call me first.

2008 was a busy year, but each time we prepared the Altar for another service, we knew we would soon be with our church family singing praises and sharing in Communion.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Myrna Diaz**

The Christian Education for all ages at St. Mark's continued in 2008 with Christian Formation for Youth and Children, Nursery Care on Sunday mornings, Mid-week Healing and Eucharist Services, Tuesday Saints' Bible Study Group, Women's Bible Study, and Brotherhood (Men's) Bible Study.

The numbers of our children continue to grow, although we have lost 4 Middle School age children as their families moved away. Here is a count of our age groups: 8 High School, 3 Middle School, 18 Elementary, 15 Preschool, and 9 under the age of two, a total of 53! and still growing. Our Littles Families and Children Group continue to have Wednesday dinner gathering, and Godly Play every Sunday.

Under the direction of Katie Walsh, Youth Minister, 2008 started with the usual youth activities such as Annual Pancake Breakfast, Youth Stations of The Cross presentation in Holy Week, and the Easter Egg Hunt. The EYC took a Spring Break trip to Lake Wales FL, as guests of Mr. & Mrs. Happney. Some activities included horseback riding at a ranch close by.

We said goodbye to Katie on May 18<sup>th</sup> and saw a change in the leadership: Missy Bailey as leader for Littles and Middle School/High School E.Y.C., and Kathy Campbell for Godly Play. New for Summer 2008, was Vacation Bible School, held 5-8pm, June 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> which was attended by most of our own Littles. We had guest speakers from the EMS, Marco Fire Fighters and Police Force. The children also had the opportunity to hop onboard a fire truck and emergency vehicles! The second week was Camp St. Mark's I, a ½ day camp for children, June 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> attended mostly by our Spanish-speaking neighborhood children. The 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the summer was Camp St. Mark's II, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, held primarily for the Haitian Mission children from Immokalee. They were bussed into Marco Island for this camp. The 3 camps were successfully run jointly by Missy Bailey and Kathy Campbell. Middle and High School children were volunteers.

'Christmas in August' was our theme for our kick-off of Christian Formation for the 2008-2009 school year. It was complete with a visit from Santa Claus and Marco Island Snow from the bubble machine at the end of service under the Bell Tower. Children of all ages were introduced to the programs at St. Mark's, including the Confirmation classes held by Missy Bailey and Phil Rogers. Six new families attended and two have joined St. Mark's.

The Blessing of the Animals, held in October, included a pet blessing service, a free dog wash and free hot dogs. All donations went to The Humane Society of Naples. Our Annual Trunk or Treat/Pot Luck also took place at the end of October. December was very busy with our Littles gift exchange, and Christmas Eve service with pageant, complete with Marco Snow and Santa revisiting.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AGES PREK-3 TO 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
GODLY PLAY by Kathy Campbell**

Godly Play is a program in the 2nd year for Christian Formation of Pre-K to 4th grade children. As a new staff member in 2008, I attended a weekend training event in Jacksonville to become an Accredited Godly Play Teacher. This event has enabled me to effectively structure and schedule our program for the '08-'09 school year. During the Christmas in August event for open registration the Godly Play classroom offered an orientation program. Parents and children were invited to experience a story and learn how we use the materials in the Godly Play classroom. During the event, we registered 16 children for Godly Play. The schedule for regular sessions began on September 7th. The Fall schedule included Circle of the

Church Year, a series of sacred stories from Noah's Ark to the Ten Best Ways, the enrichment lesson on Jonah the Backward Prophet, and The Advent series which follows the Holy Family to Bethlehem. We also brought the Godly Play program into our annual Christmas Pageant this year. I have been blessed with the generous volunteer hours from members who have supported the program to fill the Greeter position. This program works with a 2-teacher team, Story Teller and Greeter. As a trained Story Teller, I am confident that the Fall sessions were very well done and the Greeters have been able to glean from our training materials to effectively do their part. In the new year we have a slightly shortened program reincorporating the "feast". This is an important "children's community" component which during the Fall was omitted in order to re-unite children with family and congregation for communion (this was done to avoid redundancy). Now that Families are attending the 9:15 Family Service, parents bring their children to Godly Play following the service while they wait in Fellowship. We use approximately 30 minutes and share the feast followed by a story or work session for 15 minutes before dismissal. In closing, I want to express deep gratitude to the congregation for the opportunity to lead this program. It has exceeded my expectations and it is such a joy to produce a schedule of wonderful sessions that build on each other. The following quote is one of my best feedback comments over this course of time: "Gracie tells me that Godly Play is her favorite time of the whole week! She says it is just the best peaceful and quiet time and she loves it."

### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR YOUTH GRADES 5<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup>**

**by Missy Bailey and Phil Rogers**

Christian Formation for Youth in grades 5-12 beginning in September was led by a co-team of Phil Rogers and Missy Bailey. The class met every Sunday after service for about an hour. The class was in preparation for Confirmation on January 8, 2009. Nick and Noah Konkus participated in the lessons taught from the Confirmand's Journal for Making Disciples: A New Approach to Confirmation. A Mentoring Program written by William H. Willimon.

The class went over topics such as God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Worship, The Bible, Saints and Gifts, Ministry, Baptism, Spiritual Life, Death and Resurrection, and Life in the Church. St. Luke was also discussed and the Confirmand kept a Luke Journal. This is where they could write their thoughts and feelings on each chapter they read in the Book of Luke.

The class finished with a visit from the Bishop on January 8, 2009 and the successful Confirmation of Nick and Noah.

### **THE LITTLES: YOUNG FAMILIES AND CHILDREN WEEKLY HAPPY HOUR & DINNER GATHERING**

**by Missy Bailey**

The Littles is a group of young kids and their families that meets every Wednesday evening in the Parish Hall for crafts, games, playground time, and dinner. It is for kids ages birth through 5th grade and their families. The Littles have been meeting for three years. It is a way to draw young families together and let the parents socialize. It started as a group with about 4 families and we now have over 15 families. We have now incorporated some members of the church as our "surrogate grandparents" who come each Wednesday and volunteer. They lead the children in crafts, music, games and playground time. Each evening the meal is served potluck style and there is one host who provides the "main course".

This year The Littles were involved in a canned food drive to benefit St. Matthew's House in Naples. Canned food was collected and there was a special ceremony on the Labyrinth to bless the food. This year the Littles also helped a great deal with the Angel Tree and the wrapping and delivering of the gifts to ten families. The Littles also co-host St. Mark's Annual Trunk-or-Treat with the Island Montessori School. This is a great event and each year the amount of trunks and trunk or treaters gets bigger and bigger.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

**by Katie Walsh (January-May); Luke Gautier (October-November),  
Youth Ministers**

Into 2008, we continued the Sunday schedule of meeting mornings for Mid-Skool and SR Christian Formation and evenings for EYCs. 5PM-6PM Mid-Skool EYC met for their activity, then at 6PM the SR EYC arrived to join us for dinner. SR EYC then stayed until 7:30PM for their activity. Activities consisted of games, dinner, and a spiritual component.

