



Parish History Project
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
St. Louis, Missouri

1937-2011

Written by the people of St. Mark's Church
Edited by The Rev. Canon Peter E. Van Horne, D.Min., Interim Rector
May, 2011

Pre-1939 to 1946

The Rev. Charles Wilson , Rector 1939-1941

The Rev. Raymond Maxwell, Rector 1941-1946

Holy innocents' Church

Jane Nahmensen Carr

I guess I am e only one in this parish who has been here the longest. I did not belong but attended regularly. I belonged to Mt. Tabor but could go to both churches. I remember attending Holy Innocents' on Tholozan and Morganford and baby sitting the Rev. Wilson's children who lived next door. My sister, Mable Nahmensen Kising got started going to Holy Innocents' Young Peoples group with the Anthes girls whom she met through the Federal Land Bank where she worked. This led to here becoming secretary, and when they were in the process of developing St. Louis Hills and St. Mark's was given the land, people in that area began to worship in in the Willmore office in Hampton and Nottingham, she would have to walk out there to do the bulletin at night. My mom made me go with her on the long walk as we lived on Odell, a block from Mt. Tabor. We went by St. Mark's and watched it being built. There were always people there looking and remarking that it looks like a union power substation, not a church. When the windows went in, it got worse. The idea of putting the labor movement and a swastika was unthinkable. Well, we know now we are proud to be a Federal landmark as the first modern church west of the Mississippi.

This part of my history is before and up to 1939.

1937-1938

1937 or 1938
Lou Swallow watched setting of church cornerstone.

During construction, a passed by, asked what it was going to be, even if it would involve auto service!

1938. St. Mark's Harry and Allene Mauchenheimer married by the Rev. Wilson at Christ Church.

Selma Swallow (mother) and Lou Swallow become members.

1941

Lou and Jeanette (Koch) Swallow joined the youth choir.

Ellen Nahmensen was choir director (Jane Carr's sister).

1942

Selma Swallow laundered and pressed clergy vestments.

1946

"Auntie" Maud Ringler was Sunday School teacher.

1947— 1952

The Rev. William Murray Kenney , Rector 1947-1966

1947

Murray Kenney bought a police car, parked in the alley that is now parish hall. Kenney lived in his office (now the vestment room); a shower was built in the church men's room for him. He lived in the office until he and Connie Chenoweth were married.

1948

Almost entire Vestry confirmed/ received because no one was sure if they were "legal."

Victor Koch served on several Vestries.

Large active youth group formed; we did church work and service, sorted clothes.

Lou and Jeanne Koch Swallow attended diocesan youth conference at Lake of the Ozarks. Lou, Jeanne, Don Kuhn, Connie Gurdon taken to Ohio diocese youth conference by the Rev. Kenney.

Murray Kenney held youth group's own conference held at Lake of the Ozarks, supervised by Vera and Vic Koch.

Bessie Love designed and painted doors in church basement.

Lou Swallow acolyte ---> 1954.

Murray and Connie Kenney married.

Murray Kenney played football with us ; Lou, Bob Saltsman, Ross Tucker, others.

He also took us on many of his visits to parishioners, other places, including review of ground that is now Trout Lodge.

1949

Jim Latimer joined St. Mark's age 7. Attended children's church under direction of Lucy Barmas.

1949-1950 Kenney's exchange with Rees.

Youth group did plays and square dancing, active in Christmas pageants, Jeanne (Koch) Swallow had role of Mary.

Vera Koch active in kitchen.

1950

Acton and Faye Shelton and Bud and Merle came to St. Mark's.

Youth choir--Trelford twins, Ginny Koch, Carol Hopkins, Merle Hoffman, Lou and Jeanne Koch--and a few others. Bea Bloemker was the organist and choir director. Carol Hopkins has the BEST voice.

Rectory was built.

1951

Faye Shelton was Murray Kenney's voluntary secretary for a couple of years. He wanted to get a secretary's salary in the budget so she quit. It would not be fun if she were being paid!

1952

Became an acolyte (Jim Latimer), participated in the 11:00 service. Organist was Ms. Allen. Berger was Robert Plog who also served as an acolyte.

1953— 1959

The Rev. William Murray Kenney, Rector 1947-1966

1953

Parish hall built.

1954

Came to church because Bud, my husband, and his family came here. I was impressed with windows in the church. The pulpit emblems awed me. Came back for "Fair" to raise money for building parish house. They gave me a job, was the fortune teller because no one _____ me. I told many fortunes but Jean Koch (then) was one. I told her I saw her getting married and she would have three children. All of it came true.

