THE HISTORY OF SAINT MARK'S PARISH

1860 - 2010



St. Mark's Anglican Church Surrey, BC, Canada www.stmarkbc.org

By DOUGLAS FRENCH

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Acknowledgements

In documenting the history of St. Mark's Anglican Church, I have tried to show that although buildings are an important part of the Anglican Church, as a place to meet, more important is the growth of the people in their faith, and how they use their faith to benefit the whole community.

I wish to thank the following people for their help in providing information about the parish and church.

- 1) The beginning of this history is based on the notes made by Dr. H.S. Hamilton for St. Mark's.
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I thank the members of St. Mark's and apologize to those persons I have missed out when writing this history.

Douglas French September 2010

Preface



The Anglican community that we know today as St. Mark's Parish has a long and storied history.

In reading this history you will learn how the Anglican community in the Ocean Park area started as part of the larger parish of Surrey Centre. By 1924, it was called Crescent Union Church, and existed in partnership with the United Church.

It was divided off from Surrey Centre in 1928 to become part of the new parish of White Rock along with two other churches.

In 1931 the community built their own Anglican church, named Church of the Ascension. It was built in Crescent.

The Anglican community continued growing and in 1953 the Church of the Ascension divided off from the parish of White Rock to become the parish of the Church of the Ascension.

In the mid 1950's a second church was established on Olympic St. (131 St.) near N Bluff Road (16th Ave.)

In 1966 the parish built a church St. Mark, Ocean Park and the parish was renamed parish of St. Mark with Church of the Ascension. In 1988 the name was shortened to St. Mark's Parish.

*St. Mark's banner created and donated by Doris Mackellar.

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Chapter One:

Anglican Work Prior to Building a Church

In 1860 land was pre-empted in Surrey, including some near Crescent. Two early settlers were Alexander Annandale and Walter Blackie, the latter giving his name to Blackie's Spit. Following the entrance of British Columbia into Confederation in 1871, and the incorporation of Surrey in 1879, settlers began to make their way into the area. Anglican work in the general area commenced about that period.

Bishop Silltoe, the first Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster, arrived in that community on June 18, 1880, carrying on until his death in 1894. One of his early official duties was to ordain the Rev. William Bell Deacon in March 1881, assigning him to South Surrey. At that time, the boundaries of South Surrey extended seaward to Ladner on the west and south to the border.

Early services were held in the town hall in the municipality of Surrey. This structure, 20 feet by 30 feet, was built in 1881 on a donated lot at Surrey Centre. It continued to serve as the seat of municipal government until 1912. It was later moved to the Surrey Fair Grounds Cloverdale, where it still stands.

On April 10, 1882, a meeting of supporters of the Church of England in the South Surrey area was held in the town hall, and machinery set in motion to build a church.

The lumber was brought from New Westminster via the Fraser river, around Point Roberts, across Mud Bay, up the Serpentine river and thence by wagon to the church site. Traveling in those days was slow and it was an all-day trip to New Westminster.

In 1884, Christ Church, Surrey Centre, was erected on a hill west of Cloverdale overlooking Highway #10. It is still in use today.

Anglicans were not the only Christians active at this time. Also about 1884, the Presbyterians built a small church at Mud Bay.

The Rev. William Bell remained in South Surrey for 20 years until 1901. He was succeeded by the Rev. A. Owen.

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In the minutes of a meeting in 1904, the first mention of services at Mud Bay, Port Kells, Nickomekl and Kensington is noted. The services at Mud Bay were held in the the Presbyterian Church (closed in 1952 and demolished in 1966).

For the two years 1907-1908, the Rev. F.G. Richard was the incumbent of Christ Church, Surrey Centre. He was replaced by the Rev. W.E. Gilbert in September 1909 who remained until 1917. During his incumbency, Rev. W.E. Gilbert held services mainly at Surrey Centre, Hall's Prairie and Nickomekl, also at Strawberry Hill and Johnston road.

The map shows the very big area covered by Surrey Centre. Travel around this large Parish was difficult and exhausting, especially in bad weather. As a result, services were held only occasionally in many places.

Rev. W.E. Gilbert's first work in White Rock was to hold services in an old school on Buena Vista road. The first service at White Rock entered in the Service Register was in 1913.

After completion of a new railway route through Crescent and White Rock, settlement increased in both places. Capt. W. Williams built a hotel on the beach in Crescent in 1912.



The Crescent Beach Hotel and its associated wharf was the center for summer activi-



ties in Crescent Beach. It was located at the foot of Beecher Street, on the present site of Beecher Place, the current public washrooms, police office, and meeting hall.

It is said that the Rev. W.E. Gilbert of Surrey Centre held occasional services at the hotel for summer visitors prior to World War I. Services were also held by

clergy who might be visiting for the summer, but they were not held on a regular basis.

In 1917 an effort to build a church proved unsuccessful.

The Rev. Gilbert left in 1917, leaving Christ Church, Surrey without an incumbent for a time. The interval was filled by theological students from Vancouver, one of whom, the Rev. L. A. Morrant would later became a locum tenens in St. Mark's parish (April - June 1963).

Just before the Rev. A. L. Davies became vicar, the Rev. G. Moore took over Christ Church, Surrey Centre in 1918. He stayed for two years prior to leaving for the USA.

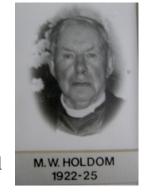
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Chapter Two:

The Beginning of the Church

The early history of the parish of St. Mark and Ascension had its beginnings at Crescent Beach in an organized way about 1924.

In 1920, Canon M. Holdom became the incumbent of Christ Church, the main place of worship in this large parish which was becoming more unwieldy, and impossible for one man to cover adequately.



In the summers of the 1920's, he enlisted the help of students from the Anglican Training Centre in Vancouver. For the students, travel was mostly by bicycle. Points served -- in addition to Christ

Church, Surrey Centre -- included the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock, St. Matthew's, Hall's Prairie, the Church of the Redeemer, Cloverdale, Crescent, Sullivan, Newton and Tynehead.

During the summer, services were held at Alexandra Camp. In the autumn, Crescent School was rented for afternoon worship, at a rental cost of \$4.00 per Sunday.

After the end of World War I, there were enough residents to consider the organization of a church congregation. On May 9, 1920, Dr. G. A. Wilson, The Presbyterian Superintendent of Missions, held a service in Crescent Lodge, the home of Capt. and Mrs. Watkin Williams. After the service a meeting was held and a Board of Managers elected: Capt. Williams (Chairman), Mrs. W. Patterson, Mr. W.B. Wickham, Mrs. Albert Berry, Mr. G. P. Tisdale, Mrs. W. Williams, and Mr. R. Gillespie (Secretary-Treasure).