By Mid-January 2008, the Mid-Skool and SR High EYCs were in full swing. We did makeovers, had a fun and very messy obstacle course, and even made a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Naples with the Mid-Skoolers. The other weekly event ongoing from Fall 2007 was The Littles Happy Hour Dinner Gathering on Tuesday nights. It is open for all children in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below. We restructured the evening to involve playground time and a craft time. We break into an older group and a younger group and each group goes to either the playground or to the designated craft. Then, they switch. Every meeting, a potluck dinner, is shared by all the families in attendance. This year we had about 12-15 families attend every meeting.

February gave us a chance to go to Mackle Park, make our own Valentine's Day cards and have a Valentine's Day picnic! We had a picnic with plates, cups, and foods that were donated by Randy Lindquist from the Mardi Gras Fundraiser. At the Pancake Breakfast, the Youth (including some of The Littles) served up a well-balanced breakfast with help from the Diaz and Jackson/Parra families in the kitchen. We went camping for one night with Mid-Skool EYC, and also had a trip to the beach.

In March, I invited the EYC over to "my" place (Thank you, Anutas!) where we watched the movie "Baraka" and ate cheesy bread. The Gaynors came to EYC the next week to show us their presentation on their trip to Africa. They showed us a wonderful film and prepared us some wonderful authentic foods too. The Mid-Skool EYC put on a presentation of the Stations of the Cross where we traveled all around the church grounds and presented different stations in costume for Holy Week. We ended our journey at the newly completed Labyrinth. There was also a skit done by Kyle. The Mid-Skool

EYC was also helpful in hiding all the Easter Eggs for The Little's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning.

In April, the Mid-Skool EYC went bowling and traveled to Naples to go to the water park. The SR High EYC took on a Bedtime Bundles project and we were able to make two bundles for that charity. Then, SR High (Stephanie and Callie) and I also had the opportunity to travel up to Tupelo, Mississippi to take part in the Happening #67 Retreat weekend. There was a great Spring Break trip taken by the Mid-Skool EYC! We traveled up to Wendy and Hap Happney's lake house in Babson Park (central FL) to swim, explore orange groves, ride horses, go to a rodeo, and go on a boat ride. We also made a trip to Weeki Wachee to see the mermaids swim and ride the water slides. By the end of the season, I had also traveled with the SR High to Fort Lauderdale to go horseback riding.

EYC ended on my watch (Katie) on May 4th when YOUTH SUNDAY brought in more tie dye, Emily Maples, and a sermon written by our own Callie Bennett on her experiences at Happening in Mississippi.

During the Summer, Youth helped out at our 3 weeks of Christian Formation and Outreach in the form of Vacation Bible School and the 2 Camp St. Mark's. They helped with crafts, snacks, playground time, and games with the younger children attending the camps.

Both SR High and Mid-Skool helped with the dog washing for the annual Blessing of the Animals service in October. Representatives from the Humane Society Naples and Critter Café were there to give out information and treats. Funds were all donated to the Humane Society Naples.

For the Diocesan Convention in October, we held a Camp Able Reunion at DaySpring. After we did the Camp Able presentation at the Convention in Bradenton, we met at DaySpring for lunch, fun, and fellowship.

In November, the big event was the new "Tropical Nights Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction," the new fundraiser event to raise funds for the Dominican Republic Mission trip. The Diaz Family was in charge and all the Youth helped set up, serve, and clean up. It was a great success, and promises to be an annual event from now on.

The opportunity to serve God through Youth Ministry is truly a blessing. In the baptismal covenant we promise to do all in our power to support each other throughout our life in Christ. Everyone at St.

Mark's can be a part of laying a strong Christian foundation for our Youth. As we continue to grow and learn about your children and St. Mark's, we are always welcome to new ideas and better ways to minister to this congregation.

Good times, good times!

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2008 ANNUAL REPORT by Kathy Campbell**

Vacation Bible school is a one week program for young children that usually takes place during the morning or early evening during the first month of Summer vacation. God's Big Back Yard in 2008 was a large success, especially when noted it was a first for St. Mark's in many years. We purchased the program as a "canned production" so to speak.

Lorraine Corr made a wonderful mascot costume for Cooper the Dog, which will have to be used again. Summer Interns, Kyle and Stephanie, from Mississippi took charge of the major activities and I recruited a young and talented friend, Lexi Troha as a volunteer to run the crafts. We capped off the numbers at 30 children ages 4 to 7, but accepted 36 for our final number.

The volunteers who provided dinner for the attendees at 5 o'clock every evening really need to be credited with a job very well done. They based the menus on simple kid dinner themes Italian, taco, chicken nuggets with mac 'n cheese, and pizza. They provided an abundance of fresh fruit and veggies, lemonade and milk each night. On Friday, they provided a family style BBQ with hot dogs and hamburgers. This night we welcomed parents to stay for dinner and fellowship after the kids' "show" production. There was an outpouring of gratitude from children and parents alike.

My thoughts are that we can consider this a successful outreach that will definitely be sought out again for years to come. In a debriefing with Father Kyle and the Youth workers, we all agreed that we could come up with our own theme and music next time around.

## **NURSERY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT by Nanette Moll, Office Admin./Nursery Manager**

From January 2008 through Easter, Nursery Care was available for younger children (infant to preschool age) during both the 8AM and 10:15AM services. The Sunday after Easter through October, we continued one service at 9AM. The Nursery worker(s) arrive about 7:45AM for the early service, are available through Christian Formation time, and remain through the late service. They are available to help out with the children for music time in the church with Dr. D., and for the Godly Play Christian Formation class if a parent is teaching. If the children finish class before the service begins, they can go to the Nursery until the service begins while they are waiting for their parents.

In November 2008, we started a totally new service and Christian Formation schedule. In anticipation of adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> service in January 2009 at 9:15AM, we moved the "late" service to 10:30AM. The 8AM Rite One format stayed the same. The other change that began with the new school year after Labor Day

2008, was to have the Children's Godly Play Christian Formation time begin at 10:15AM, then the Children were brought into Church at The Peace to join their families for the Eucharist. Since all the families brought their children for the 10:15AM class start time, they all attended the 10:30AM service; therefore, the Nursery workers arrived about 10AM for this schedule.

Ana Gloria Chao Mesa and Agueda Alvarado-Giorio continued from 2007 to work in St. Mark's Nursery into early 2008. Unfortunately, Agueda moved away with her family, the Jacksons, at the end of June 2008. Ana left us at the end of July. Luckily Elizabeth Diaz was referred to us by the Island Montessori Academy and started working in early August. She was joined by Monica De La Cruz in September. When Monica left to go back home, her sister, Mercedes Almazan took over in October. Elizabeth and Mercedes continue to come every Sunday, and are available for other events that go on at the Church and for the families of the Parish.

The Nursery is located off the Narthex which allows parents to be in the same building and easily accessible to their children being cared for in the Nursery. The parents can easily get their children from the Nursery to attend Holy Eucharist together.

We continue to offer childcare for the midweek Wednesday evening services and supper fellowship time, concerts and special events at St. Mark's. Our growth in young families with children continued to grow throughout 2008.

