

WARDENS' REPORT: Carol Fitton and Sandy Wyman

We would like to repeat the opening few lines of last year's Wardens' report: "Once again, this past year we witnessed the continued rebirth and growth of our church under the spiritual leadership and guidance of Father Michael Ralph and his family," adding that with the addition of our new Minister of Music, Kurt Daisley, we seem to be well on our way to offering wonderful worship opportunities for one and for all! Clearly, under Kurt's guidance and spectacular voice, and with the addition of some new voices, our choir sounds the best it has in recent memory!

Aimee Ralph has instituted a new Sunday School curriculum that has been well received by those attending. We can always use more students! She has also initiated a meditation session on Saturdays for those so inclined. With both Patrick and Katie participating in the Sunday worship as acolytes, we truly have a family affair leading us!

Once again, our many outreach projects have been enthusiastically prepared and attended. If you are looking to get involved in outreach, there are many ways to participate. If you are uncertain where to fit in, please talk to Father Michael or anyone on the Vestry.

Unfortunately, we experienced the passing of some long-term parishioners this past year, but we as the Wardens representing your Vestry wanted to single out the shock we all have felt in the loss of Doug Graham. He was an example of the kind of individual we all wish we could be. He was instrumental in many behind the scenes projects as well as the obvious ones such as envisioning and overseeing the building of the Parish Hall allowing for the expanded classrooms and expansion of Bright Beginnings. He was for countless years a longtime Vestry member and in charge of buildings and grounds. The beauty of our church can be attributed in great part to his many contributions. Additionally, there were precious few events that he and Fran weren't seen attending or spearheading. He is sorely missed by all!

In other important news, our long time Treasurer, Nancy Connett, is retiring and Tom Simson is assuming this important position. We are very thankful for Nancy's dedication and hard work on behalf of the Parish and we welcome Tom to his new role.

On the financial front, the Vestry continues to look for ways to trim our expenses and to build our revenues. We are happy to report that our budget deficit should be smaller in 2018 than last year, but the cost of running the Parish continues to substantially outpace our income. We are confident that collectively we can continue to make progress to close the gap and we thank all of you for everything you do!

Please visit our website at www.stmarkswhb.org. Remember St. Mark's Church is your home away from home!

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy and Carol