

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Report – January 24, 2021

What a tumultuous year 2020 was, and, it seems that 2021 is building up to be similar. However, I believe that it will get better. Epiphany always teaches us that the light of Christ will always shine in the darkness. Fortunately, St. Mark's Church has been and continues to be a part of the enlightening process for people. We continue to be a steady ship that leads us through tumultuous waters, as we share in word and action a message of hope and love and joy, as we have been doing for 153 years. Thank you to everyone who shares the good news of Jesus Christ with Cheyenne and the world.

The message is the same!! God is with us and loves us unconditionally. We are called to love God and love each other as we would ourselves, by following Jesus as our Lord and Savior...through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We have done extraordinary work this past year in the name of the Lord. In addition to continuing worship online and in person, we have accomplished multiple projects for those in great need, we secured an unprecedented \$105,888 in grants that helped Family Promise, Unaccompanied Student Initiative, Grace for 2 Brothers, St. Joseph's Food Pantry, SafeHouse, the list goes on and on. That is in addition to almost \$20,000 of additional gifts given to St. Mark's, beyond the extraordinary regular giving of people, to help with our mission. Volunteers and staff put in many, many hours of work in the tricky pandemic environment: Our reentry team, ushers, sanitizers, our Climb Wyoming and COMEA projects continued, and many others. We learned about what I call Zoom discipleship. Our women's groups and Bible studies and boards have used the tool.

Thank you to outgoing Vestry and Centennial Foundation members:

Corey Rutledge **
Norm Snead **
Swede Nelson
Beth Lance **
Sue Garrett **
Olivia Smith **
Ted Dunn

Kelly Rankin – six years
Chris Barlow – six years

Thank you to our extraordinary staff: Choir and Music Director **Betsy Taggart**, our newly hired organist and pianist, **Dana Anderson**, and Betsy's assistant, **Thane Yennie**. Our Youth Director, **Candy Snead**, our newly hired Audio Visual Tech., **Alek Keenan**, sexton/Junior Warden, **Norm Snead**, our nursery staff, newly hired **Gloria Davis**, and our veteran **Danielle Glowacki**, and, of course, our Secretary, **Wanda Hughes**.

Thank you to all of our wonderful musicians throughout the year: **Dawn West**, **Suzy Wagner**, **Carol Velez**, and others. Thanks to **Ann Segrave**, our bookkeeper, and our treasurers, **Jimmie Richmond** for half the year and **Ryan Lance** the second half of the year. Of course, thanks to **Kathy Keck**, who helps us every week to process our pledges.

Thank you especially to our assistant clergy, **Dave McElwain**. You have been a life saver for me, and a continuing blessing to our church. Congratulations on your recent retirement from the VA! Welcome to **the Rev. Arlen Rounds**, who recently retired here in Cheyenne and has made St. Mark's his home. Welcome to **Sandra Voelker**, who recently made her way to Cheyenne, who comes to us from Canada.

To all of those involved in this mission, we are blessed by your continuing work. The message of hope, love, and joy continues because of your commitment through St. Mark's Church.

Peace out!
The Rev. Rick Veit