



2012 Annual Meeting

January 22, 2012

*. . . A light on the corner,
providing food human & divine*

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CHURCH OFFICIALS FOR 2012

VESTRY

Class of 2013 (final year)	Don Gray
	Todd Sneller
	Lisa Sutton
Class of 2014 (2 more years)	Berwyn Jones
	Donna Harler-Smith
	(pending election) Sarah Fairchild
Class of 2015 (3 more years)	Nancy Benton-Brown
(pending election)	Jeanine Jewell
	Kevin Cole
Student Appointments (annual)	Allison Cole
Senior Warden	Jim Karas
Junior Warden	Kate Maattala-Sirota
Treasurer	Lisa Sutton
Assistant Treasurer	Jessica Freeman
Clerk	(pending election)

DIRECTORS OF MINISTRIES

Acolytes & Chalice Bearers	Todd Sneller
Altar Guild	Kathy Schmutte
Lectors	Bob Stock, Pippa Lawson
Ushers	Robert Kuzelka

COMMITTEE & GROUP CHAIRS

Arts Committee	Open
Building & Grounds	Lisa Sutton
Campus Ministry	Jonah Sirota, Kurt Knecht
Community Service Group	Kim Thomason
Finance	Mark Musick
Gathering Place	Anne Puls
Eucharistic Visitors	Jeanine Jewell
Pantry	Anne Puls
Pastoral Care	Nancy Benton-Brown
Prayer Chain	Gwen Tilley
Special Events	Nancy Benton-Brown, Opal Doerr
Worship	Fr Jerry Thompson
Administrative Assistant	Denise Meredith
Director of Music	Kurt Knecht
Christian Education	Natalie Shepard
Nursery Attendant	Kirsten Boothe
Sexton	Trevor Vargason

ST. MARK'S ON THE CAMPUS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2012 ANNUAL MEETING Agenda - January 22, 2012

1. Opening Prayer (Fr. Jerry Thompson)
2. Appointment of Secretary: Opal Doerr (Fr. Jerry Thompson)
3. Approval of 2011 minutes
4. Further comments from the Rector
5. Report of the Nominating Committee
 - a. Acceptance of Nominations from the Floor
 - b. Election of Wardens and New Vestry Members (Fr. Jerry Thompson)
6. Reports (oral or by title):
 - a. Administrative Assistant
 - b. Adult Formation
 - c. Altar Guild
 - d. Audit Committee
 - e. Building & Grounds Committee
 - f. Campus Ministry Committee
 - g. Clergy
 - h. Community Service Group
 - i. Eucharistic Visitors
 - j. Finance Advisory Committee
 - k. Finance and Treasurer Report
 - l. Gathering Place
 - m. Music
 - n. Nominating Committee
 - o. Pantry
 - p. Personnel Committee
 - q. Special Events Committee
 - r. Vestry and Wardens
7. Treasurer's Report (Stephanie Hill)
8. Vestry proposal to borrow from CIP funds (Bob Kuzelka)
9. Appointments (Fr. Jerry Thompson)
 - a. Student Members of Vestry: Allison Cole
10. Election of Delegates/Alternates to Diocesan Council
 - a. Annual Council (Nov 1-3, Kearney) – Ray Lowther, Jeanine Jewell
11. Outgoing Senior Warden Remarks (Lyn Forester)
12. Vestry Election Results (Lyn Forester)
13. Other Business
14. Presentation of Awards (Lyn Forester)
15. Poem (Mark Musick)
16. Adjournment

2011 Annual Meeting Minutes

Reported by Opal Doerr
For the meeting on January 23, 2011

Opening Prayers – Fr. Jerry Thompson

Appointment of Secretary – Opal Doerr

Approval of 2010 Minutes

Andrea Nelson moved that we approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Bob Kuzelka. Motion Approved: All.

Further Comments from the Rector

Fr. Jerry spoke briefly concerning the difficult situation regarding former Deacon Christine Grosh. All disagreements involve at least two people and he acknowledged that both he and Christine had contributed to this problem. Mediation as facilitated by the Bishop's staff could potentially have addressed the situation, but Christine chose not to continue that process. Although his relationship with Christine is still broken, he continues to hope and pray for healing some day.

Report of Nominating Committee – Ray Lowther

Ray Lowther presented the slate of three vestry candidates – Donna Harler-Smith, Berwyn Jones, and Kate Maattala-Sirota. Biographies and statements from the vestry candidates had been distributed with the Sunday bulletin for the previous three weeks. There was a pause while the floor was opened for additional nominations, but there were none.

Lyn Forester will become Senior Warden and Jim Karas has agreed to serve as Junior Warden.

Dean Settle moved that all of the vestry candidates and the senior and junior wardens be accepted. The motion was seconded by Jonah Sirota and Todd Sneller. Motion Approved: All.

Reports – See Attachments

- ⑩ Administrative Assistant
- ⑩ Adult Formation
- ⑩ Altar Guild
- ⑩ Audit Committee
- ⑩ Building & Grounds Committee
- ⑩ Campus Ministry Committee
- ⑩ Clergy
- ⑩ Community Service Group
- ⑩ Financial Advisory Committee
- ⑩ Finance and Treasurer Report
- ⑩ Gathering Place
- ⑩ Music
- ⑩ Nominating Committee
- ⑩ Pantry
- ⑩ Personnel Committee
- ⑩ Special Events Committee
- ⑩ Vestry and Wardens
- ⑩ Youth Formation

Fr. Jerry thanked everyone for their dedication to all of the ministries. He extended a special thanks to those who had completed their three-year vestry terms – Julee Lowe, Ray Lowther, and Doug Durham.

