

# **THE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church  
Westhampton Beach, New York**

**May 18, 2025**



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AGENDA**  
**May 18, 2025**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Welcome and Opening Prayer – Fr. Chris**
- 3. Motion - Appointment of Clerk of Meeting**
- 4. Approve Minutes of May 5, 2024 Annual Meeting**
- 5. Election of Vestry Members**
- 6. Election of a Delegate and an Alternate to Diocesan Convention**
- 7. Treasurer's Report**
- 8. Wardens' Comments**
- 9. Rector's Comments**
- 10. Pilgrimage Report—Marjorie Kulesa**
- 11. Q. and A.**
- 12. Closing Prayer**
- 13. Motion to Adjourn**

## **Saint Mark's Annual Parish Meeting Minutes, May 5, 2024**

Father Chris called the meeting to order at 11:29 a.m. 45 members were in attendance.

Father Chris opened the meeting with a prayer. Father Chris kicked off the meeting by thanking all the various constituencies that keep the Parish not only running, but active, including the church staff, the Director and staff of Bright Beginnings, the Treasurer, the Wardens and Vestry members, the Sunday School Director and teachers, Altar Guild members, LEMs, Lectors, Coffee Hour hosts, mission outreach coordinators, and all those who work behind the scenes. He mentioned that there will be more news soon about a fundraising campaign, which will be focused on 3 major projects requiring attention: 1) the stained glass window behind the altar which is buckling, 2) the 4 air conditioning units in the Parish Hall and below it in Bright Beginnings, and 3) completing the reconstruction and installation of our "new" pipe organ. Father Chris also announced on September 29th we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of St. Mark's establishment as a mission in Westhampton Beach and the Bishop plans to join us.

John Kern made a motion, seconded by Diane Stewart, to appoint Carol Fitton as Clerk of the Annual Meeting.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Barbara Pettus, seconded by Norma-Jeanne Okula, to accept the minutes from the May 7, 2023 meeting.

**Nominations:** Father Chris presented the following slate:

- Tom Horan for Warden (2-year term)
- Diane Feil for Vestry (2nd 3-year term)
- Ashley McLean for Vestry (2nd 3-year term)
- Sandy Wyman for Vestry (1st 3-year term).

A motion was made by Tim Feil, seconded by Marj Kulesa, to unanimously elect the slate of candidates, which was then passed.

Father Chris extended his thanks to the returning Vestry members for their continued service on behalf of the Parish.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Tom Simson

Tom highlighted successes and challenges in 2023:

#### **Successes:**

- Donations increased approximately 25% over 2022
- The Beinecke Building tenant is now contributing income to the church
- Leadership changes at Bright Beginnings are bringing new energy and positive results for 2023-24.

#### **Challenges:**

- Construction associated with upgrades to the Beinecke Building and the rear parking lot necessitated the cancellation of Bright Beginnings Summer Camp, which removed a regular source of income for the school.
- Bright Beginnings required a cash infusion for \$65K (structured as a loan) due to a shortfall in income.
- For the time being, SMC has assumed the payment of expenses that were previously split with Bright Beginnings, specifically insurance and utilities.

**Saint Mark's:**

Tom mentioned that the church continues to operate at a loss as expenses outpace income with a net loss of \$320K in 2023 vs. a net loss of \$294K in 2022, which meant the endowment supplied a larger portion of funding. The negative trend obscures what are signs of progress in the core operation of the church, primarily increased donations and significant increases in other operating income. His modeling suggests another 3-4 years of decreasing reliance on the endowment as the rent from the Beinecke Building builds up to the full rental rate along with increases in some other areas.

**Bright Beginnings:**

Tom reported 2023 net income for the school reverted to a loss of (\$30,556) with total expenses of \$817,914, however, he noted that a comparison to 2022 net income is not relevant due to the receipt of grant money in 2022 that skewed those results. The school operated at a loss for 2023 due to higher expenses in the beginning of 2023 and the impact of no summer camp. This necessitated a loan from SMC for \$65K and the assumption of previously shared expenses by SMC. He added, however, for the first 3 months of 2024, the school is running a profit of approximately \$36K, well on their way to repaying the 2023 loan, indicating a positive trend after a difficult few years as the lingering effects of COVID abate and normal operations resume. We are hoping and expecting the school to be a positive contributor in 2024 and beyond.

**Investment Portfolio:** The balance at 4/15/24 was \$925,417 compared to \$1,244,957 at 3/30/23.

**Wardens' Comments:** Diane Stewart thanked all in attendance and highlighted some of the items in the Wardens' Report. She said she is privileged to serve and is delighted by all of the things happening at the church. She specifically mentioned the Saturday Farmer's Market and how it is increasing community awareness about SMC. She remarked that the future is bright! Tom Horan said he is honored to be asked to serve as Warden and he looks forward to working with Father Chris and Diane.

**Rector's Comments:** Father Chris referred to his opening remarks and commended us to read his report in detail, which documents the progress we are making together as a Parish, as well as all of the reports in the Annual Meeting handout.

**Q and A:** Father Chris opened up the floor to questions and comments.

- John Kern thanked all of the LEMs and Lectors.
- Nancy Connett asked about the impact on SMC of the subsidy of Bright Beginnings last year. Tom Simson replied that based on the financials thus far in 2024, he believes Bright Beginnings has "turned the corner" and they are on track to repay SMC for the loan (subsidy) by year end. Summer camp will be held this summer and it has traditionally been a profitable undertaking, so it will also boost their financial performance.
- Jennifer Marwood asked if the cessation of the payment of some expenses by Bright Beginnings has any impact on our Diocesan Assessment. Tom said no, no impact because the assessment is only based on income items.
- Marj Kulesa spoke about the 100th anniversary celebration:
  - She asked us to think about our talents as to what and how each of us can contribute.
  - She has explored outside venues for the celebration and the conclusion is that they are too expensive.
  - She would welcome any caterer suggestions. The historical information and photos need to be organized.

**Adjournment:** Father Chris asked Stephen Hunt to lead us in the Doxology to conclude the meeting. John Kern, seconded by Tim Feil, made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting concluded at 12:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Carol Fitton, Clerk of the Annual Meeting 2024*

**SAINT MARK'S CHURCH ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025 AT 11:15AM**

At the Annual Meeting on May 18, 2025 at 11:15 a.m., the Parish will elect five Vestry Members. The candidates are as follows:

**For Vestry**

Tom Hadlock - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term (three years)

Madeline Glover - 2<sup>nd</sup> Term (three years)

Norma-Jeanne Okula – 1<sup>st</sup> Term (three years)

John Kern – 1<sup>st</sup> Term (two years)

Rich Caccavano – 1<sup>st</sup> Term (one year)

Nominations from the floor are allowed subject to eligibility. The Vestry Members will be elected by persons qualified to vote at such election. All persons, eighteen years of age or older, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at our worship and contributors to Parish support (contributors of record) for at least twelve months prior to the election and are known to the Rector and the Treasurer, shall be qualified voters at the election to be held on May 18, 2024. No mail-in or proxy ballots will be accepted. Polls will remain open for one hour unless otherwise closed by a motion proposed and passed unanimously.

# CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

*Election will take place at the Parish Annual Meeting on May 18, 2024*

## JOHN KERN



John is a sole practitioner attorney with offices in Remsenburg and in Southampton NY.

John moved with his family to the Remsenburg-Speonk/Westhampton Beach area in 2002. He has been a member of Saint Mark's Church since then. John is a cradle Episcopalian; baptized at The Memorial Church of The Good Sheperd, Philadelphia PA (Go Birds) and was confirmed and served as an Acolyte at Christ Church Christiana Hundred in Greenville, DE (still Go Birds). Here at Saint Mark's, he has served one term as Warden, many terms on the Vestry, and continues (only if needed) in his role as Counsel (Attorney) to the Church. He has also served on the Remsenburg-Speonk Elementary School Board as a Trustee and as President.

If you would honor me with your vote, I would proudly accept the responsibility to serve you.

## MADELINE GLOVER

My name is Madeline Glover, daughter of Doug & Fran Graham. I have been a member of St. Mark's Church for over 40 years. I was married here in this church. My husband, Bill and I were married on 12-19-2020.

In my youth, growing up at St Mark's, I went to Sunday School every week. I was part of the children's choir under Mrs. Bellringer and then became an Acolyte. I worked my way up from torchbearer to 2<sup>nd</sup> crucifer and all the way up to 1st crucifer. I also helped with the annual Summer Fair, selling toys and games. For three consecutive years in the past, I also taught the summer Sunday School Program.



I received 1st Communion and was Confirmed at St Mark's. I also have been a Lay Eucharistic Minister since I was a teenager. It has been a blessing to be able to serve on the altar for our services. I was also part of the youth group once I was old enough to join. My husband and I both work for Riverhead Building Supply. I am currently in the Accounts Receivable/Credit Department.

These past three years I have been serving on the Vestry for my first term and want to serve on the Vestry for a second term. During the first part of my term, I co-ran the Sunday school until my mother passed. I have also earned my Master's Degree in Business Administration during 2024. Currently, I am also the President of the Eastport Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.



## CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

*Election will take place at the Parish Annual Meeting on May 18, 2024*

### **NORMA-JEANNE OKULA**



As a lifetime active Episcopalian I have experience vestry; choir; and lector.

I worked as an assistant in special education and as an Art Teacher for grades 5 and 6. I am retired now and working part time as a substitute teacher.

While raising a family, I was involved with running the family business and working part time as a teaching assistant. I worked as the district clerk in our school district, and took classes in art and special education. I earned my BA in Art Education, with a minor in Geology, and a MA in general studies.

### **RICH CACCAVANO**

My name is Rich Caccavano, I live in East Moriches with my wife Debbie and daughter Destiny. I have a degree in Applied Science and have been a Telecommunication Technician Associate at Verizon for 38 years. I also have been a parishioner at Saint Mark's since 2016.

I really enjoy the mass service, fellowship, and many friendships I have made over the years. As an usher, I take pride in giving back in any way possible. It is important to me to see Saint Mark's continue to grow and flourish. As a candidate for the Vestry, I will do my best to be as helpful as possible if elected. Thank you for considering me.



### **TOM HADLOCK**



Saint Mark's Church means a lot to me. I continue to feel it is a most comfortable place to worship. To feel the Spirit and interact live with those parishioners who have the same beliefs. And one way to deepen that spirit is to be active and contribute to the well being of Saint Mark's. Being on the Vestry gives me that opportunity to do even more. My professional specialty is Communications and I have every intention of actively shining a light on the church in the best possible manner. It is an honor to serve Saint Mark's.

## **RECTOR'S REPORT**

Greetings as we begin our fifth year together in ministry. As I write this note, and look back at the past year, I realize that a lot has been accomplished. As Rector, I see my role as a cheerleader offering encouragement and hopefully direction as we strive to answer Jesus' call to "Be the Church" in this special place during uncertain times. Smart leaders surround themselves with bright, enthusiastic people who feel empowered to do the work that needs to be done. I am blessed to work with colleagues on staff here who are not afraid to do the challenging tasks necessary with grace and creativity. Kate, Chris, Stephen, Rosanna, and I are like family to each other. With God's help, our staff, plus the leadership of our Wardens, Vestry, and numerous volunteers keeps this ship not only upright, but moving in a positive direction.

Not too long after I graduated seminary, I realized that there was so much that I still did not know, but life has a funny way giving one "experience" quickly. Like an old house, a church campus is always in need of repairs and the little TLC and sometimes I feel more like a maintenance engineer than a priest, but in nearly thirty years as an ordained person, I have learned so much.

During the past year we've continued to address lingering maintenance issues such as the needed upgrades to our furnace, replaced rotting doors, and installed a beautiful brick sidewalk behind the Beinecke Building. The church community garden has been expanded thanks to Larry Andria. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment this past year has been the building of a magnificent new pipe organ. I could never adequately express my gratitude to Stephen Hunt and our volunteers, both from within our parish, and from our local community, who have helped us make this a reality.

We continue to open our doors in what I theologically call "the hospitality of space." We may not have a lot of money to support outside groups in their outreach efforts, but by sharing space, we in essence are partnering with them to do their good work. This includes the Winter Farmers Market, Al Anon, Hospice, the Garden Club, the Westhampton Women's Club, Seeds for Hope, the Suffolk County Board of Elections Early Voting, the Westhampton Project, the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce, CPR trainings, and other events sponsored by our Diocese. Soon we will also be hosting weekly yoga classes. Out in the community we help sponsor the summer gazebo concert series.

So much of this outreach on our part is made possible because of our improving financial situation. We are now receiving also \$22,000 per month from renting the Beinecke Building to the New York Cancer and Blood Specialists. Our own Saint Mark's Bright Beginnings Preschool is making a profit thanks to our Director Rosanna Davis and her amazing staff. Our parish hall rentals are steadily increasing, giving us some additional revenue.



A tag line first adopted by our own Episcopal Washington National Cathedral states emphatically that it is, “A House of prayer for all people.” I try to embody this sentiment out as much as humanly possible by trying to be as visible as possible. My work on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce helps me to meet so many new people, and perhaps in my own quiet way, to minister to others outside our own four walls. Also, my appointment as Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Atonement in Quogue, as well as, my involvement with the Hamptons Interfaith Association and with the Peconic Deanery of Episcopal Clergy allows me to facilitate and build new relationships with other ministry partners.