Three days later, on May 12th, donations were given to the budding congregation. An account book, a minute book, an aluminum collection plate and a book of "Rules and Procedures" were donated by Mr. T.H. Hardy of Mud Bay. In addition, a Hanging Lamp was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Wickham of Crescent Beach.

On May 27, 1920 the Board of Managers held a meeting to discuss plans for a church building. Mr. Wickham was authorized to make detailed plans for a structure 44 feet

by 22 feet. A very active Ladies Circle had been formed; they immediately began to raise funds for the new church.

Building a Church

During meeting in January 1921, Mr. Wickham presented his building plans with an estimated cost of materials of \$971.61. The plans were approved, and work was begun on property donated by Capt. Williams. Although the church was a community effort, the deeds were made out to the "Church and Manse Board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada".

Mr. Wickham not only supervised the building of the church, but also did a major part of the work himself. This was a necessity, as most of the men were fully employed and were unable to take time off from their work.

In October 1921, a meeting was held to authorize the purchase of doors, windows and paint, with the money in hand.

In December Mr. Louis Laronde, an Anglican, became the Chairman of the Board of Managers. Other newcomers were: Mr. & Mrs. Triggs, Mr. Graham, Mr. Brown, Mr. Fagerlid, David Hughes, and Mr. & Mrs. Kitson.

In May 1922 the Church and Manse Board was asked for \$200, but could only provide \$80.10.

On June 2nd 1922, the new Crescent Union Church was dedicated. It was free of debt. It had cost a total of \$1,205, up to the time of the dedication. The Ladies Circle had raised \$717 of the total money and in addition provided all the chairs. The organ was loaned by Mr. T. Hardy, as he was unwilling to sell it to the congregation.

Additionally in 1922, the first Church of the Holy Trinity was erected in White Rock.

The Dedication Service

Taking part in the dedication service were Rev. H. M. Rae of the Knox Church, Sapperton, Rev. T.H. Mitchell of St. Andrews Church New Westminster, and Dr. G.A. Wilson, Superintendant of Missions. Mrs. Johnson and Miss Blanche of Mud Bay sang a duet, "Wonderfull Love", and Miss Doreen Bahr (future Mrs. T. W. Hallas) of Vancouver a solo, "I Come to Thee".

The Rev. Mr. H.C. Mitchell congratulated the congregation on having a debt free church, saying that his own church, which was over 60 years old, had only just achieved this. He felt that there must be some great financiers at Crescent. He suggested that a good motto for the church would be the words of his text, "Working Together with God."

Mr. Charles Adsett, a student minister from Westminster Hall, was appointed to serve the congregation. He was succeeded by another student, Mr. H.C. Rosborough, who stayed until 1923.

The Crescent Union Church was used by Anglicans and non-Anglicans, each taking two Sundays a month. The Anglicans held services on the first and third Sundays in the afternoon and the Presbyterians on the other Sundays.

The church was built, but still needed additional work, including lighting and interior decorating. The Ladies Circle, who believed that everything they purchased should be paid for before they received it, raised funds. They put on concerts, held teas, and sold garden produce. Mrs. Kitchen donated the pulpit, which was then stained and varnished by Mr. Ramsden.

Crescent Union Church would remain legally Presbyterian until the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925.

Changes to the church organization

In January 1923, a congregational meeting was held. Reports were given and as the church was now completed, the Board of Managers resigned and a new board was elected.

The new board consisted of both familiar and new faces: Capt. W. Williams and Mrs. G.I. Triggs, for three-year tenures, Mr. L. Laronde and Mr. R. Gillespie, for two-year tenures, Mr. W.B. Wickham, Mr. G.I. Triggs and Mr. Woods, for one-year tenures.

In April of that year the board suggested that Crescent should become part of the pastoral circuit with Newton and Strawberry Hill. As a result, the Rev. John Charles Alder held services at each of these places every Sunday.

The congregation was asked to increase its givings by \$1.50 each week, in order to increase the minister's salary. In October a box social and entertainment was held in the Crescent Café to raise funds for the upkeep of the church, and to assist the Rev. Alder for his car's upkeep. Capt. Williams and Mr. Gillespie gave a cord of wood, and Mr. Elliot donated a pig, which raised \$14.50 in a raffle.

At the congregational meeting in January 1924, the financial report was submitted:

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES	
Balance from 1923	.36	Mr. Rosborough (Sal-	78.00
Offerings – Envelope	182.15	ary) Rev. J.C. Alder (Salary)	292.50
Plate	185.19	Mr. L. Laronde (Salary)	5.00
Ladies Circle	74.50	Insurance	40.00
Concerts	89.60	Chairs	30.00
Vegetable Sale	5.05	Car maint.	51.00
		Incidental	1.07
Total	536.85	Total	497.57
Balance on Hand	39.28		

In response to a request from Dr. G.A. Wilson, Superintendant of Missions, the sum of \$20.00 was sent to the Presbyterian Mission Board.

Later in the year, Capt. Williams and Mr. Wickham built a fence around the church property.

The Sunday School was a Union Sunday School with both Anglican and Presbyterian teachers. Prizes were awarded for attendance and scriptural knowledge. Mr. Louis Laronde was Sunday School Superintendent until 1931 when Dr. Oliver Darwin replaced him.

When the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches formed the United Church of Canada in 1925, Crescent was attached to the White Rock charge where Rev. Robert Hughes was minister, a post he took up two years earlier. As a result, the Rev. Hughes became the minister at Crescent Union Church also.

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A reception was held for the Rev. and Mrs. Hughes on October 23rd. Among the new names appearing in the church records during the year were Prof. and Mrs. J.K. Henry, Mrs. Christopherson, Mrs. R.C. Roberts, Miss Bond and Mrs. A.E. Cope.

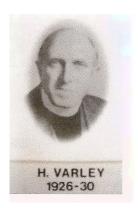
The Anglican and United congregations continued to work together, and the Ladies Circle included members of both churches and were joined by other ladies in the community.

At the end of the year a meeting was held and after all expenditures were met, the balance of the money was divided between the Anglican and the United Church boards.

A joint Board of Managers was chosen to handle finances and to look after the Sunday School. The Anglican members were Mrs. R.C. Roberts, Mr. L. Laronde, Mr. Elliot and Mrs. G.L. Triggs. The United members were Prof. J.K. Henry, Mrs. W.J. Williams, Mr. R. Gillespie and Mr. P. Humberstad.

The annual report for 1925 showed an income of \$652.59 and expenditures of \$587.55

As of 1926, the Rev. R. Varley was in charge of the sprawling parish consisting of all of South Surrey. This changed after the arrival of the Rev. L.J. Thompson in October 1928, when Crescent Union Church, St. Matthew's in Hall's Prairie and the Church of the Holy Trinity in White Rock were split off to form a separate parish. The Rev. Varley was transferred to this new 3 point parish. Meanwhile, the Rev. Thompson carried on for the time being at Surrey Centre which was now much more manageable.