Our first was born this year. Brad. (Joleen Shelton).

1955

Brad was baptized this year because Murray said, "Are you going to have him as a heathen?". I believe it was May. Joleen S.

Jim Latimer confirmed at St. Mark's by Bishop Arthur Lichtenberger.

Joanne Miller and Shady Day married this summer. Their reception was the first time alcohol served in the parish house -- the ever popular champagne punch.

Lou/Jeanne (Koch) Swallow married.

1956

By Jim Latimer: did skit in play at was performed on the stage shortly after opening of the William Scarlett Parish House. Participated in many other activities in this church as well that year including summer outings with youth group. Harry Bud was pianist.

Joleen: Bud and I took over the youth group. Bud and I with the _____ started doing the plays. We borrowed music but wrote our own lyrics. Fun, fun!

1957

Jim Latimer: attended retreat sponsored by the church at Camp of the Rising Sun near Lake Ozarks.

Another St. Mark's play!

John Swallow baptized.

1958

Mauchenheimer's transferred to St. Mark's from Christ Church Cathedral.

Joleen: our second child, Kelly, was born in May. She was baptized within six weeks. Murray came to see me in the hospital, Bud was there. They _____ a map in my room, and went down the hall so I could visit people. Another day!

Jim Latimer: left St. Mark's, moved to Louisville, KY. Many, MANY fond memories.

Lou Swallow elected to Vestry. Was Vestry member for each Rector starting with Murray Kenney.

1959

Joleen: we did another play.

Bill Reese and family exchange priest from England, Kenney family goes to England, 1959-1960.

Larry Lewis sat in our kitchen and discussed if he should become a priest. About four of us ladies said "yes" long before discernment committees.

*Wife: June Rees
Children: Gareth and Lynette

Book "God and Man" published, celebrated St. Mark's 20th anniversary.

1960 — 1966

The Rev. William Murray Kenney, Rector 1947-1966

1960

Joleen: Our third child, Mitch, was born in March and baptized right away. Another play!

Stephen Swallow baptized.

Sea bury Series was basis of Christian education, at least for teens.

Organist and choir director was Rose Ossian, child of Armenian Diaspora, grew up in Algeria. Died of cancer, burial office on a weekday morning during school year. Congregation sang Easter hymns. As coffin was carried out in front of church two parallel rows of Armenian women flanked it and performed traditional wailing. Otherworldly!

1961

Play Sunday nights.

Bob Tate from Wash U becomes organist/choirmaster and boys are added to the junior choir.

A Sunday Nighters' treasure hunt had as one clue counting the dips (rises?) of the roller coaster at Forest Park Highlands.

Bell cast in 1630's installed outside.

1962

Plays Sunday nights. Stephanie Swallow (Maass) baptized.

Father Kenney returned from U.K., had obtained the bell from old St. Giles. It was installed on St. Mark's grounds with due ceremony, kids in red cassocks and white cottas.

1963

Plays Sunday nights.

Robert Mullgardt becomes organist/choirmaster (first job in church).

David Menney and Keo Tracy make Robert Plog's life miserable!

Kenney/Reese commemorative bell installation.

1964

Went to church camp in Ozarks (Vinita Heritage) was a counselor at Camp Rising Sun -- she invited me to St. Mark's for Homecoming.

Ken: 3rd Sunday in September.

1965

Ron and Merle Hoffman married by Murray Kenney at Christ Church Cathedral 4/24/65.

12/11/65 Alma, Ken, Cassandra Shuler baptized.

1966

Kenney's leave for Boston; do play for all of them. (Joleen)

August, 1966: air conditioning in the parish hall! The same unit now functioning.

1967 – 1977

The Rev. James Paget, Rector 1967-1977

1967

Did a sermon on open housing.

Laura Hoffman born 7/5/67 and baptized 7/30/67, possibly first baptism by Jim Paget.

Parish hall/church air conditioning installed.

1968

KSB started singing in the choir.

The Pagets come to be our leaders.

Bob and Melissa meet to spend some time together over the loan of Melissa's harpsichord. Love in bloom.

Easter: first chasuble, high church vestments for Easter.

Karen Schmidt is the first girl acolyte at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

1969

Virginia Stergel: James Paget helped me get back to the Episcopal Church.

Bob and Melissa Mullgardt married at St. Mark's on August 2, 1969.

Bach's St. Matthew's Passion (portions) done in Lent using harpsichord made by Melissa Kimes (Mullgardt to be).

James Paget started at St. Mark's 1969. He buried my mother, Mildred Cuddy.