Treasurer's Report – Stephanie Hill and Mark Musick

Stephanie reported that 2010 ended up with a positive balance of about \$55. In addition, SMOC increased contributions to general outreach funds (not included in the budget) by about \$500. Stephanie explained an oddity with Fr. Bob's salary – the Diocese directed us to pay him a specific salary to not endanger his Social Security Disability payments, but the funds provided by the Diocese for his salary were substantially more than the specified amount. Although the difference is a temporary plus in SMOC's account, it does not belong to us and is not included in our budget.

Mark introduced the 2011 budget and explained some of the challenges. The Diocese is reducing funding for campus ministry activities. In the past, campus ministry funding was part of the Diocese general budget. Now campus ministries will be funded through the Alleluia Fund. Beginning with 2011, SMOC will have to request reimbursement for campus ministry activities and only up to \$9,500 – \$15,500 less than the Diocese 2010 Grant in Aid.

After the pledging was completed, the budget was nowhere near balanced. Very difficult choices had to be made to balance the 2011 budget:

- There are no staff wage increases included.
- The Diocesan Asking had been \$36,000. The vestry decided to reduce that to \$26,000.
- \$4,000 will be moved from the General Funds balance. This fund is our emergency resource – using those funds for operating expenses is not sustainable over time.
- \$17,432 is included in the budget as the “Faith Contribution” line item. These are funds contributed above the pledged amount or funds specifically designated as “faith offering.” This does not include plate offerings.

Bob Kuzelka expressed his appreciation for Stephanie's and Mark's dedication and diligence as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Mark also thanked Denise Meredith for her assistance as the SMoC administrative assistant.

Appointments – Fr. Jerry Thompson

Chris Slane was appointed as the Student Vestry member.

Election of Delegates and Alternates for Annual Council

There will be two Diocesan Councils this year and the following parishioners have agreed to serve as delegates:

Episcopal Election (June 4, Hastings, NE): Berwyn Jones, Ray Lowther, Bob Kuzelka, and as alternate, Mary Lutz.

Annual Council (November 3-5, Kearney, NE): Berwyn Jones, Ray Lowther, Jeanine Jewell, and as alternate, John Flint.

Andrea Nelson moved that the nominated delegates and alternative delegates be approved. Motion was seconded by Connie Backus-Yoder. Motion Approved: All.

Other Business

- Fr. Jerry thanked the staff, both paid and unpaid, for their dedication to SMoC. He also thanked the outgoing vestry members and, especially Joyce Wagner as outgoing Senior Warden, for their dedicated service during a rather challenging year.
- Bob Kuzelka expressed his appreciation of Fr. Jerry's perseverance and dedicated pastoral care.
- Lisa Sutton, speaking for the Building & Grounds Committee, is looking for volunteers to help maintain SMOC. Some of the current volunteers are experiencing physical limitations as they get older.

- An anonymous donor is offering to finance solar panels for SMOC. If you'd like to serve on the committee working with this, please contact Lisa Sutton, Mark Musick, or Richard Toren. Pamela Starr asked Fr. Jerry to express our thanks to the anonymous donor.
- Mark Musick is coordinating 4th Fridays at SMOC. These are interesting activities (and snacks, of course) that are being geared toward new involvement at SMOC from the surrounding community. Plans are being made to coordinate some 4th Friday activities with Campus Ministry activities.

Presentation of Awards – Lyn Forester

The Awards Committee selected Jonah Sirota and Kurt Knecht as winners of the 2011 Extraordinary Service Award for their service and leadership of the Space contemplative liturgy on Wednesday evenings.

Annual Poem – Mark Musick

As always, an epic of consistently high quality!

Adjournment

Susan Musick moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Opal Doerr. Motion Approved: All.

2011 Senior Warden's Report Reported By Lyn Forester, Senior Warden

I would like to thank Fr. Jerry and all of the members of the vestry for a productive year. The vestry gave willingly of their time to spend several hours in retreat. These retreats resulted in conversations that helped to steer the parish in a positive direction. Also thanks to Stephanie and Mark our outgoing treasurers who have worked diligently on several unusual and challenging tasks. Also thanks to our outgoing vestry members Tim Hill, Opal Doerr, and Colleen Baade for their service.

A recap of 2011:

All of the reviews of all staff for St. Marks were completed. The Policy Manual was published and the review procedures can be found in the Manual.

A large gift for solar panels was given. Much thanks to this anonymous donor. The panels are now installed and they will assist us in keeping energy costs at a minimum for many years to come.

Another gift, a matching gift, was given by Ferd and Jo Andersen for an elevator. Bob Kuzelka is continuing work to secure the necessary funding to complete this project.

New windows were installed in the parish hall. Funding to complete the project of windows in the offices and kitchen is being sought.

We have maintained the tradition of the soup Sundays. Many thanks go to all of the individuals who have contributed delicious chili and soups. A special thanks goes to Darrell and Nancy Benton Brown for the coordination of these Sundays.

A Ministry Review and Ministry Fair were completed. Thanks to all of Jim Karas' work on this. A Ministry Fair in October was well attended. We gained a number of individuals for committees at the church. Thanks to Lisa Sutton and Allison Cole for their organization of this fair.

It was an excellent year for St. Mark's Parish. We are well-positioned to have many more special times at St. Mark's.

2011 Administrative Assistant Reported by Denise Meredith

My fifth year at St. Mark's on the Campus was one of stable, routine office procedures – as well as many new and exciting projects. I did not, however, discover a way to clone myself in 2011 – so if you call the office and I don't answer, please leave a voice mail. It does not necessarily mean I'm not there, I might just be in another part of the building.