The emphasis these days in ministry circles pushes us to grow deeper, not necessarily bigger. Currently, it’s hard to attract new people to our community of faith when organized religion is falling out of favor. Many aspects of Christianity in recent years have been perceived to be more off-putting instead of being life giving. We are living in complex times where most of us are overscheduled and over committed. As a dad, a husband, a son, and a priest, I feel this pinch too.

We are the stewards of a tradition handed to us by the saints who have come before us. I love what the Episcopal Church has to offer the world and I feel that it is my duty to preach the Good News, instruct people in the faith, and help preserve a rich tradition that will hopefully feed future generations. Jesus has called us all to live together in a special community of faith, love, and service. My secret wish is that we all make this more of a priority in our busy lives. To be more intentional in practicing our faith. For us not be afraid to demonstrate our living faith, thus providing a strong witness to the world by “Being the Church.” To grow deeper and to be able to support one another as we strive to live as Christians in 2025.

In closing, I am blessed to be your priest and companion on the journey. I am here for you, your friends, and family. I am also grateful for your love and support and for the love and support of my wife Carol. We need each other more than ever as we try to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in a quickly changing world.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

## **Saint Mark's Treasurer's Report – Tom Simson**

Your financial support is necessary to help meet our Parish financial needs, to continue our own spiritual journey as well as fund our outreach missions.

2024 had its share of successes and challenges.

### Successes:

- Donations decreased approximately 25% over 2023 – but mainly due to a single large donation.
- The Beineke Building has NY Blood as a rent paying tenant which is contributing a substantial amount of income to the church.
- Bright Beginnings continues to both serve the community and provide a much-needed source of revenue to the Church. They have repaid all the money loaned by the Church during the Covid recovery period and started paying dividends back to the church.

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### Challenges:

- Construction associated with the Installation of the Pipe organ, mostly in the form of a much longer construction period. The main cause of the delays is just a shortage of manpower. The expense associated with the construction have been higher than anticipated, but
- The Church continues to absorb some of the Bright Beginnings expenses. However Bright Beginnings has resumed their portion of the electric bill, as well as the general insurance expense.

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Normal Church Operations continued to evolve during the year as Fr Jubinski and staff worked diligently to expand the use of the facility, both as outreach to the community, a way of exposing the community to our facility and as a way of generating important income.

Other significant financial events were the complete replacement of the Church's A/C system which was in serious disrepair. This capital expense was \$164K and was completed over the summer last year. The Church, under Fr. Chris' leadership, has made significant progress in repairing the infrastructure of the Saint Mark's facility. These expenditures were long overdue. We feel the worst of the facility repairs are behind us now with a facility in much better repair. The only large repair looming on the horizon is the Stair Glass window in front of the church. For now, the window appears stable but eventually will have to be dealt with.

The Church continues to operate at a loss each year as expenses outpaced income. Overall, the Church Core\* Net Loss was \$256 K compared to a net loss of \$317K for 2023, an improvement of 19.3%. Our modeling had suggested another 3 to 4 years of slowly decreasing reliance on the endowment with a close to balanced budget in year 2029. However, with the improving performance of Bright Beginnings we are optimistic that a balanced budget may come a bit sooner.

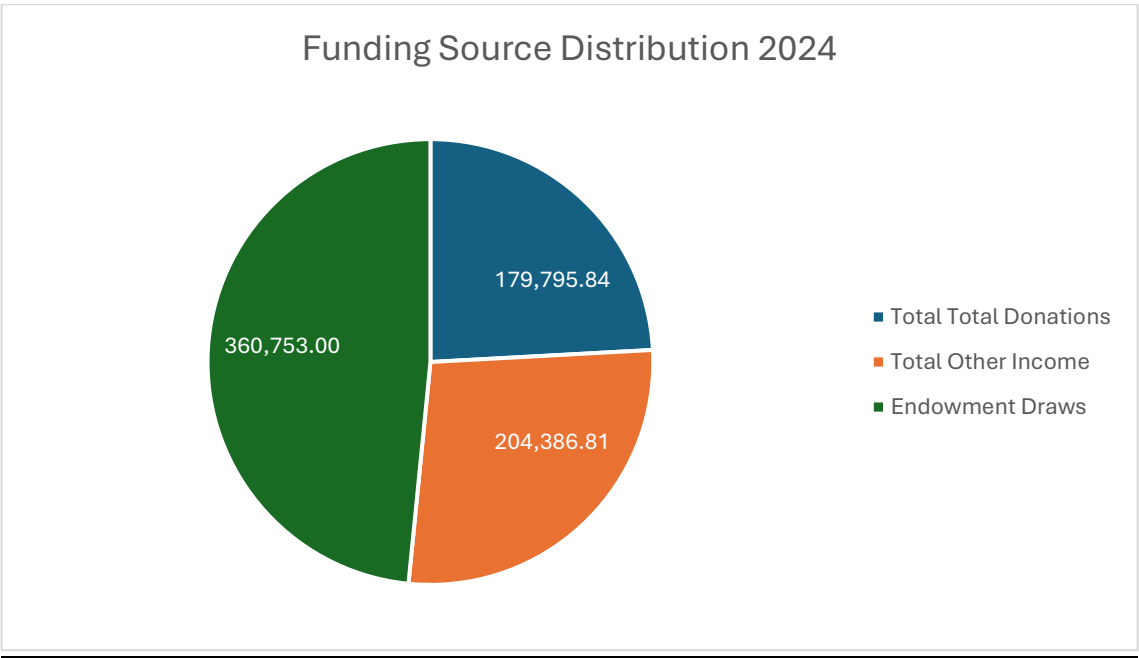
The reversal of the negative trend and projected improvement follows the path we anticipated. Having said that, it’s rewarding to see the effects of the planning and hard work of the senior church leaders starting to pay off.

We expect the trend to continue to be positive as the donation income continues to grow together with stronger income from rent and use of the facility.

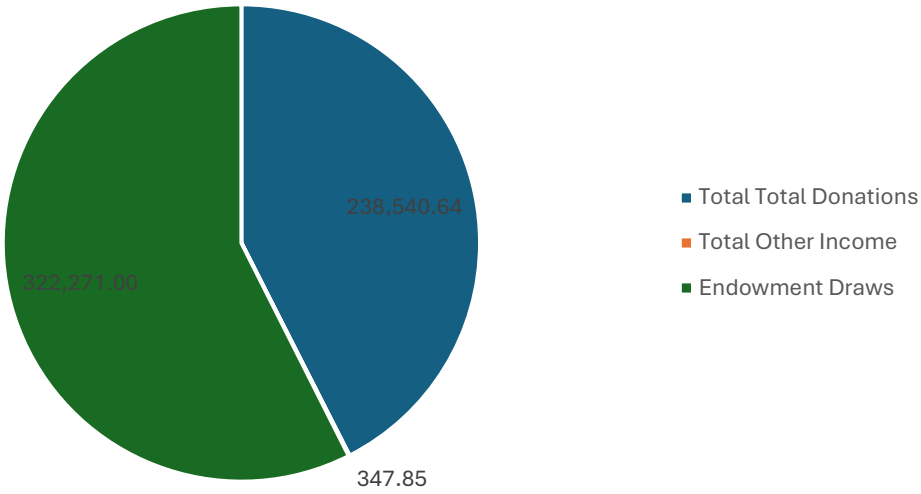
The following pie charts show the change in distribution of income from 2022 to 2023 and the increased reliance on the endowment for funding. Despite other revenue increasing last year, the endowment draw supplied a larger portion of the church funding.