In April 1927 the Rev. Robert Hughes, who had carried on his work in spite of increasing deafness, was forced to retire. He was so adept at lip reading that many people didn't realize that he was almost stone deaf. He was a remarkable man whose resignation was a severe blow to the church.

In October 1927, the first wedding took place in Crescent Union Church when Edith Williams was married to Herbert Cope. They were presented with a Bible from the congregation.

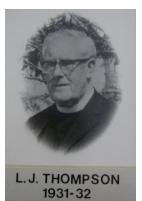
New names appearing in the records included: Mrs. T. Broatch, Rev. and Mrs. W.S.A. Crux, Mrs. Dawe, Mr. N. Stevens, the Rev. and Mrs. T. G. Barlow, and Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Darwin.

In July, 1928 the Rev. W.C. Frank became minister of the Crescent-White Rock charge, where he stayed for ten years.

The Board of Managers were Mr. L. Laronde, Mrs. Garret, Mrs. Robert Hughes, Mrs. J.K. Henry, Mrs. W. Patterson and the Rev. W.S.A. Crux.

A list of parishioners in the Crescent congregation appears in an old minute book. As of August 1929, the congregation consisted of 25 adults and 27 children. As yet there was no Anglican church building in Crescent; the incumbents lived in White Rock where the Church of the Holy Trinity had a vicarage.

A meeting in 1929 was held December 10 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts with 8 members present. The total apportionment for that year was \$32.75. In a minute book dated 1929, this was noted as the 5th annual meeting, inferring that the Anglicans had been holding annual meetings since 1925.



The Rev. H. Varley left for St. Mary's, South Vancouver, in April 1930 with the Rev. L. J. Thompson from Christ Church taking his place. The Rev. G. Ashbee assumed charge at Christ Church, Surrey Centre in August 1930 for a time, before going to the Yukon

At a meeting on December 10, 1930 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Laronde, a committee was appointed to look into the matter of a site for an Anglican church in Crescent.

In January 1931, the United Church proposed that the two congregations have their own envelopes for their individual support with cessation of the previous agreement. The Anglicans declined and the arrangements were terminated amicably at the end of January 1931. For the next few months until a church was built in Crescent, a room in Mrs. Robert's house was used for services.

Following a congregational meeting on April 22, 1931 a request was sent to Archdeacon Heathcote at Diocesan headquarters for permission to procure a lot in Crescent and build a church and, in addition, for a loan of \$1,000.00 to facilitate matters.

The following month the loan application was approved by the finance committee, with the stipulation that \$100.00 be spent to help purchase the lot.

The "Brown" lot was obtained for \$500.00 and construction began. Thirteen church pews were purchased from Galbraith's Ltd., New Westminster, for \$143.00 and the Church of the Ascension on McKenzie St. was dedicated July 23, 1931 by Archbishop de Pencier.

Later in the year the Anglican's Church of the Ascension was opened in Crescent, and a final division of monies was made between the Anglican and United congregations.

The Anglicans on the board of the Crescent Union Church were replaced by United churchmen, and the church was renamed to Crescent United Church.

The friendly association of the members of the two churches continued. A letter in the church archives from an Anglican layman refers to the unique arrangement that had worked so successfully at Crescent for more than ten years.





The Rev. L.J. Thompson carried on with the 3 point parish, Crescent, Hall's Prairie and White Rock until August 1932. He was followed by the Rev. W.C. Daniel, who as a student, had taken services in the 1920's in the original Crescent Union Church.

In 1932 the Rev. W.S.A. Crux and Mr. N. Stevens were appointed elders, and Mrs. Wickham and Mr. Christopherson stewards. Miss Garret became Church Organist and Mrs. H. Cope Choir Leader. Crescent's share of the minister's salary was now \$400 per year.

Sunday School

A note about the Sunday School appears in the minutes of August 30, 1933. It was decided to divide it, with the pupils from the Ocean Park district to meet in the Ocean Park Community Hall, constructed in 1925, with Mrs. Laronde and Mrs. Broatch as teachers.

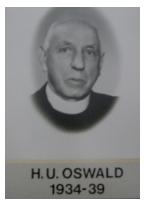
The Ocean Park Community Association at their regular monthly meeting in September 1933, granted the request of Mr. L. Laronde for use of the hall on Sundays from 2:00PM to 3:00PM for an Anglican Sunday School.

The Crescent children were to meet at the home of Mrs. T. G. Garrett. A scout group was meeting at the house of the scoutmaster, Mr. Walter Beare.

In January Dr. Darwin replaced Mr. Laronde as Sunday School Superintendent. While in February electricity was installed in the building.

Mid-to-late 1930's

During the Rev. Frank's illness in 1934 the Rev. Lashley Hall, a retired minister from White Rock took his place on an interim basis.



In the summer of 1934, the Rev. Daniel was succeeded by the Rev. H. U. Oswald who remained until October 1939 and lived in the vicarage at White Rock.

The parish still consisted of the Church of the Ascension Crescent, Holy Trinity White Rock, and St. Matthew's Hall's Prairie. Apparently no big changes were made during his incumbency and things went along smoothly.

A project to have a leaflet printed and circulated to all 3 churches monthly or bi-monthly was proposed but apparently not carried out. The cost was to be \$4.50 for 250 copies. Initially the Sunday School was to carry on as before, but it is noted at the annual meeting of February 6, 1935 that a committee was named to look into the reorganization of the school and the feasibility of organizing an A.Y.P.A.

The total receipts for the previous year were \$579.12. Other items noted for 1937 were that the apportionment of \$57.00 for 1936 was paid in full and that the Crescent-Ocean Park Ladies Circle, which had been active in previous years also, had donated \$37.50 to the church.

Lych Gate

In 1936 the Rev. Robert Hughes suggested that a Lych Gate be built on the path leading to the entrance of the church as a memorial to Capt. Williams who had played such a part in the founding of the Crescent Union Church.

Mr. W.B. Wickham was the architect and builder of this historic gate, believed to be the only one in a United Church in Canada. Its beams were held together by dowels that came from the Anglican Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New Westminster. In earlier times when churchyards were used as burial grounds, the Lych Gate was the resting place for the coffin before the burial. This Lych Gate was written about in church magazines and newspapers across Canada with special reference to the craftsmanship and materials .



Bessie Williams is shown dedicating the Lych Gate adorned with a plaque in front of the Crescent United Church. The Plaque read, "In memory of Capt. Watkin Williams 1853-1934."



Sadly, the plaque disappeared during the 1950's.

By a vote of the residents in 1937, the town of Crescent was renamed to Crescent Beach.