The building was frequently occupied by contractors working on the new windows in the lounge and installing the solar panels. (I'm enjoying a short break from all of the noise before the elevator project begins!) Other times, I enjoyed the aroma (and taste) of Czech and Russian foods being created by UNL student groups in the kitchen. We had groups holding luncheons, and students practicing music.

I spent a great deal of time working with the website committee in helping to develop the new website. There was software to learn, information to populate, and evening meetings to attend - which all took up much of the fall. While the site was launched in early January, we continue to improve and add to it, in addition to providing weekly updates of calendars, sermons, readings, and bulletin announcements.

This year, I have again enjoyed working closely with Treasurer Stephanie Hill – who I will miss next year – as accounting continues to be a large portion of my weekly routine. We continuously refine every aspect of the bookkeeping system to ensure that accurate contribution records are provided, bills are paid in a timely manner, bank account statements are balanced, detailed reports are provided on a regular monthly basis, payroll and payroll taxes are submitted accurately, and well organized records are provided to the audit committee.

We have continued using the mass e-mail list to communicate when we need a replacement in the service party, or need to quickly forward information to a group of parishioners or committee members. The newest function of this system is to provide electronic copies of The Lion's Roar newsletter to parishioners, eliminating the expenses of printing and mailing paper copies.

The Pantry has been busy this year, and its use is tracked carefully. Thanks to Anne Puls and a large group of volunteers helping in the pantry this year, it is routine for clients to get their orders within hours of their request.

I have appreciated the working environment in the office, which continues to be a wonderful example of caring and compassion toward employees as individual people – and especially toward the challenges sometimes faced by a working mother with active teenagers! I am also grateful for the available vacation time, which was mostly used in 2011 as a chaperone for my oldest daughter's band trip to Florida for a week in March, and another week taking my church's youth group on a mission trip in late June.

Working with Father Jerry in the office has been the best employment experience I could ever ask for. Ongoing expressions of appreciation from Father Jerry, Kurt, and many of the parishioners at SMOC leave me looking forward to many years at St. Mark's on the Campus.

2011 Adult Formation

Reported By Father Jerry Thompson

During 2011, our formation opportunities included a variety at Adult Forum on Sunday mornings, facilitated by myself and others. These classes have included a series on the parables of Jesus; a series of discussions about **Love Wins**, by Rob Bell; a report from Anthony Hawley and Rebecca Fisher about their joint art project in Assisi, Italy; a discussion around **The Hidden Power of the Gospels**, by Alexander Shaia; and a self-developed presentation by Don Tilley of "Myths of Nebraska."

In addition to Adult Forum, we have also held Inquirers' Classes for those preparing for Confirmation and Reception and for those who simply want to "brush up."

And finally, our ongoing adult formation includes both the St. Mark's Book Club, which includes people from a variety of parishes and tradition; and the Men's Breakfast Group, where we read one book each month or so. These titles have included **Made for Goodness**, by Desmond Tutu; **Love Wins**, by Rob Bell; and **A Thirst for Souls**, by Dan Crawford.

2011 Altar Guild

Reported By Kathy Schmutte

Altar Guild prepares communion by setting out chalices, Sanctus bells, filling cruets with wine and water, and setting out bread. After the Eucharist, we wash chalices, wash linens, corporal, if needed, fill candlesticks with oil. At the change of seasons, we change altar frontal. We had a training session on December 17, 2011. Altar Guild personnel for 2010 were: Opal Doerr, Don Gray, and Kathy Schmutte. If anyone would like to serve on Altar Guild, speak to Father Jerry or one of the Altar Guild volunteers.

2011 Building and Grounds

Reported By Don Gray and Lisa Sutton

There were no major repair or maintenance issues in 2011. Our minor maintenance items (electrical fixtures, plumbing leaks) continue to be cared for by our internal labor force of Mark Musick, Jim Karas, and Todd Sneller.

We had a spring and fall cleanup for pruning trees and shrubs, cutting back grasses, spreading cedar chips and cutting back perennials. Volunteers have cleaned under the west shrubs, removing garbage, and cutting out weed trees. Putting down additional cedar chips several times through the year have maintained the clean and neat appearance of St. Marks. Thank you. Discussions are being held with the city about replacing the ewes on the west side of the Parish Hall in the spring. Details will be provided as we have them.

Lisa and Richard Sutton continue to fine tune the plantings included additional perennials in the front beds, pansies for Easter in the courtyard planters and summer flowering plants and greens in the planters for the rest of the season.

Last year's effort in researching the various options for solar panels, solicitation of bids, bid review and award of a contract to Dixon Power Systems has resulted in a well-designed solar energy system. The system consists of 54 solar panels and inverters that convert sun light into electrical

power. Power generated by the system during the day is used to supply the electrical needs of St. Mark's. Lincoln Electric System provides any additional power needs. Because the installed system cannot "store" power any excess power is "sold" back to Lincoln Electric System and applied to our bill as a credit. The system was placed in operation on September 29, 2010. The system operation can be viewed at <https://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/public/systems/BLFg33087>.

Although the installation of the new energy efficient windows in the Parish Hall came with some unexpected "speed bumps" everyone has commented that the windows look great and complement the existing architecture. The real test will come in the summer when the sun returns to the North. Because of some confusion with Pella Windows the Kitchen windows were manufactured and delivered before we expected. The cost of the Kitchen windows is \$7,338.39 and several people have pledged various amounts to cover the cost. The windows will not be installed until we raise the full amount. We are also going to obtain bids for replacing the windows in the office area and try to complete both the kitchen and office areas at the same time.

Volunteer efforts have provided the majority of the interior maintenance needs and we thank all who have helped. We would also like to acknowledge Opal Doerr for her unfailing service. Opal is the force that keeps the kitchen clean and ready for use by everyone, the parish hall picked up and the inside plants green.