We are anticipating this reliance on the endowment as a funding source to shrink as the Beineke Building is now occupied and supplying rental income back to the church since October of 2023. Starting 2025, the full benefit of the NY Blood Rental will be realized with the parking lot paid off and the full \$21K rental realized.

As with normal operations, the expenses of the church increase with inflation. Salaries make up a large portion of Saint Mark’s Expenses and increased 9.53% over the previous 2023.



Funding Source Distribution 2023



## Bright Beginnings

Bright Beginnings continues to improve their financial performance in leaps and bounds. The School has successfully repaid the \$60K loan they used to get through the post covid cleanup and has begun to supplement the church income with dividends.

Total Expense 2023	\$827,755
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Total Expense 2024	\$856,391
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Change%:	+3.46%
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Net Income from 2023 to 2024 reversed to a loss for the year

Total Net Income 2023	\$(41,910)
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Total Net Income 2024	\$170,088
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Change%	506%
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# St Mark's Annual Treasurer's Report for 2024

May 18, 2025



# St Marks Financial Presentation Agenda

- 2024 St Marks Church Results
- 2025 St Marks As of April
- 2024 Bright Beginnings Results
- 2025 Bright Beginnings as of April





# St Mark's 2024 Results

- Encouraging, but Mixed Progress
  - Donations Decreased by 25%
    - However: Several Large One-Time Donations Inflated 2023
  - Facility Income is Surging with NY Blood Rent
  - Parish Hall and Church Facility Income is Improving
  - Bright Beginnings is a major contributor to the Church
- Net Loss of Approximately (\$256K) Compared to (318K) in 2023
  - Beineke Building Real Estate Agent Commission skewed Expense Higher
  - General Insurance Expense Continues to Climb 20% per annum

# Income Comparison 2024 vs 2023

REVENUE	2024	2023	Change Y/Y	% change
Total Total Donations	179,795.84	238,540.64	(58,744.80)	-24.63%
Total Facility Income	158,708.80	347.85	158,360.95	45525.64%
Total Other Income*	45,678.01	-	45,678.01	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>384,182.65</b>	<b>238,888.49</b>	<b>145,294.16</b>	<b>60.82%</b>

**\* \$45,678.01 Represents a Delayed Covid  
Employee Retention Credit from the IRS**

# Expense and Net Income Comparison 2024 vs 2023

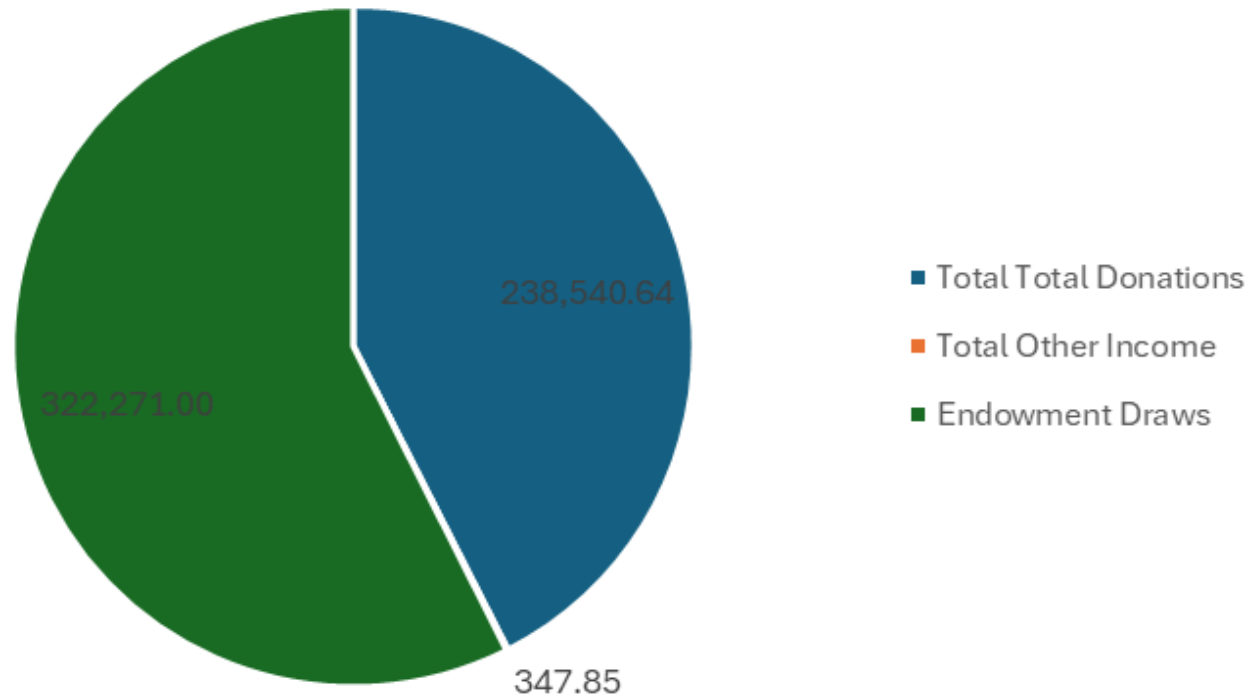
EXPENSES	2024	2023	Change Y/Y	% change
Total Salaries	195,590.96	185,455.47	10,135.49	5.47%
Total Benefits	143,184.99	119,914.66	23,270.33	19.41%
Total Other Operating	80,619.18	68,741.49	11,877.69	17.28%
Total Church Music	13,650.87	19,681.84	(6,030.97)	-30.64%
Total Education	-	94.80	(94.80)	-100.00%
Total Insurance	90,842.33	74,697.35	16,144.98	21.61%
Total Beineke Bld	66,612.98	37,295.52	29,317.46	78.61%
Total Altar Exp	1,183.77	4,644.23	(3,460.46)	-74.51%
Total Outreach	48,904.47	46,089.54	2,814.93	6.11%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>640,589.55</b>	<b>556,614.90</b>	<b>83,974.65</b>	<b>15.09%</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(256,406.90)</b>	<b>(317,726.41)</b>	<b>61,319.51</b>	<b>19.30%</b>