MUSIC MINISTRY  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT

by Dr. Ronld Doiron, Director of Music Ministries

Once again, the growth of the music ministry program at St. Mark's mirrored the growth of other ministries this past year. Our Parish Choir continues to grow (30 music folders assigned to permanent and seasonal singers!), providing inspiration and leadership during our worship services. The Handbell Choir now has 12 ringers, improves each week in skills and repertoire, and plays regularly every 6 weeks between October and Easter.

Through the generosity of parishioners and choir members, our new Choir Room was outfitted this year. Wonderful new robe cabinets and a rolling folio storage unit were designed and built by a team of wood-working experts, including Frank Damico, Jack Willer and John Morgan. The choir purchased their own individual music stands (complete with a storage cart) for use during rehearsals in the choir room and special programs in the church. Our two-octave set of Malmark handbells grew by 5 bells donated as memorials by Eva and Moufid Mitri. Last year a parishioner donated a new sound system for use during the Flea Market and for special events in the Parish Hall and outside in the Patio. Through the generosity of the Artists-in-Residence, a new CD player was purchased this year to compliment our sound system.

Our Lenten offerings were enhanced this year by the Russians! *Archiglas* arrived in early Lent and sang for the 10:15 service (you could hear a pin drop!). Most congregants remained for a program of Russian folk songs performed during the Coffee Hour. What amazing voices! On Palm Sunday our Handbell Choir once again began the 10:15 service by playing in the Courtyard and then playing from memory an original composition as they lead the procession into the church. In place of a Sacred Music Concert this year, the music ministry co-sponsored with the United Church of Marco Island a Palm Sunday afternoon performance of the Handel's complete oratorio *Messiah* by The Bach Ensemble, Soloists and Orchestra. The meaningful and moving concert was performed to a capacity audience at the United Church and followed by a wonderful reception planned and executed by our own ECW (thank you, June Bridges!) and the women of the United Church. Our own Artists-in-Residence even moved their display grids and paintings to the United Church Hall for the reception (thank you, Hannah!). Easter dawned with glorious music provided by the choir, additional choristers from The Bach Ensemble and a small orchestra at both our Easter Vigil and Easter Day services. For the first time, our children and youth had their own Easter celebration at the labyrinth (thank you, Fr. John, for your music!) followed by an Easter egg hunt. Our Youth Service in May included the participation of many talented young singers and instrumentalists. During the Service, "The Littles" once again gave us a rousing presentation of *Pharaoh, Pharaoh!*

Summertime was spent reviewing and preparing for the fall. Regular choir rehearsals began again in September for our Adult and Handbell Choirs. Once again we were blessed with music by "The Littles," who sang their first Spanish song! On December 7<sup>th</sup>, we presented our Fifth Annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Once again, the Choir was joined by choristers from The Bach Ensemble and a small orchestra. Great appreciation is always extended to the amazing ECW for organizing yet another wonderful reception and continuing to support our efforts through our Memorial Fund. Several additional adult singers and two young students from The Bach Ensemble joined us this year for both Christmas Eve services. We are blessed to be supported by so many

people from our greater Naples community! Mention must be made of two new choir members (Wally and Carol Hedman) who drive from Bonita Springs each week to be part of our music

ministry family. They are sharing their technical as well as musical talents with all of us by producing and duplicating four DVD recordings of our Advent Lessons and Carols (2007, 2008) and Christmas Eve (both services). The sale of these recordings will benefit the music ministry program – thank you, Wally and Carol! The Music Ministry expresses great appreciation again to our amazing Music Librarian, Joan Poulter, and her husband, Fred, who spend many hours organizing and refilling our growing choral and handbell music library, keeping the Director's office in order and helping clean our music storage area.

As you can see, our music ministry is a shared ministry. We are part of a team or network of ministers helping each other minister to our Parish Family and the greater Marco Island/Collier County community. The entire Music Ministry expresses appreciation once again to all our volunteers for their hard work and especially to the ECW for their incredible support. We look forward to serving the Parish needs during 2009 by continuing to offer quality liturgical music and potentially offering a new concert series (including a return of *Archiglas!*). Under the leadership of Fr. Kyle and a super Vestry, St. Mark's has had yet another amazing year and the Music Ministry is grateful to God and all of you for our many blessings!

## **USHERS 2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

by John Morgan, Usher Captain

**Our St. Mark's Ushers enjoy serving the congregation at all church services. Duties include greeting and assisting parishioners at the door, handing out the bulletins, assisting with seating and answering questions. Ushers also are responsible for taking up the collection and for leading people to the altar during communion. Ushers serve at special services during holidays, concerts, holy days, and funerals. We would like to invite anyone interested in this ministry to join us. Please contact John Morgan at 642-9333.**

Our Ushers for 2008 include Adrian Boney-Fish, June and Bob Bridges, Ron and Liz Bryan, Charlie and Polly Cason, Larry and Barbara DeBauge, Willa Dick, Bill and Liz Doyle, Don and Katie Goetzmann, Chuck and Nancy Hughes, Bill and Carol Hutchinson, Bob and Jane Laird, Dale and Randy Lindquist, Marlene Merrick, John and Candy Morgan, Mike and Jane Morra, Nic Nicolson, John and Carol Oberg, Jack and Pat Patterson, Don and Susan Popejoy, Bill and June Stride, Sue Vajner, Ed and Barbara Vatcher, and John and Rosellen Warner.

# **INREACH**

## **THE BROTHERHOOD MEN'S MINISTRY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

by Kevin M. Fitzgerald

The Brotherhood of St. Mark's is a very active men's ministry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and 2008 was no exception. The Brotherhood's focus was on sponsoring the Arts & Crafts shows on our campus. We decided that with everything else going on that two (2) would be a good test. They were in late January and another in mid March 2008. Some of the proceeds benefited Habitat for Humanity and Island Montessori Academy and the balance was utilized by St. Mark's Episcopal Church in the commission of the Harriet Bedell Chapel mural by Hannah Ineson. The Brotherhood was responsible for parking and cleaning up around the grounds each day after the crafters had gone home for the night. In 2009 we are planning to have three (3) Arts & Crafts Events, which will benefit various programs and ministries.

Another aspect of the Brotherhood is the Esau Society. Our Rector, The Rev. Kyle Bennett was the big poker winner this year edging out six others. Traditionally the winner gets to designate where the "pot" goes to help the church. In a crafty "Esau-esque" move Fr. Kyle and the rest of those present decided to designate the \$300 paper winnings to buy 3-\$100 Mardi Gras raffle tickets. Esau could have realized the \$10,000.00 for St. Mark's Episcopal Church if it had won the raffle this year.

Our weekly Brotherhood Bible Study welcomes 7-10 Brothers every week and room for plenty more. We hope to start the Brotherhood Book Club, hoping to read a book every other month and meet for discussion as desired. Our ministry of service to others is evident almost every day from the Monday Morning Work Groups and the Esau Society to assisting the ECW and Parish Life Commission at Church events.