With the mild winter snow removal has not been an issue. Please consider becoming part of the volunteers that will be needed for outside projects and snow removal when the time comes. Several of our Building and Grounds committee have been taking care of this job for many years and would love to have some of our younger members joining in the practice of helping with both the shoveling of walks before services each Sunday and during the week when we have new snow. Just let us know if you can help and we will let you know where the snow blower, shovels and ice melt are kept.

Thank you to all parishioners and our Sexton Trevor Vargason who help keep St Marks the safe, clean and inviting church that we call our spiritual home.

2011 Campus Ministry **Reported by Father Jerry Thompson**

This year was a time of transition in leadership of the group. Toward the end of the spring semester, Jonah Sirota and Kurt Knecht took over chair responsibilities.

In the spring, the committee sponsored Shrove Tuesday with Wee Brazen Hussies, a Celtic singing duo, as well as the continuation of the contemplative liturgy (SPACE) on Wednesday evenings during the semester. This service has continued through the fall semester.

The other major thrust of the committee during 2011 was spearheading a new website. This undertaking required considerable work and I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of all involved.

In addition, we have maintained ministries such as Big Red Welcome, decorating the lounge for Christmas, and clergy being available following the SPACE Eucharist for conversation and appointments. Other ministries occur on a more informal basis, such as students dropping in for information about the Episcopal Church or seeking support of one kind or another.

2011 Christian Education Reported by Natalie Shepard

2011 was a very good year for Christian Education. Our children and youth classes had an average attendance of 10 with a staff of 8. The Adult Forum had an average of 12 in attendance. We are now serving a larger number of young children so some of our activities have changed. We were a part of the Palm Sunday and Easter Processions. We processed to the crèche on Christmas Eve and we had front row seats for baptisms. The youth made ornaments for their annual Christmas sale. We were sad to see our long time nursery worker Margaret Fairchild move out of town. She will be missed. We welcome Kirstin to our nursery. The congregation of St. Mark's is extremely lucky to have such a dedicated staff of caring church school teachers. The staff works very hard to carry out a quality program at every age level.

Our thanks go out to our 2011 Staff:

Primary Grades - Kim Thomason and Nita Sipple; Youth - Sarah Fairchild, Jessica Freeman, Don Gray, and Opal Doerr; and Nursery - Margaret Fairchild

2011 Clergy Report—Priest Associate The Rev. Gretchen R. Naugle

Each year at this time it is always a pleasure to share with my "beloved St. Martians" what is happening in my life. This past year has been another great year with my serving the people at Christ Church in Beatrice, St. Luke's in Wymore, and St. Charles in Fairbury (including Lisa Sutton's mother, Bonnie Head). An "extra added attraction" has the opportunity to have Sunday afternoon Eucharist at the Blue Valley Assisted Living Chapel in Hebron occasionally—since a number of the "faithful few" in Fairbury actually live in Hebron. The future for St. Charles is tenuous at the moment because of seriously declining numbers, so this coming year will likely include the sale of that building—and an evaluation of "what next" for the congregation.

This past year our daughter, Meredith, was married (by me!) on March 20th in Grand Lake, Colorado to Jeremiah Heilig. He is a wonderful son-in-law in so many ways, and even loves to cook—so he and Ron enjoy sharing special recipes and "gadgets". Then on May 13th, Meredith "walked across the stage" and received her PhD in metallurgical engineering from Colorado School of Mines. She enjoyed a post-doctoral appointment there until January 3rd, when she began a new job—with Sundrop Fuels in Longmont, Colorado—as Director of Research and Development. She speaks a language I cannot begin to understand but seems very happy and content—and that is what is important to a parent!

Our significant family concern this past year centered around my 93-year-old mother. After some falls and other episodes, in July we moved her from her apartment, where she had lived since 1993, in a retirement community to an assisted living room in the same facility and then in October, it became necessary to move her to the skilled nursing area. Fortunately my sister from Phoenix was able to join us both times, as we sorted through many family possessions and loaded Ron's trusty truck to bring some home. All seems to be stable there for the moment—and we hope and pray that continues for a while.

As we begin another year, be assured that my thoughts and prayers continue to be with all of you!

2011 Clergy Report—Priest Associate **The Rev. Sidnie White Crawford**

This past year did not contain any changes in my duties at St. Mark's. I assisted Father Jerry at Sunday services, celebrating and preaching according to schedule; I substituted at Space and at the Tuesday Eucharist. I made some hospital visitations and home visits, and did a bit of pastoral counseling. The Adult Bible study met regularly during the school year following the 10:30 service. In the spring we studied 1 Corinthians, and in the fall Ecclesiastes (not our favorite!). In order to accommodate all of our members, some of whom have difficulty maneuvering the stairs to the Lady Julian Chapel, we began meeting in the Narthex, which is not an ideal environment. We look forward to the installation of the new elevator, and urge all parishioners to prayerfully consider a special gift to support it. Finally, I want to remind the parish that I am available in pastoral emergencies, for pastoral counseling, and in any matter that concerns the parish. As always, I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve you.

2011 Community Service Group **Kim Thomason**

The St. Mark's on the Campus Community Service Group completed its 17th year of participation in the Lincoln Paint-a-Thon. This was the 21st event for the city of Lincoln and St. Mark's is one of the longest-running participants. As usual, the group did a great job and enjoyed the project.

On August 13 we painted the home of Dorothy Sterkel at 4200 Cornhusker Highway, #24. While it wasn't it a huge house, it took many hours of work to cover the siding in Oatmeal colored paint and the trim in beige. We also painted a porch and a shed as well as cleaned the skirt around the bottom of the house and replaced some trim around the window. Luckily we had a great group of volunteers and also the weather was in our favor. It was dry and warm, but not HOT like usual. Mrs. Sterkel was very appreciative of the work.