# Expense and Net Income Comparison 2024 vs 2023

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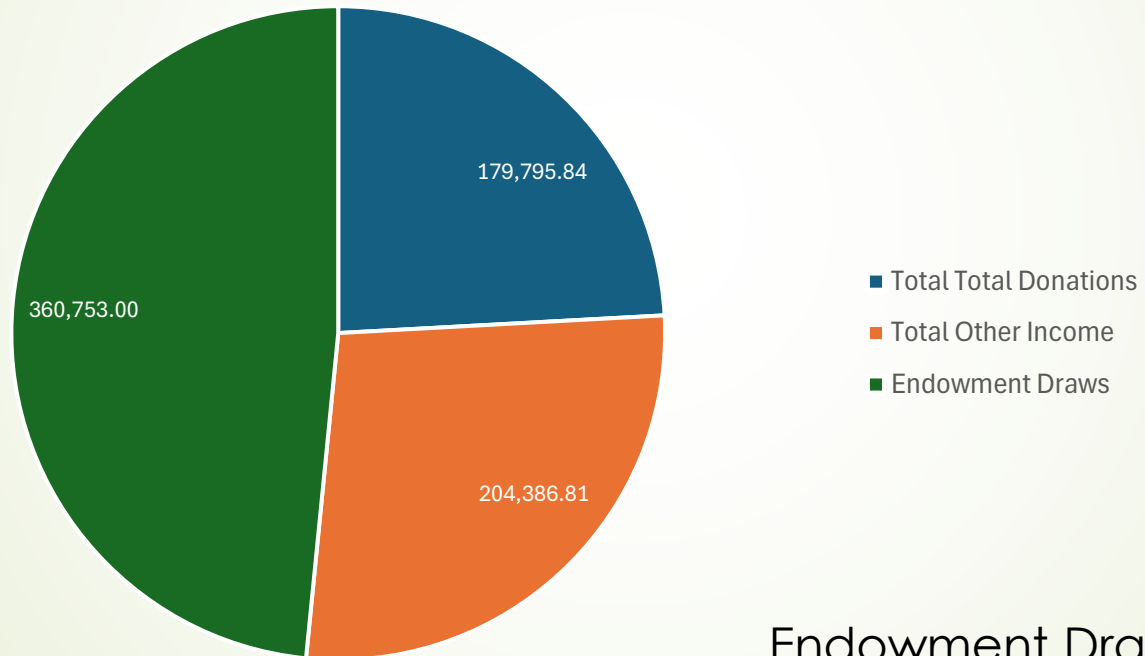


# Funding Sources - 2023





# Funding Sources - 2024



Endowment Draws Include funds needed for capital improvements

# St Marks 2025 Financial – YTD April

REVENUE	2025	2024	Change Y/Y	% change
Total Total Donations	99,110.33	74,533.14	24,577.19	32.97%
Total Facility Income	73,137.50	34,702.50	38,435.00	110.76%
Total Other Income*	20,250.00	-	20,250.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>192,497.83</b>	<b>109,235.64</b>	<b>83,262.19</b>	<b>76.22%</b>
EXPENSES	2025	2024	Change Y/Y	% change
Total Salaries	71,383.36	67,042.14	4,341.22	6.48%
Total Benefits	38,475.32	58,720.33	(20,245.01)	-34.48%
Total Other Operating	16,200.78	24,112.21	(7,911.43)	-32.81%
Total Church Music	6,425.35	6,794.03	(368.68)	-5.43%
Total Education	-	-	-	
Total Insurance	17,652.50	29,695.00	(12,042.50)	-40.55%
Total Beineke Bld	-	33,271.44	(33,271.44)	-100.00%
Total Altar Exp	172.69	1,186.34	(1,013.65)	-85.44%
Total Outreach	24,057.90	6,944.00	17,113.90	246.46%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>174,367.90</b>	<b>227,765.49</b>	<b>(53,397.59)</b>	<b>-23.44%</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>18,129.93</b>	<b>(118,529.85)</b>	<b>136,659.78</b>	<b>115.30%</b>

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# Bright Beginning Mission

- Tuition Pricing is Analyzed Annually
  - Competitive Comparisons
  - Compares Favorably to Pre- Schools (180 Day)
  - Cannot Be Compared to Day Care (365 Day)
- Tuition Has had Modest Price Increases Every Year
  - Increases in Retirement Expense Makes This Necessary
  - Retirement Plans Is an Effective Teacher Retention Item
- High Teacher Retention = Quality Product



# Bright Beginning Results as of Dec 2024

- Total Income \$1.026K, an increase of 30.62% from previous year
- Total Expense \$856K, an increase of 3.46% from previous year
- Dec 2024 Net Income of 170 K
  - Regained Summer Camp Income
  - Revised Tuition Pricing Schedule
- Bright Beginnings completely repaid the Church Loan
- Bright Beginnings has started to re-assume expenses

# Bright Beginnings 2024 vs 2023

REVENUES	2024	2023	Change Y/Y	% Change
Earned Tuition	875,079.83	737,601.91	137,477.92	18.64%
Registration	10,340.00	2,890.00	7,450.00	257.79%
Summer Tuition	48,882.98	-	48,882.98	
Summer Registration	4,930.00	(10,728.00)	15,658.00	145.95%
Other Income	87,247.18	56,081.33	31,165.85	55.57%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,026,479.99</b>	<b>785,845.24</b>	<b>240,634.75</b>	<b>30.62%</b>
EXPENSES	2024	2023	Change Y/Y	% Change
Salaries	701,949.44	703,866.62	(1,917.18)	-0.27%
Benefits	72,510.99	56,717.97	15,793.02	27.84%
Other Education	45,921.26	22,036.50	23,884.76	108.39%
Other Operating	33,637.58	28,900.71	4,736.87	16.39%
Utility	2,371.77	16,233.13	(13,861.36)	-85.39%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>856,391.04</b>	<b>827,754.93</b>	<b>28,636.11</b>	<b>3.46%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>170,088.95</b>	<b>(41,909.69)</b>	<b>211,998.64</b>	<b>505.85%</b>