Similarly to the ECW, the Brotherhood of St. Mark's is open to all Episcopal men of the Parish. Make sure you mark your calendar when we announce our next meeting and plan on attending.

## **COLUMBARIUM 2008 ANNUAL REPORT by Nic Nicolson**

The members of the Columbarium Committee are Nic Nicolson, Jack Taffe, Vicki Hodge and John Morgan. The function of the committee is to oversee the maintenance and the administration of the Memorial Garden. On the administrative side, we are to act as a backup for Stan North who will normally handle plot purchases, interments and disinterments.

The following fee schedule is in effect for 2008:

Plot Purchase (Member of St. Mark's)	\$500
Plot Purchase (Non-member)	\$600
Vault	\$50
Fee to Stan to dig and place vault	\$75

Activity for this year includes: 4 Interments / 0 Disinterments

This year Nic Nicolson and Jack Taffe installed an additional name plaque on the front wall and new sod was laid.

# **COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

## **2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

**by Susan Darrow, Vestry**

A new Communications Commission was formed in 2008 to address ways to improve communications to our parish family and the general public. The current members of the team are Hope Schlager, Donna Blankman, Lana Fitzgerald and Susan Darrow.

The team met to discuss publicizing upcoming events and promoting the parish through pictures and articles about events held by St. Mark's. A variety of articles have been submitted to the Sun Times and the Marco Island Eagle and published. A new brochure is under development for distribution at hotels and the Visitors Bureau. Pictures are now being regularly taken at parish events for submission to the newspapers and for computer slide shows available at fellowship time after Sunday services.

Information was gathered from several sign companies to determine the requirements and costs of a backlit sign with a reader board for the Collier/Elkcam corner. There are a considerable number of regulations for the design and placement of the sign and discussions were held with the Marco Island Code Enforcement department regarding the project. This project was delayed until funding is available.

Updates to the St. Mark's Web site have included the addition of online donations, the Sunday bulletin and weekly vine and calendar. Other areas of the Web site have been updated with more current information and the site will continue to be updated to reflect our new youth programs and our 2009 Stewardship Campaign materials.

The Communications Commission will also be discussing the design of the weekly Vine, the calendar and the Sunday bulletins to make them easier to read and more effective in communication information about upcoming events.



## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

### 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

by Lana Fitzgerald, 2008-2009 ECW President

The ministries of the women of St. Mark's church are many and as diversified as the women themselves. Be it young or old, a new member or a seasoned member, a full time resident or a seasonal member the mantra is the same: "Woman Reaching Women for Christ, with Christ." How the women of St. Mark's serve the Lord has many definitions. It may be teaching, it may be mentoring, it may be caring for someone who is ill or in need, it may be helping with youth ministries, it may be cooking, it may be gardening, it may be helping with an event or fundraising, it may be offering up prayers, it may be singing in the choir, it may be serving on Vestry, it may be ushering, it may be a greeting, it may be attending to the altar, it may be hosting coffee hour, it may be sewing, it may be helping out in the church office, it is whatever God calls the women of St. Mark's to do to help others. It is about being loving and kind to all. To label or put the women of St. Mark's and the work they do in a category is difficult because their ministries are many. Every baptized woman at St. Mark's is a member of the ECW. The St. Mark's Episcopal Church Women are many members, many ministries, and one body.

In 2008 the St. Mark's Episcopal Church Women lead, participated, started new ministries and continued their fundraising events. Their cookbook "Paradise Favorites" was completed and the artwork by Hannah Ineson and the recipes contributed by our church family and friends are being enjoyed by many. The annual Mardi Gras Celebration in January and the Flea Market in February were again very successful in generating funds for in-reach and outreach ministries: Camp Able, Camp Jeffrey, Cinco De Mayo, Coffee & Comfort, Day Spring, Shelter of the Good Samaritan-Dominican Republic, English Second Language, Habitat for Humanity, Haitian Ministry, Hospice of Naples, Immokalee Friendship House, Immokalee Child Care Center, Project Help Inc, RCMA, Sami Fund (Diocesan), Sarah Howell Fund (Diocesan) St. Mark's Scholarship Educational Fund, Stars on the Water, St. Mark's Music Program, New Storage Building, Tommy Barfield School, as well as funding for St. Mark's receptions, Sunday morning coffee hours and fellowship time. The women met socially for a Spring Luncheon and a Holiday Wine and Cheese to celebrate each other and give thanks to God for bringing us all together. In February a trip was planned to Believe in a Miracle for a day of inspiration sponsored by Women's Ministries, Diocese of Southwest Florida. In November the Naples ECW Deanery was re-established and Lana Fitzgerald was elected Naples ECW Deanery Director for the participating six churches in the ECW Naples Deanery.

Our Vision for all women of the Episcopal Church is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a shining catalyst, and share the love of Christ. Please join us.

**2008-2009 ECW BOARD**  
Officers/Ministries/Committees-Chair

Rector: The Reverend Kyle V. Bennett

**Executive Board**

President: Lana Fitzgerald  
President Elect: Cathy Weis  
Secretary: Cynthia Jackson  
Treasurer: Randy Lindquist/Betty Allen

**Ministries/Chair**

Christian Growth and Development: Susan Darrow  
Church Periodical Club/Scholarships: Gwyn Goodman  
Christian Social Concerns: Missy Bailey/Peggy Anuta  
United Thank Offering: Sue Vajner  
Altar Guild: Nancy Shields  
Daughters of the King: Lana Fitzgerald

***Committees/Chair***

Flea Market: Pat Patterson/Willa Dick  
Mardi Gras: Lana Fitzgerald  
Sarah Circle: Lorraine Corr/Laura Gunderman

**Hospitality**

Hospitality/Coffee Hour:

8:00 - Marion Nicolay/Willa Dick

10:30 - Pauline Cason/Katie Goetzmann

Kitchen Coordinator: Willa Dick/Rosellen Warner

Receptions: Randy Lindquist/Lana Fitzgerald/June Bridges/Willa Dick

Funerals: Cathy Weis/Lana Fitzgerald

**NEW MEMBER MINISTRY/WELCOMING MINISTRY (GREETERS AND  
WELCOMERS)  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Cathy Weis**

Our Welcoming Committee continues to extend a warm greeting to all who attend St. Mark's Church. Under Father Kyle's guidance, we strive to make each new member feel not only welcome but also a member of the St. Mark's family. Those members of the parish who are engaged in this ministry receive an added blessing of being instrumental in creating a warm, friendly atmosphere which sets the tone for our parish life.

We continue to have New Member Recognition Sundays two or three times a year, usually in conjunction with a parish event held the night before. The committee phones each prospective new member and invites him/her to attend the event and to be present in church to be welcomed into the congregation. Those who accept the invitation are recognized at the event and during the service on Sunday when they receive name badges and a St. Mark's information packet.

Our Welcoming Committee has added new members during the year and remains a valuable ministry at St. Mark's. Gail Gates has graciously taken on the scheduling of the Greeters. Many thanks to Gail for her commitment.