This year we were also joined by some members of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. It was fun to meet new people. We enjoyed the fellowship of all while we worked and while we rested. The highlight of the resting time was a delicious lunch provided by members of St. Mark's on the Campus and Aldersgate.

A huge thank you to all the workers and supporters! This event wouldn't be successful each year without the effort of the volunteers and the donations of the supporters. It will be great if we can participate in 2012 for our 18th year!

2011 Eucharistic Visitors **Reported By Peg Sheldrick**

This ministry sends members of the congregation out to deliver communion and prayers to people unable to attend the service. You can request a visit--or a series of visits--to meet your needs. Just call the church or one of the active EVs (Steve Blum, Bob Kuzelka, Peg Sheldrick, or Susan Ugai). If you think you might like to become an EV, contact Fr. Jerry or any of the EVs. You would be very welcome.

2011 Finance Advisory Committee Reported By Mark Musick

Thank you to all who contributed to the finances in the 2011 to keep the church operating. Huge thanks to Stephanie Hill, our treasurer for the last two years, and to Lisa Sutton and Jessica Freeman for being the treasurer and assistant for the upcoming year. Thank you also goes to our Administrative Assistant, Denise Meredith for all of her help, and the audit committee for conducting the annual review of finances.

This year two unusual items were addressed, one was an IRS inquiry regarding a question about withholdings from 2008. After information was sent to the IRS regarding the inquiry, the issue was closed out. Additionally, the bankruptcy of Nebraska Book caused some confusion regarding a fee St. Mark's had been receiving to locate a book buy-back location in the front of the church. A request for payment was forwarded and a response is still expected.

The budget for 2012 will have a large faith offering line as the Diocese had decided to further reduce the funding for Campus Ministry. Additionally, fundraising will be needed to complete the window replacement project in the kitchen and the exciting upcoming elevator project. Both of these improvements will be magnificent additions to the church building. St. Mark's should begin to see a payback on the electrical costs from the installation of the solar panels, which was a marvelous long-term addition in 2011.

The budget for 2012 will be challenging, however, as we have experienced in the last several years, God Always Provides!

2011 Treasurer's Report Reported by Stephanie Hill

Thank you to all who have contributed financially to St. Mark's this year. The good we do as a parish wouldn't be possible without your help. We have continued to collect for our parish's four outreach ministries - Gathering Place, People's City Mission, St. Monica's Home and the Missionary Work of Bob and Ellen Snow – on the first Sunday of each month, with a total of \$4643.48 distributed in 2011.

This year has been very busy financially, and we ended the year in the red, but not hugely. The impact of the shortfall on pledges was mitigated by generous faith and plate offerings. Our largest over-budget items include campus ministry (website and rebranding), insurance, and worship expenses (altar flowers for 2010 and 2011 were both paid in the same year).

While I strongly desired a clean year-end, there are several outstanding financial matters that will sort out in the coming year. Our solar panel project required the use of around \$4200 of our general fund due to complications selling the stock donated to cover the project. We should have the money in hand by February, with any overages going toward windows. An additional \$460, or so, of campus ministry funds should be coming in shortly as the last of our 2011 receipts are processed.

Thanks go out to Denise for all of her hard work on bookkeeping and reports. I couldn't have done this job without her. Thanks also to Lisa Sutton and Jessica Freeman for taking over the responsibilities of treasurer for 2012.

INCOME	2011 ACTUAL	2011 BUDGET	OVER / SHORT	2012 BUDGET
Pledge contributions	\$185,677.53	\$192,282.00	-\$6,604.47	\$186,679.50
Faith contributions	\$18,676.00	\$17,582.20	\$1,093.80	\$38,876.56
Flower Income	\$2,435.00	\$2,300.00	\$135.00	\$2,300.00
Plate - Christmas	\$2,423.44	\$1,500.00	\$923.44	\$1,500.00
Plate - Easter	\$1,558.89	\$1,500.00	\$58.89	\$1,500.00
Plate - General	\$12,984.97	\$9,000.00	\$3,984.97	\$9,000.00
Diocesan Assistance	\$9,040.15	\$9,500.00	-\$459.85	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$134.61	\$300.00	-\$165.39	\$300.00
Use of Church	\$1,703.01	\$2,480.00	-\$776.99	\$2,480.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$234,633.60	\$236,444.20	-\$1,810.60	\$242,636.06

EXPENSES	2011 ACTUAL	2011 BUDGET	OVER / SHORT	2012 BUDGET
Campus Ministry	\$11,116.78	\$9,500.00	\$1,616.78	\$4,000.00
Continuing Ed & Sabbatical	\$1,902.79	\$2,100.00	-\$197.21	\$2,300.00
Diocesan Asking	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Education Expenses	\$2,347.81	\$2,100.00	\$247.81	\$2,100.00
HVAC Replacement Fund	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Insurance	\$4,631.00	\$3,650.00	\$981.00	\$4,650.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$141.71	\$300.00	-\$158.29	\$300.00
Legal & Professional Fees	\$399.00	\$350.00	\$49.00	\$350.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$72.59	\$25.00	\$47.59	\$25.00
Office Equipment	\$3,147.46	\$2,970.00	\$177.46	\$5,100.00
Office & Administrative	\$7,133.48	\$7,170.00	-\$36.52	\$6,560.00
Repair & Maintenance	\$3,121.26	\$5,150.00	-\$2,028.74	\$4,550.00
Travel & Annual Council	\$340.32	\$500.00	-\$159.68	\$500.00
Utilities	\$10,576.63	\$10,400.00	\$176.63	\$10,400.00
Worship & Music Supplies	\$4,569.69	\$2,970.00	\$1,599.69	\$2,970.00
Payroll Expenses	\$162,364.64	\$162,059.20	\$305.44	\$167,631.06
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$239,065.16	\$236,444.20	\$2,620.96	\$242,636.06