Ginny Stengel: my sister, Betty, and I were confirmed in 1970. My dad was buried from St. Mark's in February, 1976. Betty Burnun and Donald Burnun were married at St. Mark's June 14, 1975. My husband, Roger Stengel, died in 1989, also attended St. Mark's.

1970

Helped cover the kneelers much to the disgust of Dick Hoffman who was sure it would ruin the acoustics. The ladies of the congregation (who wore dresses and stockings then) were tired of having splinters in their knees (Melissa Mullgardt).

Celeste begins caring for babies in the nursery.

1971

Stuart Christian Mullgardt born 5/2/71. He was the baby Jesus for the Christmas play. Jennifer Paget was "Mary.". Celeste was the baby sitter in the nursery.

1972

Ginna Paget formed active group working toward women's ordination. Women from the diocese joined.

Joleen joined Ginna and others to support women being ordained to priesthood.

Acton Shelton's funeral in November.

Fr. Paget took youth group to Washington, D.C. And New York.

Ruth Proehl gave her father's violin to us for Christin Mullgardt to play when he was older.

1973 — 1979

The Rev. James Paget, Rector 1967-1977

The Rev. David Musgrave, Rector 1978-1984

1973

Rich Hoffman born 10/22/73.

March 13 Amanda (Meg) Mullgardt was born.

Sometime in 70's the Tuesday ladies' group was formed, quilted. Ruth Proehl was a member as was Selma Swallow.

1974

See 1972; St. Mark's part of Midwest Women's Caucus.

Rich Hoffman baptized.

1975

Others in diocese join Midwest Women's Caucus.

Anna Louise Mullgardt born 4/6/75.

Betty Scholl gave the Mullgardt's girls a doll bed which was made for her grandmother -- just before he le to fight in the Civil War -- we never understood why she did not pass it on to her grandchildren.

1976

Robert Mullgardt resigns as Organist to become Organist and Choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Church, Kirkwood.

Melissa Mullgardt designs and sews a bicentennial (red, white and blue) chasuble and vestments for Jim Paget.

Meg Mullgardt gets to buy a glass bottle of orange soda lout of the vending machine in the coat room.

1977

Vic Koch was born.

Melissa Mullgardt was crucifier for Women's Caucus and was 8 months pregnant.

1978

Jim Paget and family leave for Ohio.

Kittie Golonski joins St. Mark's, transferring from Epiphany, Kirkwood.

David Musgrave and family arrive as new minister.

LaBeaume's join St. Mark's. Andrew LaBeaume baptized; Fr. Musgrave's first baptism at St. Mark's.

Vic Koch died.

1979

Joined St. Mark's when our young son (Jonathan) was three months old. ~Marti and Roger Robards.

1980 — 1985

The Rev. David Musgrave, Rector 1978-1984

The Rev. Paul Lautenschlager. Rector 1985-1992

1980

June: first Bluegrass Festival.

Rod Borowiak takes over acolyte training from Bob Shank.

1981

May, 1981 Rod Borowiak confirmed.

July 25th Rod and Kelly married and reception here.
Peter LaBeaume born

Cindy Schroeder started attending St. Mark's.

Laura Hoffman confirmed.

Meg Mullgardt Kaupp attends Herr first wedding, Kelly and Rod Borowiak's, and could talk of nothing else for two weeks.

Doug and Debbie Jeffery first attend.

1982

Ryan Jeffery born 7/15.

Spaghetti dinner fund raiser for Juniper House with residents invited as guests.

1983

June 1983 Carrie Robards born.

1984

January, Adam Golomski, Kittie Golomski's son, baptized at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, assisted by the Rev. David Musgrave.

Musgraves leave.

1985

January, the Tracy's start at St. Mark's.

February 21, Daniel Tracy born.

May, 1985 first baptism by the Rev. Paul Lautenschlager.

June 18, Tyler Borowiak born.

1986 — 1991

The Rev. Paul Lautenschlager. Rector 1985-1992

1986

Mom's Day Out Program for preschool children held on Friday's.

First "Trinity Lunch" served.

August 3 Neal and Kurt Borowiak born.

1987

February 5, Sara Robards born.

"Under One Roof" met in St. Louis; Episcopal social, justice, pastoral groups conference.

April 20, Abigail Tracy born.

May 23 Sara Robards arrived.

July 11 Sara Robards baptism.

1988

June (Father's Day) Ellen Lewis first attended; Ben Anderson's birth was announced.

Easter: Anne LaBeaume dressed Easter Bunny for children's egg hunt.