# Bright Beginnings 2025 as of April

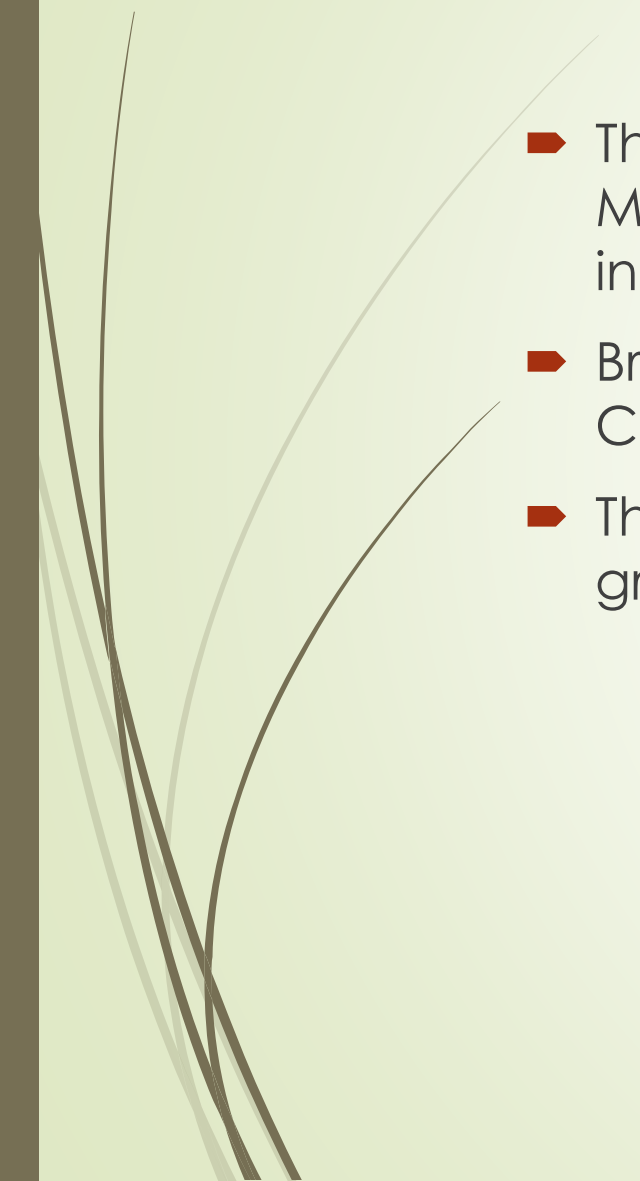
REVENUES	2025	2024	Change Y/Y	% Change
Earned Tuition	395,477.24	295,084.65	100,392.59	34.02%
Registration	11,437.00	9,915.00	1,522.00	15.35%
Summer Tuition	-	-	-	
Summer Registration	7,975.00	4,930.00	3,045.00	61.76%
Other Income	10,875.97	12,066.00	(1,190.03)	-9.86%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>425,765.21</b>	<b>321,995.65</b>	<b>103,769.56</b>	<b>32.23%</b>
EXPENSES	2025	2024	Change Y/Y	% Change
Salaries	261,317.28	237,950.04	23,367.24	9.82%
Benefits	26,672.95	24,336.35	2,336.60	9.60%
Other Education	20,705.41	10,829.47	9,875.94	91.20%
Other Operating	6,289.96	2,045.44	4,244.52	207.51%
Utility	4,376.55	1,159.73	3,216.82	277.38%
Dividend to St Marks	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>339,362.15</b>	<b>276,321.03</b>	<b>63,041.12</b>	<b>22.81%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>86,403.06</b>	<b>45,674.62</b>	<b>40,728.44</b>	<b>89.17%</b>

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# St Mark's Other Important Points

- ▶ The Beineke Building Rent with NY Blood doubled to \$21,456 in March 2025 making “Other Income “ category the most important income source.
  - ▶ Bright Beginnings also continues to increase their contribution to the Church – both in Outreach and Income to the church
  - ▶ The Pipe Organ project is due to be completed in 2025 and will greatly enhance the Church worship experience.
- 

## **WARDEN'S REPORT**

As we start our Fifth year of ministry with Father Chris, our Parish Family has been blessed to witness many Spiritual and Physical Growth this year. Sundays and Weekday Worship gives us a time to rejuvenate and gather as a family.

There have been days when every nook of the building has been in use. Parish members and members of our community have told us that Saint Mark's is a place where loving acceptance, welcoming invitation, and safety is felt. Our beautiful Church has not only become a home to Parish Members but an active member of the Community.

This year was full of wonderful moments to witness our physical growth as guests and new members joined us for Services and Fellowship. Listed below are only a few. Hospitality has been abundant with special Coffee Hours, Thanksgiving Feast and Pancake Breakfast.

Our Church Garden continues to develop. It is beautiful and there are spots available. Thanks to Larry Andrea we have a picnic area attached and places to just sit and take in the beauty. Thank you to Jackie Moss and Magie Decaro for greeting and planning wonderful Sunday School Lessons for our children.

The expanding number of organizations and Family celebrations that use our facilities continues to open our doors to the community. There are many days where every room is in multiple use. In March, during an emergency evacuation at Westhampton High School we were able to provide shelter for over 600 students and staff.

New York Cancer and Blood continues to offer care to women fighting cancer. It is a blessing to have the ability to offer our community a place to seek health care. Also we have had some caretakers seek our Altar/church for quiet time as their loved one attends Doctor appointments. It warms the heart to have an unexpected outreach that is so rewarding to us.

Currently we are upgrading our air conditioning and heating systems. No chilly days or heat waves at Saint Mark's which will be wonderful!

We are continuing to make progress with our new organ. Thanks to those who have helped Stephen Hunt with this project.

Our Facilities Manager, Chris Adams developed a new storage area in the church undercroft that now houses our Christmas decorations and other items.

Thank you Kate Gabrielsen, Chris Adams, Stephen Hunt and Rosanna Davis for your time, talent, and treasures you bring to Saint Mark's.

We especially thank Father Chris for his leadership during the last four years. His energy and thoughtfulness have allowed us to develop our church family.

Because of Him, St Mark's is perceived as a warm welcoming community of faith.

Yours in Christ, Tom Horan & Diane Stewart  
*Wardens of Saint Mark's Church*

## **STEWARDSHIP– 2024 Annual Report**

On behalf of the Rector and the entire Vestry, we would like to thank everyone who made a pledge to Saint Mark's for 2025 during our fall 2024 stewardship campaign.

As of April 30, 2025, we have pledges of \$113,464 from 39 pledging members. This is a decrease from the past year. 20 of us increased our pledge and we welcomed three new pledgers.

We did not reach the goal of 160,000 set by Father Chris. Some parishioners recognized special needs at Saint Mark's and made restricted gifts for those purposes for which we are also very grateful. Other gifts from parishioners included food for our food pantry, supplies for special events, and many hours from volunteers helping in the office, the organ project, the garden, and wherever else there was a need.

Although the formal stewardship period has ended, it is never too late. Pledging helps our Church Family plan for future expenses and allows us to develop a good working budget. If you feel so inclined, please contact our Treasurer, Tom Simson.

Tom Horan and Diane Stewart, *Co-Chairs*

## **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

In September of 2024, Pamela Sheiffer and Barbara Pettus determined that it was prudent to move the remaining funds in the Saint Mark's investment account into cash to avoid any downside market risk with the balance of the endowment.

At the same time Pamela Sheiffer resigned as Co-chair of the Committee where she had served admirably for many years.

The funds are currently in a Money Market fund with a 7 day yield of 3.99%. There have been no draws from the endowment since October 2024.