During this period the chairs in the church were replaced with pews purchased for \$50 from Olive Baptist Church, New Westminster.

At the end of June 1938 the Rev. Frank retired and was succeeded by the Rev. F. W. Hardy.

New names on the parish role were Mr. and Mrs. Pinchin, and the Rev. and Mrs. A.D. Archibald.

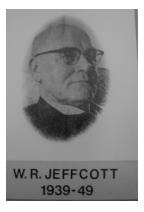
In 1939, during the Rev. Oswald's time, the synod loan of \$1,000.00 had been reduced to \$700.00.

About 1939 Canon Holdom had retired and returned to Crescent Beach to live. At a meeting September 29, 1939 at his home, regrets were expressed at the departure of the Rev. Oswald.

The Rev. W.R. Jeffcott succeeded Rev. Oswald and remained during the war years and up to November 27, 1949.

The session members now consisted of Mr. W.G. Williams, Mrs. O. Darwin, Mrs. A.D. Archibald, Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Pinchin plus the resident ministers: the Rev. T.G. Barlow, the Rev. R. Hughes, the Rev. A.D. Archibald and Dr. O. Darwin.

The stewards were Mrs. Wickham, Mrs. W. Williams, Mrs. H. Hughes, the Rev. T.G. Barlow, Mr. W.E. Pinchin, Mr. A. Simpson and Mr. Pountney, who was also the janitor of the church.



Chapter Three: 1940's and 1950's

A hall was added to the rear of the Church of the Ascension at Crescent Beach during the latter part of the Rev. Jeffcott's ministry.

No water supply was available initially, and supplies had to be obtained at the nearby corner store. Miss Margaret Weatherburn, a sometime Sunday School superintendent and choir member, was largely instrumental in collecting the finances for this project.

Apparently Sunday School classes were held in the church before the erection of the hall. Mrs. Archer was organist and choirmaster at this time.

During the Rev. Jeffcott's time a financial note records that the loan from the Diocese had been reduced to \$71.50 by December 31, 1943.

Mr. Tom Charles, came to this area in 1947. He was asked by Mrs. Laronde to be a teacher in the Sunday School at the Community Hall in Ocean Park, where he continued until leaving the area in 1953. He stated that both the United Church children and Anglican Church children attended the Sunday School together.

The Anglican and United Church ladies worked together, and met at members' houses. Each group had one individual project per year; for example, the United Church women might have a May 1st breakfast, the Anglicans a garden party.

From monies earned \$50.00 or so would be donated to each church with the remainder going to different organizations such as the Red Cross. Suppers were held in the new church hall which could seat 50.

The Formation of the Women's Auxiliary

A meeting of the ladies of the church was held at the home of Mrs. William Nelson Stevenson Road, Ocean Park was held on the second Tuesday of September 1948 for the purpose of forming a Women's Auxiliary. The Rev. W.R. Jeffcott after the opening prayer outlined the meaning of the W.A. and the advantages in linking the church women and their help to the church. Mrs. A.K. Westland Vice President of the Diocesan Board and members from various branches of the W.A. were introduced.

The meeting decided to form a branch of the W.A. and elected the following officers:

Honorary President Mrs. W.R. Jeffcott
President Mrs. W. Nelson
1st Vice President Mrs. M. Hodgson
2nd Vice President Mrs. Beckett
Recording Secretary Mrs. M.Terrell
Corres. Secretary Mrs. L. Laronde
Treasurer Mrs. S.J. Uren

U.T.O. Secretary Mrs. R.F. Mackenzie

Living Message Mrs. L. Prince

Note: The W.A. was started in 1885 by Mrs. Roberta E. Tilton, a member of St. George's Church, Ottawa.

The newly formed ladies group was officially called the "Women's Auxiliary of the Church of England in Canada." The monthly meetings were held in private homes. The minutes of the times show the ladies being addressed as Mrs. with their husband's initials.

They held fund raising in the hall in Ocean Park, and other events in the Sunday School room. Pancake suppers were started in February 1951.

Water and plumbing were installed in 1954. They sold calendars and supported the same causes, supplying clothing to the north, providing layettes and supporting the church financially and spiritually.

An interesting note appears in the minutes of the Ocean Park Community Association for March 4, 1949 which was moved, seconded and passed, as follows: "That the Anglican Sunday School be permitted to use the hall one hour each Sunday for .25¢ an hour." Whether this was rescinded the following year is a little difficult to determine, as the September 12, 1950 monthly meeting decided "that local religious groups be allowed to use the hall free on Sundays".

After the Rev. Jeffcott left for St. George's Church, Vancouver, December 1, 1949 there was an interval of 4 months during which Canon Gale filled in until the Rev. E. Pitt-Griffiths took charge of the three churches in the parish from May 7, 1950 to June 28 1953, residing in White Rock.

A notable event took place August 6, 1950 when Archdeacon J. Thompson dedicated a memorial stained glass window in the chancel of the Church of the Ascension. This window (photo page 34) was presented to the church by Dr. Honor M. Kidd in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Kidd. The former vicar, the Rev. W.R. Jeffcott preached the sermon.

E. PITT - GRIFFITHS 1950-52

Two other items of interest at this time were that the apportionment for 1951 was \$100.00, and that the Sunday School at Ocean Park had an enrollment of 30 children.

In September 1951 Miss Margaret Weatherburn, Sunday School Superintendent and Choir member, resigned from these two activities, with the Sunday School duties being taken over by Mrs. Normyle.

Division of the Parish

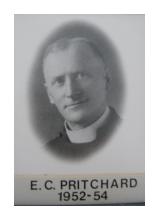
The most important event of the Rev. E. Pitt-Griffith's incumbency was the division of the parish.

The Crescent Beach Church Committee received a letter of motion, dated February 3, 1953 from the White Rock Church Committee as follows: "We respectfully ask the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster for severance of the parish of Crescent from White Rock and we would suggest May 1, 1953." This was granted, the effective date being July 1, 1953. The Rev. Pitt-Griffiths retained charge of Holy Trinity White Rock and St. Matthew's, Hall's Prairie. This left Church of the Ascention Crescent Beach without a vicar. Holy Trinity and St. Matthew's were to be self-supporting with Crescent Beach becoming an assisted parish.

Canon Holdom, now retired, was living in Crescent Beach, as was the Rev. E.C. Pritchard. The Rev. Pritchard had moved to St. Clement's Church in Seattle in 1925 and spent 17 years there as Rector. He had returned to Crescent Beach in 1943.

On a visit to Crescent Beach in 1953, Bishop Gower asked the Rev. Pritchard if he would temporarily take charge of the Church of the Ascension with Canon Holdom as Assistant.

At that time there was a church and hall, but no vicarage. The



Diocese would match dollar for dollar any money that could be raised to provide one, the Bishop promised.