**SARAH CIRCLE  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Lorraine Corr and Laura Gunderman, Co Chairs**

Sarah Circle, an arm of ECW, is made up of members interested in arts and crafts. Each member has different skills-sets and interests, that contribute to our overall projects. We act as a service to the church and its ministries.

This year Sarah Circle agreed to take on Bedtime Bundles as an Outreach Project for the Church. We felt we could help fill the need for warm pajamas to put in the bundles given to children of migrant workers. Thanks to the many church members and friends who stepped forward and sewed pajamas. We were able to provide Bedtime Bundles with 62 PJ's.

Sarah Circle assisted the Godly Play group by providing new costumes, as well as restoring existing costumes, for the annual Nativity Pageant at Christmas Eve.

We continue with our ongoing projects, i.e prayer shawls, baptismal banner ministry, and the sale of logo items. Our primary money-making project continues to be the sale of nuts.

**PARISH LIFE (INREACH) COMMISSION  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Donna Blankman and John Kenney**

There are many components of Parish Life Commission: Welcome/New Member Ministry, Ushers & Greeters, Fellowship Time after Sunday Services, Game Nights, Bible Study Groups, Pentecost Picnic, and various celebrations of members and holidays.

Our first 2008 Parish Life event was the Soup Supper on Holy Thursday followed by the Easter Vigil Reception for new members after the Easter Vigil Service. An Easter Sunday Reception and Easter Egg Hunt were held the next day. ECW handled the food for the receptions. The Brotherhood assisted with parking for the Easter services.

Katie Walsh, our Youth Minister, was honored at a reception on 5/4 after church – her last Sunday at St. Mark's. It was also Youth Sunday. The Cinco de Mayo party was held later that afternoon.

The Labyrinth Dedication and Parish Pentecost Cook-out was held on 5/25. The Labyrinth Committee, headed by Cathy Weis, and the many contributors were thanked for their steadfast efforts in bringing this project to fruition. This was a lovely afternoon. John Kenny grilled hot dogs and his signature brats! Parish Life provided paper goods and the meat; side dishes were brought by those attending. The Brotherhood did the set-up and take-down.

In June the Vestry voted to accept the resignation of Jason Bailey. He was thanked for all of his hard work and valuable contributions on behalf of the parish.

Tuesday's Saints Bible Study Group chose "The Faith Club" book as a basis for a summer course of study. Marion Nicolay contacted her friends in the Jewish and Muslim communities and the final group was 10 St. Mark's women, Fr. Kyle (when available), 3 Muslim women and 2 Jewish ladies. The course ran for 10 weeks and has continued on a monthly basis since August. The ladies have learned about each other's faiths and will start to attend worship services at the Jewish Congregation of Marco and at the mosque in Naples.

Christmas in August was held on August 25 complete with Christmas tree, Santa Claus, carols and SNOW! Christmas cookies were baked by the Youth Group. Fabulous!

St. Mark's sponsored a Thanksgiving Dinner in the parish hall on Thanksgiving Day. Over 40 people attended bringing side dishes, wine and desserts - a wonderful event by all accounts.

The Parish "Low Country" Dinner on December 5 was attended by over 100 people, and Cathy Weis introduced several new families to the gathering. A buffet supper was provided featuring dishes prepared by volunteer chefs. The Brotherhood set up, served wine and beer and cleaned up, helped by the Parish Life Commission. Corky Carlisle gave a brief stewardship talk.

Plans were set in motion for the Bishop Smith's visit on January 8, 2009, Harriet Bedell Day. Cathy Weis agreed to chair the reception with the assistance of the ECW and the Brotherhood.

Looking ahead, parish Life plans to develop some Seniors Programs and a singles group.

# OUTREACH COMMISSION

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

by **Myrna Diaz and Richard DeAnna, Vestry**

The Members of the Outreach Commission meet once every month from October through April. The primary mission and function of this Commission is to coordinate and recommend the allocation of Outreach funds to the Vestry. Current sources of income are from individuals, The Brotherhood of St. Marks', The ECW, St. Marks' Youth, the Parish budget, loose plate offerings and from grants. This year, the 2008 Dominican Republic Mission trip was mostly funded by the introduction of 'Tropical Nights'.

St. Marks' is involved in many Outreach Ministries. Following is a list of major Outreach Ministries continued in 2008: Episcopal Relief and Development, St. Matthew's House, Neighborhood ESL, Neighborhood Angel Giving Tree-A little different this year was our St. Mark's Christmas Angel Tree: The Angel Tree adopted nine very needy families from Goodland and the '6L' area (Migrant Farm). These gifts along with cooked turkeys with all the trimmings were delivered directly to the families by St. Mark's parishioners, Cinco de Mayo, Camp Jeffrey, Stars on the Water, Dominican Republic Ministry, Haitian Ministry, Camp Able, Habitat for Humanity, Farmer's Market, Bedtime Bundles.

## **ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE**

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

by **Hannah Ineson**

The Artists in Residence program has grown since Fr. Kyle came to St. Mark's. In the sense that we are all saints of the church, everyone is potentially an "artist in residence!" Fr. Kyle's expanding vision for St. Mark's includes artistic and musical participation by as many members as possible, and reaches beyond the church into the community.

For Easter 2008, St. Mark's jointly sponsored a Mozart concert with the United Church, with Dr. Doiron directing. Artists from both churches presented a very impressive art show at the reception following the concert at the UCC Church.

For the second year, Arts and Crafts Fairs held on church grounds included a St. Mark's Artist in Residence booth, organized by Linda Taffe and Hannah Ineson, with several artists participating.

Watercolor classes were again offered by Hannah Ineson during the winter season. These classes draw students from the public as well as church membership.

Many culinary artists of St. Mark's participated in the new cookbook, "Paradise Favorites", under the direction of Willa Dick, Lana Fitzgerald, and Lorraine Corr, with illustrations by Hannah Ineson.

Five pottery chalices, one host box, and four patens were created by clay artist Janet DeAnna. Two smaller chalices with rainbow designs were created for the 9:15 Family Service. Three standard size blue chalices were created for use in regular services during Advent and Lent.

During the summer, Nancy Shields created a quilted Noah's Ark frontal for the children's altar featuring a rainbow and including animals from Florida. The first use of this frontal began at the 9:15AM Family Service in 2009. Nancy Shields along with Eleanor Schoen made 2 stoles and a chasuble from native Ecuadorian fabric brought back by the Lindquists from a trip.

Fr. Kyle proved the depth of his faith and trust in God by asking Hannah Ineson to create a mural depicting the Everglades in the Harriet Bedell chapel. This mural, which fills the 15' X 10' wall behind the altar, was completed in November 2008 and dedicated by the Bishop on Deaconess Bedell's feast day, January 8, 2009.

In 2008, Fr. Kyle asked Janet DeAnna to organize a group to create Stations of the Cross for use in Lent.

A number of Artists in Residence have participated in this exciting multi-media project, which will be completed in 2009.

A portion of any income from Artists in Residence shows and classes is donated to support the Music Ministry at St. Mark's.