Net Income / Expense	-\$4,115.56	\$0.00	-\$4,115.56	\$0.00
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2011 Outreach Distributed	\$4,643.48	Solar Panels Balance	-\$4,202.21
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FINANCIAL ASSETS			
General Funds	\$50,986.58	ST3 Bathroom Fund	\$94.09
CD - Unrestricted	\$12,556.37	ST3 Music Carryover	\$676.00
Rector's Discretionary	\$1,653.96	ST3 Kitchen general	\$1,038.05
Pantry	\$2,461.17	ST3 Kitchen windows	\$4,443.26
CD - Spire Faulkner	\$11,776.95	ST3 Memorial Fund	\$592.59
SSGA Endowment	\$84,081.02	ST3 Youth Funds	\$1,480.42
ST2 HVAC Replacement	\$2,400.00	ST4 Spire Faulkner	\$1,253.38
ST2 Allington Fund	\$1,369.01	ST5 Elevator Fund	\$64,100.20
BALANCE OF FUNDS	\$240,963.05		

2011 Food Pantry Reported by Anne Puls

Our Pantry Program was fairly busy again this year. We supplied a week's food supplies to 407 people (255 families) in 2011, which is fewer than we fed in 2010 --- 598 people and 300 families. We still accept requests from all agencies who ask, but much of our "business" comes from Matt Talbot, Fresh Start, Veteran's Center, Friendship Home, Health and Human Services, St. Monica's and Centerpointe.

We received close to 4,000 pounds of food from the Food Bank last year and over 3000 pounds of food from you at St. Mark's and the other Episcopal churches in Lincoln. In addition, with the monetary contributions St. Mark's received from many of you, we purchased approximately 2000 pounds of food from Wal-Mart. Any food that is donated that does not fit our menu is given to the Gathering Place or the City Mission. The Food Bank responds to the needs of all Southeast Nebraska and has a very active Back Pack program with the Lincoln Public Schools so they continue to be out of many items we use throughout the year, which means we must shop elsewhere (and spend more money) for our needs.

Denise Meredith is the contact person for requests from the Pantry and distributes the groceries to those in need. Thank you, Denise, for coordinating our efforts to feed those who are hungry. My husband Jerry has, again this year, been a good friend to the Pantry program, carrying much of the food we get from the Food Bank and Wal-Mart to the basement and helping me stock the shelves. Others who have helped the Pantry program this year are: Peg Sheldrick, Loris Purtzer, Brody Allen, Mary Lutz and a new volunteer from Holy Trinity, John Andrews. Thank you all soooooo much!!!!

The Pantry always seems to be in good shape at the end of the year due to the generous hearts of those who support it. As always, I do expect it to be another year of need for those less fortunate, so if you have supported the Pantry in the past with food or monetary donations, we hope you will continue to do so, as we are using more and more of our funds for purchases that the Food Bank cannot provide.

Thank you again for all your support of the Pantry program.

2011 Gathering Place Reported By Anne Puls

Volunteers from St. Mark's continue to serve the Gathering Place on the second Tuesday of each month. We put the food out, serve it, and clean up afterwards. The time commitment is about 2 hours on the day we serve — from 4:30 to 6:30. We serve between 80-100 people on an average night. If you are interested in serving with us at the Gathering Place, and we could use some more volunteers, contact me or any of the current volunteers, who are: David Frye, Jeanine Jewell, Craig Lawson, Andrea Nelson, Loris Purtzer, Kathy Schmutte, Dean Settle, Steve Sim, Nita Sipple, Todd Sneller, Lisa Sutton, Susan Ugai, Joyce Wagner and Mark Watt. Thanks to all of our current volunteers for another job well done.

2011 Music - Reported By Kurt Knecht

The music program at St. Mark's is wonderful. It is still a great delight for me to get to work with such gifted musicians each week. Before I list some of the details of the program that many congregants may not know, I would like to single out one event from the past year.

Fr Jerry decided to do a memorial service for the 10th anniversary of 9-11. When word spread about the service, we had offers from the community to get involved and help. The UNL dance department participated in the prelude with UNL viola professor Clark Potter. Dulces Voces came and sang. More significantly, the church was filled to capacity with students and faculty. There was excitement on campus before the service took place. As I was walking out of the music building on Friday before the service, I saw 2 music students and said, "Would you like to come to our 9-11 memorial service?" They said, "We can't. We're already going to one at a place called St. Mark's on the Campus. Where do you go to church?" I believe that we need to make a conscious effort to plan more events like this that utilize groups from the University and community in order to bring more students and faculty into the building.

The choir continues to improve and grow. We have several new members, and the quality of the singing is excellent. Above all, there is a lovely camaraderie between the members. It is a dedicated group that works hard to sing together. We were all grieved at the sudden loss of our dear friend Burns Davis. Burns long time commitment to singing and playing at St. Mark's will be sorely missed.

The organ is in decent repair. University students and community members still use it regularly for practicing. This semester, the entire organ studio from UNL came over two times for their studio lesson. I believe that will continue. We also hosted an organ crawl for Nebraska Wesleyan students, and an adult education seminar. Mark Miller from Bedient has informed me that we need to begin considering some more extensive maintenance to keep the instrument functioning properly. He has sent me an estimate for around \$2000.00 worth of work. It is not a pressing issue, but we should consider having the work done within the next year or so.