In celebration of St. Mark's 50th anniversary, parishioners wore red anniversary tee shirts and paraded around the church. Kids on bikes and babies in strollers, decorated with red and white crepe paper. Bonnie Lewis wore lion costume. Two wore clown costumes including Lauren Anderson.

1989

Rich Hoffman confirmed with Anne Thiese LaBeaume.

Celebrated 50 year anniversary of St. Mark's with a year of festivities, including a play St. Mark's Through the Years.

Barbara Raedeke and Alan Milster married t St. Mark's 7/22/89.

January, Nathan Golomski, Kittie Golomski's son, is baptized at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, assisted by the Rev. Paul Lautenschlager.

Dinner 50th anniversary celebration, Clarion Hotel.

Murray Kenney came back for the 50th anniversary celebration and played his bugle in a "parade."

Doug met Ellen at pizza party.

1990

Five year long range plan.

July 30 Margaret Tracy born.

Mark's Brothers St. Patrick's Day Party "Southside Wedding Reception" theme; tuxes and fancy dresses, cold roast beef and dry mostaccioli.

1991

April 27 Doug Jeffery and Ellen Lewis married. Faye Shelton and the ladies made the food for the reception.

January, Laura Simon baptized.

1992 — 1997

The Rev. Paul Lautenschlager, Rector 1985-1992

The Rev. Dr. Lydia Agnew Speller, Rector 1993-2010

1992

John Mellis interim priest.

Jon Robards and Andrew LaBeaume confirmed.

1993

Ralph Brooks attended St. Mark's Church.

Jungermann's attend St. Mark's first time at Easter and Faye Shelton invited us to have champagne and strawberries after. I remember wearing a bright blue blazer.

Sam Jeffery born 12/29.

Flood of 1993.

1994

Kelly Lattanzi moved to St. Louis.

Ellen Jeffery on Vestry for first time.

Sam Jeffery baptized on Pentecost.

August, Nick Simon baptized.

Kid's Summer Sunday School went on a bible treasure ship and also built a temporary worship space in parish hall.

Ascension: kids flew red kites at St. Francis' Park.

October 12, Carol Eschbacher started as Secretary.

1995

Thanksgiving Dinner in parish hall.

Children's Summer Sunday School class took "A Walk in Jesus' Footsteps" and made a video, mostly outdoors. Kids wore costumes, wrote a script, took clay from the ground, hammered it, sifted, added water and made clay pots.

Children participated in "The People of God" pageant. Kids made the design on the tee shirts they wore, made 7 days of creation banners.

1996

Kelly Lattanzi confirmed at Cathedral, became official member of St. Mark's.

Carter Jeffery born 7/9, baptized September, Opening Day.

Acton A. Shelton, Jr. passed away.

1997

The Thompson's arrive!

Kelly Lattanzi begins helping in Altar Guild.

Mitch and Tracy Shelton married.

Children's Sunday School class went to "Egypt" and heard stories of Moses, Pharaoh and the people of God. Two rooms decorated like Egypt from floor to ceiling. Kids wore costumes and played the parts of Pharaoh, Moses, people of God.

Began Godly Play program for children.

First year of Hearts, Hands, and Voices? Fire engine hose sprayed kids, clown, music, balloon sculptures.

1998 — 2003

The Rev. Dr. Lydia Agnew Speller, Rector 1993-2010

1998

Ecumenical Social Concerns group formed. Began Loving Care Christmas and St. Patrick's parties. Began juvenile detention birthday parties.

1999

Robert Mullgardt returns to St. Mark's as Organist and Choirmaster (from St. Michael and St. George).

2000

Children participated for second time in "People of God" pageant. Kids stenciled their design on tee shirts.

Vera Koch dies.

2001

Barb Mackenzie received at the Cathedral, became a member of St. Mark's.

Eva Jungermann baptized. Great reception in parish hall.

September, the Friday Group started.

Became Oasis congregation.

Lion statue by Brent Morris installed in the Garden. Kid's faces painted like lions and kids sat on lion first time.

Habitat for Humanity builds.

Began using "Fair Trade" coffee in kitchen.

Grace Lay, daughter of Anna (Mullgardt) born 2/11/01, baptized here in June.

Brent Morris made a life sized paper mâché rhino that the kids at heart, Hands and Voices painted. An unknown collector bought it for a children's hospital (?), paid \$1000 for the art.

2002

Anne and Mike Thiese had their recent wedding blessed at St. Mark's.

2003

Meg and Boris Kaupp start attending St. Mark's.