A meeting was called to discuss the matter, but some hesitated. However, in 1953, a successful campaign was launched with a suitable house being purchased for \$8,000.00 at 2976 McBride, including redecoration carried out and a garage built.

The Rev. E.J. Phelps arrived to take charge at Church of the Ascension Crescent Beach in January 1954 occupying the new vicarage and remaining until January 13, 1957.

It was during his time that the need for better Sunday School facilities and a church hall for Ocean Park became evident. Several further items of interest in connection with the Sunday School were obtained from the minute books of the Ocean Park Community Association.

At the May 1955 meeting of the Association the request for use of the hall on Sunday mornings by the Anglican Sunday School was granted.

In January 1956, a further request for the use of the hall by the Sunday School on Sunday mornings from 11:00AM to noon was given assent without any mention of a fee for its use. However in December 1957, in the record is a note that the Sunday School was to be charged \$1.00 per Sunday for use of the hall.

A letter of resignation by Mrs. L. Laronde as Superintendent of the Anglican Sunday School, giving Mr. Miller as her successor, was reported at the monthly meeting of the Association September 1958.

Purchasing the Old Hall

Mrs. Hill donated a lot on Olympic St. (131st St.) near North Bluff Road (16th Ave.) with the proviso that a building be erected to serve the needs of the Ocean Park district.

About this time the United Church congregation at Crescent Beach was considering building a larger edifice to replace the original Union Church built in 1922, which would necessitate the latter's dismantling or moving.

A note in the minutes of the annual meeting of February 10, 1954, chaired by the Rev. E. J. Phelps, indicated that the building was up for sale and discussion of its purchase considered. Subsequently, at the church committee meeting of March 2, 1955, a letter from the United Church was read offering the old building for \$2,000.00, payable over 3 years with no interest.

Archdeacon Thompson was present and said the Synod proposed purchasing the building, paying \$1,000.00 in cash with the balance to be paid by the parish. The Synod would pay the cost of moving (\$645.00), lifting wires (\$150.00), and for a foundation at \$400.00.

Among other proposals put forth at this meeting was a panabode building, suggested by Major A.E. McElligot. At a special congregational meeting April 4, 1955, with 21 members present, a vote taken on the Synod's proposal resulted in 15 negatives and 6 affirmatives. On being notified of the vote, a letter from Archdeacon Thompson indicated that the matter would be deferred.

Subsequently a committee was set up again to consider ways and means to get a building on the lot on Olympic St. The first meeting of the committee which consisted of Messrs. Cotton, Durrant and Williams and Dr. Norwich was held March 5, 1956.

A meeting of the church committee several months later received a new offer from the United Church to sell the building for \$1,500.00, with \$750.00 cash and the balance in 1 year with no interest. After much discussion a motion was passed, to request the Synod to make arrangements to purchase it.

The building committee disbanded December 22, 1957 with the old hall having been moved and set up ready for use. The First service was held November 30, 1957 on St. Andrews Day.

The Rev. E.J. Phelps relinquished his duties due to poor health January 13, 1957, and for nine months the Rev. W.B. Singleton undertook his duties, until the arrival of the Rev. D. S. McKinnell in September 8, 1957 from Golden, B.C.

The original plan apparently was to hold the Sunday School, which was then meeting in the Ocean Park Community Hall with Mrs. Laronde as Superintendent, in the building on Olympic St., with services being continued at Crescent Beach.

With the increased growth of the Ocean Park area it was decided to add a chancel to the building and hold services there also. This was done, with services at first in the afternoons, but as the congregation increased, this plan was soon changed to the morning, with an earlier 8:00AM or 8:30AM service at the Church of the Ascension.

The parish of the Church of the Ascension was incorporated in August 1958, with the envelope fund showing givings of \$1,766.90 to the general fund, and \$727.65 to missions in that same year.

A new vicarage was built at an approximate cost of \$11,000.00 on Sunnyside road (24th Ave.). When completed in October 1958, it replaced the vicarage on McBride in Crescent Beach, which was sold.

With the general prosperity of the 1950's and an optimistic outlook for the 1960's, the Diocese set up a committee to make plans for the future expansion of the work of the church in developing areas. The Ocean Park-Crescent Beach area was high on its priority list.

Chapter Four:

1960's

After investigating a number of possible sites for a future church, the Rev. D. McKinnell and the vestry recommended 3 acres of land on 20th Ave. as a suitable location for a future church. In 1960 the DEPCO report concurred, with the Diocese purchasing the property for \$7,000.00 to be held in reserve for the time when a new church could be built.

The evening branch of the W.A. was formed in 1961.

The Rev. A.L. Davies was appointed vicar in July 1963 and it was during his incumbency that the church on this site was built. At the congregational meeting in January 1964 a committee of 7 members under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Meadows was elected to initiate the project, engage an architect, and proceed with plans.

With the help and advice of Archdeacon Watney, much consultation, and numerous meetings with the architects, a sketch plan of the proposed building was decided upon and acceptance voted at the congregational meeting in January 1965. The approximate cost was estimated at \$60,000.00.

In order to finance the new church a projected plan was drawn up as follows:

Cash on hand for building purposes: \$10,000.00 (approx)

Proposed sale of Ocean Park Church and land: \$10,000.00 Gift from the Diocese: \$10,000.00

The balance or \$30,000.00 required a bank loan of \$25,000.00 with a possible further loan of \$5,000.00 from the Diocese.

A parish campaign for pledges to retire the bank loan in 5 years was successfully carried out in June 1965. However, realistically, a target date for retirement of the loan was considered to be somewhat more than 5 years and this proved to be the case, with the debt being paid off in a period closer to 10 years.





The building was completed in time for the first service May 29, 1966, with dedication September 18,1966. The old building, dating from 1921, which had been moved to Olympic Street in 1956, was sold with the new owner converting it into a house. Early morning services continued at Crescent Beach.

At the end of August 1968 the Rev. A.L. Davies left to assume charge at the two parishes of St. Andrew's in Burnaby and St. Matthew's in Vancouver East.

With the erection of the new church building the parish was incorporated as the parish of St. Mark with the Church of the Ascension in 1968. The Rev. Bert Harris became the Minister to the church in 1968. The Rev. T. Murray substituted until his arrival.

The Rev. Bert Harris was born in Dauphin, Manitoba. Most of his young life was spent on the family farm. He worked on the farms after leaving school until he enlisted in the Air Force in 1940. In 1942 he married Kitty. They had three daughters.