The University community continues to use our space as a concert venue with increasing regularity. We have continued our relationship with the choral department by hosting three graduate conducting recitals on our Bach's lunch series. Members of the Chiara Quartet have continued the solo Bach string concerts. Students have used the facilities for both concerts and recording.

The SPACE service has continued with the efforts of Jonah Sirota and Fr. Jerry. Though the attendance is somewhat sparse, I believe the unique nature of the music and liturgy will eventually become an attractive option for University students. Our continued faithfulness will bear fruit.

Finally, I need to specifically thank many members of our church family for the constant support that they provide. Without them, we simply wouldn't be able to offer a music program that is, quite frankly, of a much higher quality than most churches of our size.

Thank you to Jessica Freeman for being my organ substitute when I am away.

Thank you to Dan Ahlin who generously purchased several new anthems for the choir.

Thank you to Holly Heffelbower for conducting and singing solos.

Thank you to Donna Harler Smith for her counsel on vocal technique.

Thank you to Becca Fischer for playing beautiful Messiaen for us.

Thank you to Kevin Cole for singing a solo on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to John Flint for singing a solo on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to Denise Meredith for her administrative help.

Thank you to Jonah & Kate Sirota for being good supportive friends.

Thank you to all the members of the choir for faithfulness and hard work.

Thank you to Fr. Jerry for his wisdom, counsel, and friendship.

2011 Pastoral Care Committee Reported by Nancy Benton-Brown

A Pastoral Care Committee was formed in 2007 at the request of Fr. Jerry Thompson and the Vestry. Seven caring individuals continue to volunteer for this important ministry that provides help to fellow members of our congregation in times of emergency. At these times, Pastoral Care will provide transportation to and from appointments, prepare light meals (soup or a casserole), and make home and hospital visits, or a phone visit, as well as other short term home help as is possible. Many, many thanks to all who have volunteered to participate.

In August of 2007, after compiling a member database that includes the children of our parish, Pastoral Care began sending Birthday cards to St. Marks on the Campus members on behalf of our church family. In addition, the committee sends Get Well and Sympathy cards when appropriate.

In late 2007, Pastoral Care began sending Thinking of You cards and notes to those members who are shut-ins or are experiencing a prolonged recovery. We are now sending 'prayer pillows' (a new pillow with a newly made, brightly colored pillow case) to members who are ill. Healing prayers for the recipient are offered as the pillow case is being made. Your thoughts on how we might better serve one another are always welcome.

2011 Personnel Report Submitted by Lyn Forester

The personnel committee completed the policy manual and it has been published. All policies, letters of agreement and evaluation procedures and materials were reviewed and redesigned as necessary. All evaluations of the staff members of SMOC have been completed for the 2010-11 year. Many thanks go to personnel committee members Lyn Forester, Anne Puls, Don Gray, and Lisa Sutton.

2011 Special Events Committee Reported by Nancy Benton-Brown and Opal Doerr

The Special Events Committee hosted three pot luck dinners in the past year, in addition to the annual Easter Vigil and Christmas Eve dessert gatherings.

The Committee appreciates your cooperation in the use of the alphabetical suggestions for items to share at potluck events. Splitting the alphabet helps ensure that there is a variety of food items on the buffet table. We do our best to rotate the categories, so that you are not asked to bring the same thing each time.

Many thanks from the committee to all who helped with set-up and clean-up for these events and to the congregation for their support and participation.

2011 Annual Meeting Poem By Mark Musick

Welcome to 2012, so long eleven,
The past year has been a little bit of heaven.
Sit back, and relax as notable events we recall,
Such as Nebraska starting Big 10 competition last fall.

During the last year many changes have thrived,
None the least a new Bishop has arrived.
A wonderful gift was made for solar panels to reduce electrical consumption,
Which assumes the sun continues to function.

A big thank you for all of the hard work of Fr. Jerry,
Who makes our church life sweet and merry.
Sidnie thank you for your gift of education,
Which will influence youth in choosing a meaningful vocation.

Thanks to Kurt and the Choir for all the beautiful tunes,
Which adds to our church experience before Sunday noon's.
Thanks to Stephanie for keeping finances steady,
And to Denise to ensure pledge envelopes are ready.

Sunday educators are second to none,
Which opens up our minds to God's son.
Vestry approved installing glass of many panes,
Now there are no worries when it rains.

Lyn thank you, you have been a warden extraordinaire,
For your dedication of time, no one can compare.
Jim is now stepping up to the plate,
You are going to be in many meetings that you will hate.

Colleen, Opal, and Tim have been on the Vestry for the past three years,
Your Sunday afternoon schedule now clears.
A big thanks to Anne Puls for the stacks of sacks,
With all those cans she could use some strong backs.

New for 2012 is an elevator from Ferd and Jo,
It will improve access to the basement, don't you know.

Renewing a long standing tradition of St. Mark,
The Niobrara River we will again embark.
The Thomason's thought it was time to renew,
The infamous trip down the river in a canoe.

This year will offer challenges that are new,
Faith in God's power will give us a clue.
With Jesus' help we will fill each pew,
Next year we can say, see how we grew.

Sermon for the 2012 Annual Meeting - January 22, 2012

The Rev. Jerrold Thompson

I haven't always referred to the readings on the day of the Annual Meeting, but this week's gospel reading offers us a striking context for thinking about our life together as a community of faith. Our gospel reading is a call narrative.