Larry Lewis, now a priest, house sits, dog sits, and "parish sits" while Lydia takes a sabbatical.

Joleen did "Grinch Stole Christmas" at the Christmas party. Dan Tracy read, Tyler was Grinch, Eva was Cindy Lou Who.

Large tree by church cut down, summer Sunday School class made a Jesse Tree on the stump. Kids decorated Joseph coats (painted).

Heats, Hands, Voices face painting for kids.

2004 — 2009

The Rev. Dr. Lydia Agnew Speller, Rector 1993-2010

2004

Ruth Proehl gives an amazing gift. "Let the discussions begin."

McKenzie Shelton born and baptized.

Juvenile detention birthday parties continue.

August 31 William Stuart Kaupp born (Mullgardt's grandson).

Mary Feldmeier visits, is asked to sing in choir!

Allen Porter joins St. Mark's.

Shawl Ministry established.

2005

Beverly Van Horne, Intern at St. Mark's, ordained priest in June.

Laura Simon confirmed.

William Kaupp baptized.

Faye Shelton passes away.

2006

Easter Vigil, Carey Tisdal attended, saw the champagne popped for communion, and heard the bells ring. She decided this is where I'm supposed to be!

Audrey LaBeaume baptized.

Jack Shelton born.

Allen Porter confirmed.



2007

Margaret Hvatum first came.

Amiya and Carey start co-chairing Trinity Lunch.

December, contract for Juget-Sinclair organ signed.

For family (Mary Feldmeier) starts having family parties here.

Jack Shelton baptized at Easter Vigil.

2008

Nick Simon confirmed.

St. Mark's adults dress up as favorite saint for All Saints' Day.

Charlie LaBeaume baby Jesus in church program.

Kai Nikolaus Kaupp baptized, born March 19.

Lydia married Jon and Gerrie Robards at Christ Church Cathedral (6/28/08).

Kids painted the purple wall where elevator would be installed and wall removed.

Children participated in "People Look East" Advent pageant.

2009

Water main break, big flood in basement of Proehl Center.

85 degrees for Mass in the Grass and Gay Pride parade in June. We gave out squirts of sun block.

March: Margo Heger Smith and Tom Smith first came to St. Mark's. It was a solemn Lenten service. Lydia told us the services were not always like that and we should come again. It was a 7:30 am service, too.

Trinity Lunch gets its own storage closet. Choir sings at Christmas lunch.

Jewel Box addition completed and dedicated.

September to November Juget-Sinclair organ installed.

Easter Vigil outside on the plaza with storytellers for the scripture readings.

2010 — 2011

The Rev. Dr. Lydia Agnew Speller, Rector 1993-2010

2010

Jeanette Swallow started coming about the time of Lydia's departure. Started singing in the choir.

Landscaping done around Memorial Garden, and water pump fixed for fountain.

80 degree for Mass on the Grass. We gave out St. Mark's fans.

January 30 Lydia married Otto and Jeanette Schoenberg at St. Lucas United Church of Christ.

June 26 Lydia marries Margo and Tom Smith at Christ Church Cathedral on a ridiculously hot day.

Community Garden's first planting and harvest -- Garden of Eatin'

Rev. Mickey Hassler leaves Juvenile Detention Center as chaplain.

Clive Driscoll Smith misses inaugural recital on new organ due to volcano in Iceland. 4/18/10
Janette Fishell steps in and plays beautiful recital. Four additional recitals in series.

September Lydia leaves St. Mark's for Missoula, Montana.

Easter Vigil scheduled for plaza but moved inside for rain.

Celeste's 40th anniversary celebration caring for St. Mark's children.



2011

January 1 Peter Van Horne became Interim Rector.

February Clive Driscoll Smith Finally plays his recital for us.

Good Friday tornadoes in North County.

Additional Comments

Adult education speakers with dinner including Steve Patterson, Howard Schwartz, *Via* Media group discussion.

For me, it is the small kindnesses that makes St. Mark's the congregation I love: small inclusions, priests and deacons who DO hospital visits, find places for lay talents, simple hug and remembering who I am.

Every Sunday, Jane Carr's chocolate chip cookies and pastries.
For everyone, Jane's birthday bread, bunny cookies and baskets for kids, baby sweater/hat set for every new baby.
Jane's stories costumes, bunny story at Easter, stories at Hearts, Hands, and Voices, bible stories.

Every year, photo of kids taken in front of red doors.

Yearly holiday parties.

Sometime in the 1960's youth group built in parish hall basement dedicated to Gary Schmidt (18-19), son of Carl and Carol Schmidt.