**CAMP ABLE 2008**  
**A NEW CAMPING EXPERIENCE FOR KIDS WITH DISABILITIES.**  
**by Phil Rogers, Board of Directors**

We are called to love God, to love our neighbor, and reminded that our neighbors don't all look, sound or think the same way we do. The love of God is without conditions or limits. It is with the celebration of that love that we come together at Camp Able. A camping experience which is about the love of God for all God's children.

Each of us is disabled in some way, and each of us is gifted. At Camp Able we work around our various disabilities and celebrate our gifts. For campers, this is a very special time. It's vacation, Christmas morning, and family reunion all rolled up together over five days. At Camp Able 2008, we had 14 campers and 40 staff and councilors. It was an extremely rewarding week for all. The Campers participated in scuba diving, canoeing, fishing, arts and crafts, a ropes challenge course, singing and dancing, and a whole lot more. To be part of Camp Able is a life event you will never forget and always reflect upon.

In early October, a Board of Directors was established to support the planned growth of this ministry. The Board consists of: Fr. Kyle, Cathy and Tom Weis, Myrna Diaz, Laura Gunderman, Callie Bennett, Nanette Moll, Ava Dunstan, Ron Doiron, Missy Bailey, Dody Bennett, Luke Gautier, and myself. At our first Board meeting we chose to set up a committee structure which includes: Planning, Finance, Fund Raising, Promotion, Logistics, and Tech Support.

On October 18, 2008 thirty-two Camp Able campers, councilors, and staff held a reunion at the Episcopal Diocesan Convention of Southwest Florida. We received a standing ovation from all attendees who were all very moved by the Camp Able stories that were told and our 'parade' up the aisle. There were few dry eyes.

Camp Able 2009 will be held July 17 - 23. We encourage all who wish to get involved, as either full time or part time staff, to contact Fr. Kyle or myself.

May the Lord Bless ALL God's children.

**CAMP JEFFREY MINISTRY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITES**  
**2008 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**by Janet DeAnna**

This year was a very exciting year for our Camp Jeffrey ministry. We began in November of 2007 with a new camper joining us named Maria Gallo. Like Jeffrey, she is an Island resident and what a delightful young woman she is. Her mother Isabelle learned of Camp Jeffrey by participating in another of our programs here at St. Mark's, English as a Second Language. The first time she brought Maria by she stayed with us to help us all get acquainted and be comfortable together. Another important addition to our group was Katie Walsh who was heading up our Youth Ministry for the year.

We quickly learned that in addition to our other activities which include some playground time, playing the piano, listening to music and going for walks, we were going to have to add crayoning. This is something Maria enjoys immensely. We also moved our operation out into the Courtyard Garden which

worked well because we could have several activities going on at once. By the end of the year it was obvious that Jeffrey and Maria enjoyed their time with us almost as much as we with them.

It is our hope that others in our community will join us for this Outreach Ministry to the disabled, but in the meantime we are thankful for the opportunity to get to know and spend Tuesday afternoons with Jeffrey and Maria.

Those involved in the ministry this year were Bob Brewer, Katie Walsh, Richard and Janet DeAnna, and Father Kyle.

**CAMPS ST. MARK'S  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Missy Bailey**

Last summer St. Mark's hosted two groups of kids on two separate weeks for Camp St. Mark's. The camps took place June 16th-June 20th and June 23rd-June 27th. The first week of camp was open to the Hispanic children who we have worked many times with through our Neighborhood Ministry. The second week of camp was open to kids from the Episcopal Haitian Mission in Immokalee. We had about 20 kids at each camp week.

The camp was sponsored by St. Mark's with the help of donations and volunteers from St. Mark's parishioners. Each day consisted of different activities such as tie dying, crafts, cooking, fun and games, a beach day, and a water play day including a 20-foot waterslide. Our camp counselors were our very own E. Y. C. Youth along with two interns from Mississippi, Kyle and Stephanie. Kathy Campbell and Missy Bailey acted as "Camp Directors" and we had many church member volunteers help serving lunches and being co-counselors. The highlight of these Camp weeks was seeing the kids' faces as they experienced things they have never done before. The trip to the beach was amazing as some of these kids living in Immokalee had never even seen the Gulf of Mexico before that day!

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN CHILDREN'S SHELTER  
"ALBERQUE EL BUEN SMARITANO"  
SAN FRANCISCO DE MACORIS, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Al Diaz, Treasurer-Naples Deanery Dominican Republic Committee**

I am honored to report that thanks to the great work and generosity of the parishioners of St. Marks, the Good Samaritan Children's Shelter continues to flourish.

The Diaz family, Myrna, Danny, Alexandra and I, had the privilege of making a pilgrimage to the Shelter over Thanksgiving 2008. For the first time I personally witnessed the amazing and inspiring gift of hope and love that our church and the Naples Deanery is blessed to bestow on the Shelter through our financial and spiritual support.

I do not have the words to clearly express the impact that the shelter has on the lives of the children who are fortunate enough to attend. Lillian the Director of the school perhaps

explained it best when she said that “in a neighborhood that is ravaged with poverty and despair, the shelter is the light of hope and through its work the love Christ is introduced into their lives and to that of their families.”

The annual operating cost of the shelter runs approximately \$65,000.00, and the money to cover the expenses is raised through the sale of sponsorships of the students, personal pledges and through the outreach budgets from the five churches that currently participate from the Naples Deanery.

They are St. Marks, St. Paul’s, Trinity by the Cove, St. Monica’s and St. Mary’s.

We are very grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Bill Laimbeer for once again, pledging \$11,000.00 to match the sale of sponsorships from our parishioners.

In November we hosted our first annual “Tropical Nights Dinner Dance and Silent Auction” fundraiser; the purpose of the event was to raise awareness and funds for the shelter. The evening was a tremendous success, with a sold out room, great food and fellowship! We look forward to making this an annual event.

One of our main challenges for the coming years is the issue of maintenance repairs to the facilities. This year we approved the expenditure for several roof repairs and physical improvements to the shelter, however there are other major repairs that will have to be undertaken in the next few years that will require us to place money in reserves to cover these expenses.

We believe through prayer and the generosity of the parishioners throughout the Naples Deanery that we will meet the challenges of supporting and maintaining The Good Samaritan Children’s Shelter.

**STARS ON THE WATER AFTERSCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Candy Morgan, Program Leader**

Stars on the Water, now in its third year, is an after-school tutorial and enrichment program for second graders from Tommie Barfield Elementary School. These students are selected by their teachers and given permission to participate by their parents. Transportation to the church by bus is provided by the school. This year we are tutoring 12 students every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:15 until 5:00 p.m. from October through April.

This program, based on a model developed in Oxford, Mississippi named Leap Frog, was brought to St. Patrick’s Church in Long Beach, MS by Fr. Kyle Bennett where it was named Stars on the Water. Kyle began the groundwork for a similar program at St. Mark’s in the spring of 2006.

Our goals and objectives are two-fold: to assist each child in the successful completion of the academic year and to improve student self-esteem. During the first hour of the program students receive one-on-one tutoring in basic skills of language arts and mathematics. They also receive assistance with homework assignments and current class work.