Jesus calls the brothers Simon and Andrew and the other brothers James and John. They all follow him. How many of us have siblings? How many of us think that we are at least a little bit different than our siblings? How many of us have remarked on occasion about how different we are from our siblings – or how different our own children are from each other? Some of you will remember that my brother, Larry, is deceased. Before he died he lived with his family in California. In our case, this meant that I saw him annually at most. My relationship with my brother was never truly close, in part because we were so different. In fact, when he died, we were not exactly estranged from each other but things were definitely strained between us. The last time we saw each other was at a family dinner. He was barely willing to speak to me because he was angry I would not do something he wanted me to do. This is not the relationship I want for my own children. Of course some degree of conflict is inevitable in close relationships. I pray that my children learn how to deal with their conflict in a more constructive manner than Larry and I ever did. Constructively, if not lovingly – that would be even better.

We sometimes talk about the church as a family. Not just this church community but most churches talk in this way. Brothers and sisters in Christ is a common image in Paul's letters. It reveals something very true about our relationships within the Body of Christ, a truth lifted from family life as it has always been. Church as family is an imperfect analogy, but it definitely works in some ways, doesn't it? We are called to be in intimate relationship with one another. In fact, life in Christ is sometimes more intimate than it is with brothers and sisters in our families of origin. Certainly that was true with my brother. One of the ways we were different was that he did not identify himself as a Christian, while I very much identify myself as one. (If you hadn't noticed!) There are ways in which that difference draws me closer to you than I ever could be with him.

On the other hand, We in the church are not monolithic. HA! And that lack of homogeneity is a good thing. It's a very good thing. Differences help to keep us grounded in what is central, in our primary identity as followers and members of the living Christ. Christ is the source and the end of our life together. In Christ Jesus we are family. In Christ we are brothers and sisters. But the fact that we *are* different from each other in some ways does, on occasion, cause some stress – doesn't it? It's the nature of true intimacy that we encounter differences with each other. It's the nature of Christian community that, when we do encounter those differences, we turn to the center, we turn to Jesus, to keep us grounded in true intimacy with each other. Not just tolerance. But a place in which we embrace difference as a gift from the living God. Part of that gift is we begin to see how alike we really are despite very real differences.

Last April, Elizabeth and I were in San Diego visiting my niece and nephew and their families. These are my brother's children, and all of us acutely felt Larry's absence even though it had been nine years since his death, almost to the day. It was a wonderful trip. At one point we were gathering for dinner at my niece's house and her mother, Denise, my brother's first wife, joined us. I had not seen Denise for probably twenty years except at my brother's funeral; and funerals being what they are, neither of us were focused on each other. Last April as we gathered for dinner, she had arrived first and was helping her daughter get dinner ready. When I came into the room, Denise's comment was,

"Yep, he even walks like Larry!" Denise's comment reminded me that, despite our differences, Larry and I were in many ways also very much alike – even in ways I am unaware of. In the same way, we in the Body of Christ, we in the family of the church, are in our common humanity are more like each other than we are different – sometimes in ways we aren't aware of. We share a common walk.

Our gospel this morning draws together varied personalities who will have in common their walk with Jesus. That's how others will recognize them as being of the same family. And that's how they will recognize one another. Part of my walk with you over the last 6.5 years has been to mature a bit in my leadership, to accept in some new ways that there is no community of faith that is without stress – not even this wonderful community of St. Mark's on the Campus that I love so dearly.

Sometimes I watch as people get irritated with each other when someone won't do what they want them to do the way we want them to do it. If I'm honest, I sometimes get irritated, too. And if you're honest, some of you get irritated with me at times, too. And on occasion we even express that irritation with less than perfect love. Sometimes we are *so* less than perfect that we actually hurt each other, and we don't seem to care about our behavior. Sometimes parts of the family even leave us without peace ever being achieved, and we mourn together. Then the family works toward healing, and by the power of God's grace we learn how to keep walking with Jesus, even if, as in most families, there are a those who would hang on to their anger until their dying breath. We keep loving one another as best we can, discerning whose steps in the walk we want to imitate, and knowing that we all fall short of walking perfectly in the steps of Jesus.

As I look at St. Mark's on the Campus at the beginning of 2012, I am deeply encouraged by where we are on our corporate walk with Christ. I am especially pleased with the way the vestry has helped the parish walk *through* some challenging times - and *beyond* them. Challenges to the family come; how we deal with them reflects who we are. It reflects where our center is. It reflects our corporate walk with Jesus.

There are many things about the culture in which we live that I like a lot. One thing I don't like so much is the expectation that change happen quickly, overnight. We'll no doubt be hearing reflections of that expectation in this election year. But transformation, and in the intimacy of family life, healing - that takes time. Jesus, after all, has been working a very long time on healing the brokenness of creation. The continual, ongoing work of healing – that work itself is far more important than the end. Indeed, the work healing itself *is* the end in itself. Continual healing toward deeper community is a life-long work, it's part of our walk together as family. St. Mark's on the Campus is in a particular stage in that walk. We are currently focused on ministry in a very positive way, with a variety of initiatives responding to the call of Jesus to follow Him.

One initiative has to do with making the lower level of the building accessible to every person. It's part of the way that we widen our embrace to include even more differences within the family. The elevator project, about which you'll hear more at the annual meeting, is a sign of service both to one another and to those to whom we reach out through our building. It will also open up possibilities for other kinds of ministries we have not previously had. The solar panels and the replaced windows in the lounge, kitchen and offices are yet another form of service, this time to the creation that supports us as much as to our budget. Our renewed website reflects a commitment to staying accessible in another way, to a different segment of our population we are called by God to serve. These are just a few of the newer ways in which we are deliberately focusing our life on ministry, on the walk we share as disciples of Jesus responding to the call to serve in his name, on continuing to "reconcile the world to Christ," including ourselves and each other. To be family together. To love the world Jesus loves, to love one another, and above all, to love Him as He loves us. ***Amen.***