Ordained in 1953, the Rev. Harris spent the first 12 years of his ministry at St. Catherine's Church in Port Coquitlam. He



was involved with the Canadian Legion during that time, joining as Legion Padre, and became president of Branch 133 in June 1963. In May 1963 he was elected Chairman of Pacific Command at a Provincial Convention; second vice-president in 1967, first vice president in 1967 and president in 1969. He served on the Dominion Executive council for three years, and was elected vice-president of Dominion Command in 1974. He resigned from this position in 1976. He was appointed Chairman of Veterans Services Committee and Operation Service Committee until 1978.

The Rev. Harris received the Queen's Jubilee medal for service to the country, and the Meritorious Service medal for service to veterans.

When the new St. Mark's Church was opened in May of 1966, services were still continued at Crescent Beach at 8:30AM with transportation arrangements being made for anyone wishing to attend the 10:00AM service in St. Mark's.

Due to death and the moving away of parishioners at Crescent Beach, by 1973 only a few remained in the congregation, and, at their request, the last service was held September 2nd of that year.

The little church had served faithfully and long, since its inception in 1931. After closure, the stained glass window in the chancel was removed and installed in the narthex at St. Mark's where it is a reminder of one of the forerunners of the present building.

In its first 15 year history the parish of St. Mark with the Church of the Ascension not only was the home church for Anglican families in the Ocean Park-Crescent Beach area but also had drawn members from further afield in South Surrey.

When erected, space was adequate, but with the rapid increase in population in the area preliminary studies were undertaken to enlarge the facilities. At the time three morning services were necessary to accommodate the congregation.

Over the past 50 years, Sunday School classes had been held at various locations and times but the records are fragmentary. We can be sure that many teachers have given faithful service in this aspect of church life to the great benefit of the children.

Right from the beginning of organized Anglican activities in 1920, women have been active supporters of church work with their various groups Ladies Circles, Women's Auxiliary, Anglican Church Women, with the afternoon and evening groups, Altar Guilds, Junior Auxiliaries, Girl Guides, Cubs and sometimes Scouts.

Money was raised by many activities for direct church support and for social service work in the community, in other parts of Canada, and abroad.

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Chapter Five:

The Second Growth of the Church

The parish of St. Mark with the Church of the Ascension has always been active in mission at home and abroad. Its apportionment or commitment has always been met in full and frequently overpaid, with donations being made for work in the North, and for help to outside social service agencies. The old adage that a church that lives for itself will die by itself has always been taken seriously.

In 1979-1980 the whole parish was involved financially and otherwise, in assisting a Vietnamese refugee family to become established in the area.

The physical plant has changed over the years. The grounds have been improved and beautified. Additional storage space for Sunday School equipment, supplies for various organizations, and other impedimenta, required an addition to the hall in 1976, much of which was done by volunteer labour. The most recent addition to the church was the new organ, one which would be adequate for a new church building if such is erected sometime in the future.

Another important addition took place in 1977 when a new modern rectory was constructed on the church grounds to replace the old one at 12989 24th Ave., which was showing signs of physical deterioration. This was accomplished with no cost to the parish through the sale of the old building which was put up in 1958.

The benediction of the new rectory, with Archdeacon Wilkins officiating, took place May 1, 1977.

Miss Lillian Pickering, the organist, at this time provided information about music at St. Mark's. Mrs. Terrell, Mrs. R. Meadows, as well as Miss Pickering all gave faithful service as organists at the little church on Olympic St.

The first youth choir was formed in 1963 with ten young people from the Sunday School.

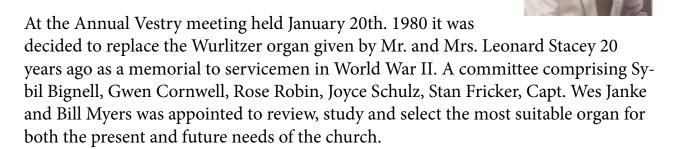
With the move to St. Mark's Church the membership soon grew to thirty. Many of these young people eventually moved on to become Sunday School teachers and servers.

During the years the youth choir had two very special friends who continued to maintain a special tie with each age group: Granny Anne Hamilton and Mrs. Jonnie Thorn.

In 1976 when Patrick and Wendy Aiken joined St. Mark's there was no Sunday School or Nursery. They with two other families took turns to look after the children. In 1977 they started a nursery by the back door of the church, shortly after it was moved into the small Choir Room.

Margaret Broatch was the Sunday School Superintendent. Several of her daughters and her son-in-law taught in the Sunday School.

With the additional 11:00AM service a senior choir was formed in 1980.



The new Allen 123 organ was purchased for the sum of \$15,907.84 by donations from the congregation and was installed in 1981.

The Rev. Bert Harris retired December 1981, to live on Salt Spring Island.

The Rev. Peter Niblock was appointed Rector of the parish of St. Mark's with the Church of the Ascension in 1982. The Rev. Niblock was born in Toronto in 1928. He took a B.A. degree in Mathematics and Physics, he became a Mathematics teacher in Ontario. In 1958 he graduated from Wycliffe College, with a Bachelor of Theology, and was ordained in 1958. He was the Curate at St. George's in Winnipeg, and married Pamela Robinson of Vancouver. He served at St. George's Transcona, 1961-1965, and St. Mark's Calgary 1965-1971, St. Mary's Kerrisdale.

At the beginning of 1982 the parish list contained the names of 160 families and individuals. Eight and a half years later the parish membership had increased to 325

families and individuals, of which only 67 names of the 1982 membership list of families remained. This means that during this interval 258 new families had joined St. Mark's family.

The Most Rev. Archbishop Hambidge confirmed 11 young people, five girls and six boys, at St. Mark's on Sunday January 3, 1982.

Pat Aitken was the new Rector's Warden and Geoff Woollatt the People's Warden. They said, "without a doubt we have a mission within the parish to contact the 60 percent of professed Anglicans and others who are not active members to bring them into our Church Family."

Total income for year 1982 was \$82,049.97 which included outreach, operating, and capital funds.

The church school had 100 students with an average attendance of 70. Four teachers were leaving: Norene Brackett, who was the mainstay of Sunday School, Tracy Ann Betts and Blair Betts who taught Kindergarten, and Brenda Holland who taught class I. Volunteers included: Catherine Cowan, Cradle Roll, Brett Thiel, Nursery; Cynthia Martin, Kindergarten A; Sandra Riley, Kindergarten B; Joelle Everitt, Class I; Lorna Bury, Class II; Catherine Thiel, Class III; Ann Thiessen Class IV; Darlene Wiegand, Class V; Leslie Woollatt, Class VI; and Marcella Van Nes, Class VII.

Evening Guild had 18 members. Under President Marcella Van Nes, receipts were \$3,933.98, and a donation of \$1,000.00 was given for furnishings for the Rector's office and a skylight window.

The church had two choirs, Youth (25 young people) and Senior (12 adults). Lillian Pickering served as organist and choir leader.