As of 4/15/24 there was \$ 925,417 in the account.

As of 5/6/25 there was \$775,801 in the account.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Pettus, *Chair*

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## **USHER REPORT**

One of the first faces our parishioners see as they enter St. Marks is the usher at the back of the church. Besides helping the congregation throughout the service, one of the main jobs of the usher Corp is to greet and make everyone feel welcome at St. Marks.

This year whenever we have a fifth Sunday during the month, we have the children of the parish usher.

Our usher Corp consists of 12 ushers that cover both services on Sunday and the 5pm service on Saturday during the summer months. We are always looking for new ushers and if you are interested in joining us, talk to an usher and they will get you pointed towards one of the head ushers.

Steve DeCaro, *Director of Usher.*



**SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT FOR LEMs, LECTORS,  
AND ACOLYTES 2024**

**ACOLYTES – John Kern**

The acolytes of St. Mark's Church are a dedicated group of young people who serve on our Altar on Sunday Services, holidays and special services as well. They are ages ten to eighteen. Their job includes preparing the Altar for service by lighting the candles, leading the procession and recession and assisting the Celebrant to prepare and clean up the Eucharist.

Unfortunately, we have had very little response to our recruiting Acolyte efforts. For the program to function properly we need to have ideally nine people so that three teams of three can rotate. We have not been able to reach this number but our hopes continue to be high.

**LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS – John Kern**

The Lectors and Lay Eucharist Ministers (LEM's) are a group of adults who assist the Celebrant with the Service. The Lectors are assigned readings for that particular Sunday. The Lay Eucharist Ministers lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People, administer the chalice during the Eucharist, and assist the Priest at the Altar. The LEM's have been filling in for the Acolyte tasks as well due to the temporary absence of our Acolyte Program.

Yours in Christ,  
John Kern

## **2025 Annual Altar Guild Report**

Preparing the Lord's table is an honor to all our dedicated Altar Guild members. Spending quiet time either in the sacristy or in the sanctuary

minding the vessels, linens, hangings, etc. is a privilege that we all take with reverence and great responsibility.

St. Mark's Altar Guild consists of men and women who are faithfully committed to preparing the Altar for the worship of the various services throughout the year. You will find the members attending the Altar weekly as well as during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and at weddings, baptisms and funerals. They are a valuable part of St. Mark's worship.

Our membership numbers are gradually declining. Some of our current members are taking on double duty. If you are interested in participating in the privilege of praising our Lord and preparing our Altar for services, please contact me.

It is with a grateful heart that I thank all of the Altar Guild members for their faithfulness and ongoing commitment.

Blessings, Catharine F. Nobiletti,  
*Altar Guild Chairperson*

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## **Saint Mark's Ladies Luncheon**

The Saint Mark's Ladies Luncheon began back in October 2023. Since that time we have been meeting on the first Saturday of every other month. Each time we meet there has been between 13 and 18 ladies attending.

We begin our meal with a Blessing, given by one of the women attending, and we have been able to rotate giving everyone an opportunity to say the prayer. Carol Jubinski is usually our group photographer and passes the photo along to Fr. Chris for his Newsletter.

This past luncheon, at the beginning of April, we changed venues and went to the Birchwood in Polish Town. After getting responses from those in attendance, most of the women preferred it to our previous venue – the menu was more extensive and the price a bit lower.

We look forward to continuing with this opportunity to get together and catch up with church business and some personal conversation. If for some reason you are not receiving my email, please let me know...[kate.gabrielsen@stmarkswhb.org](mailto:kate.gabrielsen@stmarkswhb.org).

Kate Gabrielsen, *Coordinator*

## **Sunday School End-of-Year Wrap-Up**

As we wrap up our Sunday School season and look forward to beginning again in September, we can take a moment to reflect on this past year.

Many of our children are completing their fourth year in the program — what a blessing it has been to watch them grow in faith, friendship, and spirit!

We want to extend a very special thank you to our volunteers: Jackie Moss, Paige Feil, Victoria Garcia, Suellen Tunney, and Diane Feil. We could not have a program without them.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future of our Sunday School program. We hope to welcome even more children and families next year and are working towards creating more opportunities for our kids to participate in Sunday Services. We would also like to plan some family fun events to bring our church family together outside of church hours.

Thank you to all for supporting the program, we are hoping to see growth next year.

Margie DeCaro, *Director*

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## **MEN'S BREAKFAST REPORT**

I am happy to report St Mark's offers and an active Men's Breakfast Group.

It is comprised of male members of the church. No age restriction. The MBG's goal is for engagement dedicated to St Mark's... that is united in attitude and called together for further bonding and support of related church projects.

We meet for a good friendship breakfast every other month on the first Saturday – at 9 am. Our venues rotate and include locally Eckart's luncheonette, parishioners' homes especially during warmer months, and lately we tried out with much success Moriches Diner in nearby Moriches.

Our related church projects have included assembling doll houses for Bright Beginnings, preparing/serving the Shrove Tuesday evening meal, and polishing the Rectory outdoor deck/repairing the adjacent tool shed. More such activity awaits us as we are On Call. All men of the church are invited to join.

Our next Breakfast will be in early July. Come join – a spirited group!

Tom Hadlock, *Coordinator*

## **MAUREEN'S HAVEN – Carol Johns** **Saint Mark's Annual Meeting 2025**

For about 25 years Saint Mark's has supported Maureen's Haven Homeless Outreach by donating food, clothing and travel-size drug-store items. (See attached list.) For several years now we have shopped for them once a month, delivering non-perishable food and snacks for their Day Center and other special items they request.

Maureen's Haven is named after Sister Maureen Michael, a Dominican nurse who hoped to set up an outreach program decades ago. Today, Maureen's Haven collaborates with community partners throughout the east end of Long Island, giving homeless and struggling people access to counseling, alcoholics anonymous (AA); narcotics anonymous (NA); housing and job assistance, English classes and other educational opportunities, and many other services that help their guests reintegrate into the community and rebuild their lives.

Maureen's Kay Kidde Achievement Center (The Day Center), the first of its kind in Suffolk County, is in a modest, very welcoming house on Lincoln Street in Riverhead. It provides respite from the weather with a meal, clothing, and access to the year-round supportive services and programs.

Maureen's also provides to homeless individuals a safe, warm, temporary shelter from November through April, with a place to sleep and nutritious meals offered by volunteer houses of worship and helped by congregation volunteers and other volunteers.

Those at Maureen's are deeply grateful to Saint Mark's for all our help and support. Whenever St. Mark's makes a food delivery, we are met with warm thanks not only by the directors, but by the guests who help unload the car.

Maureen's Haven is a very special outreach. Their work embraces the values of human dignity, respect, service, compassion, teamwork, diversity, and love. It manifests the far-reaching, massive impact of God's love in action.