During the second portion we offer enrichment programs for the students under the direction of Susan McKenzie. Our theme this year is Marco Island and the Waters around Us. The students are enjoy monthly workshops by Linda Shockley and Charlette Roman, Nancy Richie and speakers from Rookery Bay. We always welcome any help with these enrichment programs from our parishioners.

Once again we have a devoted volunteer group who serve as regular tutors each week: Jan Altheide, Peggy Anuta, Barbara Burch, Liz Doyle, Kay Eckert, Betty Freeman, Don Goetzmann, Marie Hughes, DeeAnn Kah, Stacy Kazor, Neil Kelly, Susan McKenzie, Vera Parker, Susan Purvis, Betty and Phil Sheradin, Judy Shinabarger, Ruth Taffe, Ed Vatcher and Marguerite Zschiegner.

Students also enjoyed working with Luke Gauthier (Youth Minister) and Lavinia (Youth Intern from the DR) this fall.

We also have many dedicated substitute volunteers: Susan Darrow, Ann Evans, Eva Mitri, Maureen Paynter, Donna Riley, Sue Stepanek and Brenda Walsh. These volunteers fill in for our regular tutors, sometimes at just a short notice.

With eleven boys and one girl, we are having a terrific year. Only through the willingness and commitment of all our volunteers are we able to keep this program going. We are blessed to have their dedication and concern for these children.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT by Myrna M. Diaz**

This ministry for community outreach was begun early in 2006 and has continued throughout 2008.

### **Cinco de Mayo:**

This event is hosted at our St. Mark's campus, primarily for our Hispanic neighbor families. We provide food, music, games and water slide with ice cream, hot dogs, and pinatas for the children. Approximately 100 of our neighbors attend along with about 60 parishioners. The organizational committee included Father Kyle, Missy Bailey, Cheryl Mueller and Wendy Happney. Erica Sanchez, one of our Hispanic neighbors, was responsible for the organization of the food, Al Diaz for the set up, and entertainment was provided by a DJ. This event continues to be instrumental in opening our doors for other Outreach opportunities.

### **English as a Second Language(ESL):**

St. Mark's offers ESL to adults in our community who desire to become proficient in the English Language. The classes continue to be scheduled on Tuesdays from 6-8pm in Harper Hall, except for breaks in the summer and Christmas time frames. September 2009, will mark the end of the third year offering this program. We have 4 full time time teachers and several others offering part time teaching. Pat Walsh, Dale Lindquist June Stride and Mike Mueller were full time, and Helen Fronheiser, Brenda Walsh were part time. Our student class size varies quite a bit, from 4 to 15 students depending on the time of year and their workloads, however we average about 6 students per night. Our students typically come for 3 to 6 months and then change over to new students, primarily by word of mouth. However we have 8 students who have been regular attendees for the last three years.

### **Computer Lab:**

The computer lab continues to serve as a learning alternative for anyone interested in learning Spanish or English. The lab is in Harper Hall. The Rosetta Stone Program is self-directed so that ESL students as well as parishioners can be exposed to basic computer usage or have the opportunity to learn a new language.

**Christmas Angel Tree Giving ( 2008 '6L' Neighborhood):**

This year's Angel Tree was different than past years. Instead of hosting a family Christmas party at St. Mark's, we hand delivered our gifts which were the 'Wish list' of the families on the Angel Tree. Our adopted families consisted of 9 needy families from Goodland and the 6L Migrant Farms (just south of 951 on 41).

Mrs. June Bridges and helpers cooked 9 turkeys complete with all the trimmings. Then a gift wrapping party was organized for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December. On Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 coolers of food and all the gifts were hand delivered to our families. Our entourage of 6 vans included Santa Claus (Kevin Fitzgerald), Father Kyle (some sort of ELF), some of our Youth, parents and other parishioners. Photos were taken of the families with Santa Claus.

A list of 'needy' kids were given to us by staff of Tommie Barfield Elementary. Many families speak only Spanish, so a lot of communication was done via their children. Mrs. Hope Schlager was very instrumental in visiting the families beforehand, to discuss what their needs were. Most of the families live in trailers, are very deserving and very appreciative of all we had to offer. This is an Outreach that we intend to continue in 2009.

These programs would be impossible without precise planning and hard work of so many involved. These Outreach programs offer a unique opportunity for our congregation to build relationships with others and with each other. Thank you everyone for your continued support and we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who have participated.

# **PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION**

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

by Carol Hutchinson and Bill Hutchinson, Vestry

**The main focus of Pastoral Care is the prayer needs and concerns of the St. Mark's Parish Family. We keep in close touch with Nanette, Church Office Administrator, as pastoral needs arise from the Prayer List, the Tuesday Morning Prayer Group, and through specific requests to the Clergy. It is important that you let the Church Office know of your illness, worries, and concerns.**

**We thank Ruth Taffe for sending a birthday card to each parish member again this year. (If their date is on file in the computer).**

**Thank heavens for Bob Allen. He continues his volunteer work at Naples Community Hospital through their Pastoral Care office, which benefits our Church Family because we are able to get first hand information about our members in the NCH system.**

**Constance Gaynor manages our Lay Eucharist Ministry, which reaches out specifically to our shut-in/homebound parishioners. See her report below.**

As Carol and I leave St. Mark's to move closer to our family in early 2009, we say Godspeed to a church family that we have been very close to over the last ten years.

God Bless You.

## LAY EUCHARIST MINISTRY

### **2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

by Constance Gaynor, LEM Leader

A LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, in a symbolic way, carries to our sick and infirm members the parish family's care, support, and concern. These visits are living reminders of the church as a body/community, which is the Body of Christ.

This ministry is an extension of the communion table to those who cannot be there, physically present with us.

From January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008, St. Mark's Lay Eucharistic Ministers visits to homes, hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers totaled 77. A total of 254 people attended, or were present at these 77 services, and 218 persons received the Eucharist.

We currently have 12 active LEMs, 2 seasonal LEMs, and 3 retired LEMs. We welcome additional parish members to join this ministry.

**STEWARDSHIP  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Betty Allen and Randy Lindquist, Sisters in Christ, Co Chairs**

Thank you dear fellow stewards of Christ's bounty at St. Mark's parish. Despite our year of unrest in the world, God is alive and well here at St. Mark's through your generosity and support. We appreciate you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

2008 began with "Our Island Home Companion" weekly radio program. ....And close to 170 parishioners attended twelve cottage meetings where we discussed: What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to us. There was an emphasis on discussion of the positive aspects of parish life and activities at St. Marks. Minutes for each meeting were compiled and presented for Vestry acceptance.

An initial total of 166 units were pledged. This included 21 new pledges which amounted to \$362,080.00. Additional pledges and contributions were received during the year increasing that total.

The Stewardship Committee sponsored and donated an All-Parish Dinner in December 2008 featuring low country food from the southern shores. We are presently working to develop a comprehensive pledging program for St. Mark's annual giving. Thank you for all the opportunities this year has brought.