Kathleen Fricker, President of Altar Guild was looking for new members to help each Saturday and Sunday, to polish the brass, launder linens, arrange flowers, and set up communion, among the many duties.

Gwen Cornwell President of A.C.W. reported membership of 24. Monies received totaled \$6,789.74 and many donations were given to outreach.

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Chapter Six:

St. Mark's Building

The original church built in 1964 on 20th Avenue was becoming too small for the congregation, largely due to the increase in the population in the area. It was decided that a new church should be built on the west side of the existing parish hall.

In the Rector's report for 1982, he described hopes for a new Sanctuary building to be built for a sum of \$200,000, not the \$500,000 first envisaged. Also new houses were being built in the vicinity. As the Church Family grew, all could contribute to this venture.

By 1983 \$32,353 was raised, with 66 pledges and other families in the parish.

At that time, the Rector's Warden was Pat Aitken, and the People's Warden was Stan Fricker.

By 1985, the church Building Committee, formed around 1975, had accumulated funds of about \$89,000 for a new church building.

In 1985 the Rev. Eric Dexter and his wife Nancy joined the parish family, and was asked to be the Hon. Assistant. He later helped Rev. Niblock by taking over his duties for the time while he was incapacitated in 1988.



The Rev. Dexter wrote a number of books reflecting on Christian Life. His wife served as Secretary at all Vestry meetings for many years and for A.C.W., Altar Guild and Journey of Christmas.

In December 1985, about 100 members of St. Mark's parish sat down after a Sunday potluck supper and engaged in a discussion on the future of St. Mark's. They were asked, "What would we like St. Mark's to be, or to be doing, in the next 2 to 5 years?" The reply was that they wanted St. Mark's to be "a place for people in this community, and to become a catalyst for concern."

The Chapel in the Woods

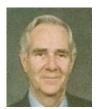


The Chapel in the Woods was dedicated as the Chapel of the Ascension on August 31, 1987 in honour of the little church in Crescent Beach. It comprised of the Altar table, and rows of wooden benches. Services were held in the summer months two or three times a year, until the Journey of Christmas Tableaus (1998) were built. One can still see the Chapel as of 2010.

Meeting of the Building Committee: January 19, 1987

In 1985 Rev. Niblock was given the mandate to build a new church building on the property. The Building Committee was reactivated with a more pressing mandate to construct a new church building.

The committee comprised of Rev. Peter Niblock, John Reader (chairman), Phil Smith, Colin Wright, Stan Hodgson and Robert Deane.



John Reader



Stan Hodgson



Robert Deane



Phil Smith



Colin Wright

This report was submitted by Stan Hodgson and Phil Smith. Parish interest in the proposed building project had intensified to the point where the building committee could approach the vestry with confidence.

Five formal meetings provided a forum for close to two-thirds of the active members. In addition, over 20 written suggestions were examined and were made available for future reviews. Discussions covered the gamut from style, size and quality of architecture to a sink for flowers in the sacristy. Opinions favoured a new separate worship

area that could provide a strong symbol of St. Mark's presence in the community as compared to modifications to the existing building coupled with a new hall.

Proposed size and complexity appeared to sit well with members, who seemed to be more concerned with quality and conformity to the community's functional needs than with pruning costs to the bone. Inasmuch as the area surrounding White Rock was trending to double to possibly 50,000 in 7-to-10 years, the design for the new church at a proposed 350 seating capacity did not preclude the opportunities for low cost expansions.

The parish had a strong family orientation and the Sunday school population had almost doubled to 100 over the past three years. The committee's first ideas for class-room arrangements for the immediate future may have been deemed inadequate for the intermediate term if the new church would have an appeal for "dormant" Anglican families.

Staged completion of a basement under the church would do much to solve the anticipated steadily increasing school enrollment. Written suggestions and verbal discussion supported this concept.

The building committee had been advised to consider:

- 1. Practical size for the rector's office and an adjacent business office
- 2. A library in the enlarged narthex
- 3. A comfortable meeting room for women's groups and committees
- 4. A proper janitor's room and more storage capacity
- 5. An enlarged kitchen with more equipment
- 6. Consideration for improved music/choir location and functions improved security and sidesmen facilities
- 7. A disciplined parking arrangement (marked blacktop)
- 8. An official memorial garden (disposition of ashes)
- 9. Wide use of glass in roof and wall structures
- 10. A bell tower and possibly an illuminated cross
- 11. Careful attention to acoustical design as well as electronic sound amplifiers
- 12. Care in selecting lighting, ventilation and heating systems
- 13. Much improved washrooms with fixtures for Sunday School children

The incumbent priest submitted a very thoughtful report that incorporated his views on how the new building should reflect spiritual values. There was also concern about salvaging the existing decorations that would ease the concern of long-term parishioners feeling at home in a new house of worship.

After visiting many new church buildings and reviewing architectural designs, they set up an "information-communication" committee led by Colin Wright and assisted by Colin Hoath from the Diocese of New Westminster. This committee met with both individuals and organizations within the church to review the sketches of the proposed church building, and advise the committee as to changes or additional facilities they wished to have incorporated.

Stan Hodgson was concerned that the original drawings showed that there would be an inclined floor, and consequently no basement. Stan and Isabel Chernoff attended workshops regarding two-story church buildings; he also visited a church in Abbotsford having two stories. Consequently the design of the church was changed to allow a basement to be part of the new building. The basement was to be the Education Centre for the church.



The architectural services were provided by Ulrich Laska, who was a member of the church. The committee then conducted meetings and visitations to church members and groups to let them know of the financial needs of the new church building construction, and asked them to make cash donations on a three- or four-year commitment for the new building construction.

Enough money was raised to award a contract in 1988 to a low bidder for \$790,000. Funds were also provided for furnishings, a sound system, a stained glass window, landscaping and pavement.

The Most Rev. Archbishop Douglas Hambidge and the Rev. Peter Niblock participated in the Ground Breaking Ceremony on April 10, 1988.

Chapter Seven:

From Construction to Consecration



The church hall, the original church building, is seen in the background.

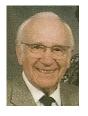


The new building during construction.

The contractor started work in 1988, and had completed most of the underground services and the concrete work before having financial problems from previous contracts. This contractor was terminated due to a lack of performance.

The Church Vestry met to consider the problem and was advised that a new tendering would cost an additional amount between \$250,000 and \$350,000, due to the unavailability of contractors, as a building boom was in progress. It was proposed and accepted by vestry that the chairperson would manage the project with new subcontractors, hoping to complete the work from the funds remaining in the construction budget.

This was realized with the help of the St. Mark's construction company comprising:



Ron George



Joe Hoyte



Les Smith



Norm Powell



Liv Mazzocato



Gord Munro

John Reader was responsible for organizing the project while the others performed all the of the smaller projects, for example patching holes and cracks, keeping the

floors clean of sub-contactors' mess and refitting doors. Later, they built partitions and finished work in the Education Centre.