## **EAST END THRESHOLD SINGERS**

Saint Mark's Annual Meeting, 2025

Every Thursday from 12:30 to 1:45 the East End Threshold Singers meet in the Atwater Room to rehearse, before heading off to sing at Kanas Center for Hospice Care in Quiogue. We are extremely grateful to Saint Mark's for giving us this special space to rehearse!

We are an acapella choir of 15 singers, one of almost 190 chapters of Threshold Choir International which was formed 25 years ago to bring comfort and peace through gentle songs to the dying and to their loved ones.

We sing primarily at Kanas, limiting ourselves to only six singers per week, so that we can be as quiet and inobtrusive as possible. We sing in the hall of Kanas for about an hour and, if invited, at bedside.

Anyone who does not go to Kanas on a given week gathers at Westhampton Care Center where we sing some of our more upbeat Threshold songs and a few pop songs that might be familiar to the residents, encouraging them to sing along.

We feel very grateful to be in this service of song, offering our voices in quiet harmonies -- not as a performance but as gentle blessings. Saint Mark's generosity and hospitality plays a huge part in helping us serve those for whom we sing.

For more information, call or email me at Carol Johns (631) 325-1823. [caroljohns@optonline.net](mailto:caroljohns@optonline.net)

## **PARISH HALL USAGE DURING THE YEAR OF 2024.**

Our number one Celebrity has been Aki's Kitchen, used by both Aki and her husband Warren to make their amazing organic soups in our kitchen during the week, which they then sell at the Farmer's/Winter Market, local vendors and private clientele.

Bright Beginnings uses the Parish Hall during the year for many of their activities and parties and during the winter months November thru April the Winter Market occupies this room from 9-1 every Saturday.

The Suffolk County Board of Elections has used this facility as a Polling Place for early voting in March, June and November.

The Westhampton Garden Club uses it periodically and also decorated it beautifully for their Holiday Party and The Westhampton Women's Club has their meetings here during the year.

East End Hospice uses the room for their Volunteer's Luncheon, Christmas Party, Retirement parties and meetings. The Suffolk Alanon Group rents the Atwater Room weekly and has used the Parish Hall for their Board Meetings and Workshops, the Quantuck Beach Club for a director's meeting, CPR instruction has been given to groups and Life Saving Screening has been offered.

During the summer the Hamptons Fashion Week used it as a dressing/changing room to coordinate with a Westhampton Beach Gala on the Great Lawn and we had a successful Flute Recital with the Westhampton Beach Flute and Clarinet Academy (with the rehearsals the previous weeks). The Parish Hall was packed with standing room only.

There have been many Private Events scheduled such as baby showers, birthdays, engagement parties, funeral receptions and wedding rehearsals.

As you can see, our Parish Hall has been getting a lot of attention and use from the Westhampton Beach Community and our parishioners.

To schedule an event, call the Church Office 631-288-2111.  
Kate Gabrielsen

## **ST. MARK'S BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS DURING 2024**

### **Baptisms**

June 14 – Aidan Sherwood – Parents: Stephen & Meagan Johnson Sherwood

November 3 – Alexander St. Raphael Reese-Gordon - Parents: Francis & Nicole Reese Gordon

### **Weddings**

None

### **Funerals**

April 20          Helen Giles: Karen Giles' mother

September 14   John Andren

September 21   Robert Dalder: Jeff Dalder's brother

November 9     Martin Burrows

## **SAINT MARK'S BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL**

### **Information about our school**

Currently we have 116 Students & 28 staff with 7 classrooms. We have 71 students signed up for summer and counting WHB, Remsenburg/Speonk, East Quogue, UPK. Students from surrounding areas include, Center Moriches to Hampton Bays. Our extracurricular activities include Mandarin, Soccer, Dance, Jump Bunch, and Yoga

### **Outreach**

Food drive in October/November  
Toy Drive in December  
Adopted families in our local area for Christmas  
We supported WBH Drama Club

**This is my second annual report and I am pleased to say that this has been another amazing year! I have enjoyed every minute of the staff, students, and families at Bright Beginnings.**

**Here is a list of all the fun activities that Bright Beginnings has hosted over the course of this year.....●**  
Fall Festival

- *Halloween Parade*
- *Trunk or Treat*
- *Thanksgiving Singalong*
- *Santa Night*
- *Christmas Songs & Sweets*
- *Spring Fling*
- *Cultural Connections Week*
- *We Are Reading More in March*
- *Walking Field Trip to WHB Theater*
- *Mother's Day Tea*
- *Graduation & Parking Lot Party*

We have had many visitors come in to teach the students all while having fun including...

- *WHB Fire Department*
- *WHB Police Department*
- *Quogue Wildlife*
- *Petting Zoo*
- *Mad Science*
- *WHB Library*
- *Foam LI*

**I am so pleased to work for Bright Beginnings at Saint Mark's and I cannot wait for our summer camp. Sincerely, Rosanna Davis**



**NOTES:**







***A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island***

40 Main Street, P.O. Box 887  
Westhampton Beach, New York 11978  
Phone: 631.288.2111  
[www.stmarkswhb.org](http://www.stmarkswhb.org)

**Fall-Winter Weekend Church Services**

Sundays 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist in the church (10 a.m. Livestreamed)  
The first Sunday of each month Healing & Anointing will be included in both services.

**Summer Weekend Church Services (Starting May 25, 2025)**

Saturdays 5:00 p.m. “Mass on the Grass” and Sundays 9:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist in the church (9:30 a.m. Livestreamed)  
The first “Sunday” of each month Healing & Anointing will be included in both services.

**Thursday Midweek Service**

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in Fr. Chris’ Office

**Office Hours**

Tuesday—Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**All Members of Saint Mark’s are Ministers of the Church!**

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano—*Bishop of Long Island*  
The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf—*Assisting Bishop*  
The Rt. Rev. William Franklin—*Assisting Bishop*  
The Rt. Rev. Daniel Allotey—*Assisting Bishop*

**The Rev. Christopher D. Jubinski**

*Rector of Saint Mark’s*

*Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Atonement, Quogue*

Email: [chris.jubinski@stmarkswhb.org](mailto:chris.jubinski@stmarkswhb.org)

Cell: 410-253-3664

The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie—*Priest-in-Residence*

Stephen Hunt—*Director of Music*

Kate Gabrielsen—*Parish Administrator*

Chris Adams—*Facilities Manager*

Rosanna Davis—*Director of St. Mark’s Bright Beginnings Preschool*

Diane Stewart—*Warden*

Tom Horan —*Warden*

***Vestry Members:***

Steve DeCaro, Diane Feil, Madeline Glover

Tom Hadlock, Marjorie Kulesa, Ashley Lueck,

Barbara Pettus, Steve Turner and Sandy Wyman

Thomas Simson—*Treasurer*

Carol Fitton — *Clerk of the Vestry*