***ENDOWMENT TRUST*  
2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
by Tom Weis**

Trustee Members:

Bob Allen  
Bill Klug  
Tom Weis

Members of the Endowment Trust participated in the following activities during 2008:

- A. Completed & finalized amended Endowment Trust Agreement.
- B. Provided informational articles for The Vine.
- C. Met with The Rev. Corky Carlisle to discuss endowment planning & promotion.
- D. Met with a parish member to explore giving ideas for "children's welfare" programs.

As of 12/31/08 the Endowment Fund balance was \$76,486(12/31/07 balance was \$97,391). Endowment gifts received during 2008 totaled \$80.

Please remember St. Mark's in your financial & estate planning.

If you would like information about planned giving techniques feel free to contact a Trustee Member.

## Treasurer's Annual Report

This report reviews the funding that supports the year-to-year expenses of the church.

Funding for our expenditures comes from several sources:

- Operating Budget
- Designated Funds
- Discretionary Funds

### 2008 Total Revenue

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>2008 Revenue</b>
Operating Fund	478,836
Designated Funds	229,492
Discretionary Funds	4,515
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 712,843</b>

The revenue from the Operating Fund is, by far, the primary source of income for funding church expenses that include staff salaries, rectory, operations and church programs. The other sources of income, Designated and Discretionary Funds, receive their funding primarily from individuals' donations and the ECW. The Discretionary Fund also receives income from the first Sunday of the month's loose plate offering. Income from these Funds contributes to the Inreach and Outreach programs.

### 2008 Operating Revenue

As noted, Operating Revenue is our primary source of income. The following table shows the details of our Operating Fund's projected and actual revenue for 2008.

<b>2008 Operating Revenue</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Plate Offering	25,000	28,594
Pledges & Numbered Accounts	400,000	417,033
Previous Year Pledges	2,420	2,420
Rent & Special Events	15,000	8,104
Other Income	22,000	22,615
Christian Education	80	70
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 464,500</b>	<b>\$ 478,836</b>

'Plate Offering' is revenue from the collection plates that cannot be identified with anyone's numbered account. 'Other Income' is primarily the amount received for monthly rent from the Montessori school. We were able to exceed our budget for Pledges & Numbered Accounts thanks to individuals who contributed an additional \$30,000 at the end of 2008.

### 2008 Total Expenses

Last year at this time, we presented an Expense Budget totaling \$626,268. The following table shows the 2008 budget and the 2008 actual for each category.

<b>Expense</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Percent</b>		<b>2008</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Funding</b>
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Category	Budget	of Total	Actual	of Total	Source
Worship	192,262	30.7%	173,714	27.1%	Operating Fund
Outreach	248,309	39.7%	258,849	40.5%	Operating, Designated & Discretionary Funds
Inreach	132,569	21.1%	155,335	24.3%	Operating, Designated & Discretionary Funds
Pastoral Care	53,128	8.5%	52,011	8.1%	Operating Fund
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 626,268</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 639,909</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

### 2008 Operating Expenses

2008 Operating Expense	Budget	Actual
Worship	186,262	173,714
Outreach	145,309	130,918
Inreach	129,319	130,735
Pastoral Care	53,128	52,011
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 514,018</b>	<b>\$ 487,378</b>

We ended the year favorable to the expense budget by \$26,640. However, our revenue totaled only \$478,836. Since Operating Revenue and Expense must balance at the end of the year, the church's checking account was reduced by \$8,542, resulting in a year-end checking account balance of \$23,465.

### Designated & Discretionary Funds

As you may note in the above table, a large percentage of Outreach comes from the Designated & Discretionary Funds. In 2008, Camp Able and the Dominican Republic were the two largest beneficiaries of the Outreach programs. With the revenue received this year, plus income received in previous years, we were able to fund a number of Outreach and Inreach Programs that exceeded the estimated 2008 budget for those programs.

### 2009 Outlook

The outlook for total expenses in 2009 is as follows:

Expense Category	2009 Outlook	Percent of Total	Funding Source
Worship	212,282	32.0%	Operating Fund
Outreach	258,054	38.9%	Operating, Designated & Discretionary Funds
Inreach	126,725	19.1%	Operating, Designated & Discretionary Funds
Pastoral Care	66,104	10.0%	Operating Fund
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 663,165</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Designated and Discretionary Funds are estimated, based largely on the income/expense results of 2008.

The Operating Budget is the primary component of the total expenses. This outlook includes a proposed Operating Budget expense of \$526,665, which is an increase of less than 2.5% from the 2008 Operating Expense Budget.

Some highlights of the proposed budget are:

- ◆ No salary increases
- ◆ Reductions in expense for many items
- ◆ Expenses for Reserve funds (this is the only reason that the 2009 Operating Expense budget is greater than the 2008 budget)

There has been no money allocated to the reserve funds for a number of years. At the end of 2008, the General Reserve Fund had \$37,467 and the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund had \$13,345. The proposed allocation for the General Reserve Fund is \$10,000. The proposed allocation for the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund is \$44,970, which will cover the items that have been identified as most likely needing replacement in 2009.

Our ability to fund the Operating Expense is based, primarily, on revenue committed to in our Annual Pledge Drive. The Finance Committee will meet at the conclusion of the campaign to make recommendations to the Vestry. Reductions will be made if projected revenue is insufficient to cover a \$526,665 expense budget.

The tables on the following two pages show the line items that are associated with each Expense Category in the 2009 outlook for total expenses. Administration, Personnel, and Facilities line items are allocated, in varying proportions, across the four categories.

## 2009 Expense Items

<b>Worship</b>	2009 Budget
Musical Misc. Exp.	600
Choral Music Exp. - Adult	750
Musical Equip.	200
Choral Music Exp. - Bells	150
Liturgical Accompaniment	700
Instrument Repair & Tuning	200
Clergy Vestments & Supplies	170
Christian Formation (Adult Education)	500
Christian Formation (Sunday School)	250
Stewardship	312
Youth Ministry	1,250

Administration	8,500
Personnel	124,548
Facilities	64,352
<b>Sub-Total: Operating Budget</b>	<b>202,282</b>
Altar Guild (Flowers, Candles, etc.)	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>212,282</b>

**Pastoral Care** 2009 Budget

Stewardship	313
Pastoral Care	100
Youth Ministry	125
Administration	1,063
Personnel	40,361
Facilities	24,142
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,104</b>

**2009 Expense Items**

**Outreach** 2009 Budget

Diocese Assessment	37,101
Youth Ministry	375
New Member	500
Stewardship	313
Dayspring Camp	720
Personnel	60,807
Facilities	32,176
Administration	1,062
<b>Sub-Total: Operating Budget</b>	<b>133,054</b>
Designated Funds	100,000
Discretionary Funds	3,500
Katrina Relief Fund - Discretionary	2,500
ECW	19,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>258,054</b>

**Inreach**

2009 Budget

Kitchen Exp.	1,000
Parish Life	1,200
Stewardship	312
Youth Ministry	750
Personnel	71,118
Administration	10,625
Facilities	40,220
<b>Sub-Total: Operating Budget</b>	<b>125,225</b>
Youth Fund - Designated	1,000
Columbarium - Designated	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,725</b>