There are two windows in the church that have special significance. The first window is in the narthex. This window was presented to the church by Dr. Honor M. Kidd in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C Kidd.





It was originally made for the Church of the Ascension in Crescent. It was brought from Crescent to be placed in the narthex of the new church.

The second window is in the chancel. It was presented by Mrs. Joan George in mem-

ory of her mother Gladys Burke.

The stained glass window speaks to us of the light of the Holy Trinity:

- the majesty of God as reflected in his creation;
- the glory of the resurrection of Jesus Christ symbolized in the rising sun on Easter morning;
- the waters of baptism in which the Holy Spirit gives us new life, symbolized by the font set in front of the wind blown sea.

The first service in the church was held Christmas Eve of 1989 without the benefit of the new pews and seats. All the work was completed in 1990 in readiness for consecration later that year.



Although the church building was complete, there were other problems to be corrected. The sound system and poor building acoustics presented a problem. Pat Aiken and Stan Hodgson removed the speakers from above the altar and installed the first set of overhead speakers. Six infrared earpieces and an infrared amplifier were donated.

In the uncompleted basement, the Rotarians used half the space to store their books at a fee of \$1,000 per year. The other half was used to create a nursery. Ron George and Stan Hodgson put in a ceiling and carpeting. In addition washrooms were installed.

A Service of Dedication for the new church building was held on February 14, 1990. With the Most Rev. D.W. Hambidge Archbishop of New Westminster and Metropolitan of BC officiating. Prior to the service, a snow storm had cut off the electricity; the service was started with the congregation holding candles. During the "message" from the Archbishop, he spoke of the "Light", and at that moment the church lights came on.

At the beginning of 1990, Leigh Peddle was hired as the church secretary / office administrator, by Susan Vegsund, the Rev. Peter Niblock's Warden.





Dedication Service

Celebration after the Service

The Sunday School and Youth Groups were growing by leaps and bounds. Phil McIntyre-Paul with the help of Pat Aiken led the Youth Group. Mari Anne Hussen and Linda O'Donovan ran the Sunday school for many years.

The Area Links was a system started by Ann Hewlett in 1991, which divided the parish into areas with a "Link" living in each area.

- 1. Links kept in touch to show caring, especially for those who could not attend church regularly.
- 2. Links could pass on any feedback (with permission) so that the Worship Committee and clergy knew how the people were feeling.
- 3. Links were the "on the spot" contacts in case of need.
- 4. Everyone in the church could be reached quickly by telephone.
- 5. Contact between members in each area was encouraged.
- 6. Links greeted new members and advised them of parish programmes.

It was also a great way to deliver the The Messenger, the Sunday leaflets, and letters from wardens or clergy, and a great way for people to get to know each other. Olive Posiwauschek reported in 1998 that there were 38 Area Links covering 49 neighbourhoods. She continued coordinating the program until 2000.

In the fall of 1991 a quarterly news magazine "The Messenger" began publication to provide reports, features, news and updates and a directory regarding activities and events at St. Mark's under the auspices of Mr. John Braddock. He continued this work for 12 years.

St. Mark's was brought into the 20th century by a generous donation by Ann Knight for the purchase of a personal computer. Doug French was asked to teach Leigh Peddle how to use it.

Phyllis McCreary, Music Director, requested more people to participate in the choir for the special music of the Advent season.

Stan Hodgson, People's Warden, was recruiting nominees for the Church Committee, Trustees and delegates to Synod, also a replacement for himself after two very busy active years as a People's Warden (Physical Facility).

Audrey Watson agreed to be reappointed as Rector's Warden, and Norman Morrison as People's Warden.

The Rev. Alvin Miller joined the Rev. Niblock on the ministry team at St. Mark's Ocean Park on December 1, 1991. The Rev. Miller and his wife Ollie were welcomed into the parish family. He was commissioned by the Most Rev. Archbishop Hambidge on February 23, 1992.



MILLER, Alvin

The Rev. Miller was meeting with the Lutheran Bishop for B.C. He was asked what he would prefer to do as a Lutheran pastor now living

in B.C. He said he would like to work at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Ocean Park. The Bishop became visibly excited at the prospect as he also was committed to ecumenism, and gave the Rev. Miller his blessing on the spot. The Rev. Miller was officially "on loan" from the Lutheran church. Although the two churches were not yet in full communion, he was allowed to function much like an Anglican priest. He began half-time and became more involved as his pastoral ministry got established.

During the Rev. Miller's time at the church he worked tirelessly on the Anglican–Lutheran Accord (Waterloo Declaration). In the summer of 1995 the parish of St. Mark's, Ocean Park made history within the worldwide Anglican Church when the Rev. Miller became the first non-Anglican priest to celebrate the Anglican liturgy of the Holy Eucharist in an Anglican parish.

The parishes of St. Mark, Ocean Park, Holy Trinity White Rock, and Mount Olive began to work more closely to share their Lenten, Easter and Christmas Celebrations.

There was considerable growth in the parish during the time that the Rev. Miller served the St. Mark's family. 25 candidates for confirmation were prepared by him and others. The Rev. Miller retired in May 1997.

When the Anglican-Lutheran Accord (Waterloo Declaration) was signed in April 2001, the Rev. Miller was honored by a gift of the Chalice and Paton used at the celebration of the signing of the agreement. He had worked ten years on the committee to bring about the accord.

In 1992 Graham Edwards was named Rector's Warden, Ed Tackaberry People's Warden and Rea Anderson, Treasurer. Also in 1992, the Most Rev. Archbishop Hambidge designated February 2nd as "Invitation Sunday" throughout the Diocese. A committee headed by Ken Turnham introduced the concept to the congregation, asking all to bring a family member, neighbour, or a friend or to whom they would issue an invitation. Many members of the church brought family, friends and neighbours. It was a successful event.

The Prayer Chain, a group of 20 dedicated people who offer up prayers for anyone who asks, had been lovingly served by Rena Mason as leader. Ted and Betty Lindsey took over as the Prayer Chain conveners.

The Most Rev. Archbishop Douglas Hambidge attended St. Mark's for the last time as Archbishop on April 25, 1993, when he confirmed 10 young people and others at a 7:30PM service. He also consecrated the Memorial Garden. He retired on May 11, 1993 with a special service held at the cathedral.

In January 1, 1993 the church was almost debt free, owing only \$29,000. The church was completely free of debt before the Rev. Peter Niblock retired that summer. The final price tag was about \$1.1 million. The wardens at this time were: Graham Edwards, Ed Tackaberry, and Erling Vegsund.

In the spring of 1993, St. Mark's welcomed Faith Meier as Director of the Music Ministries. Faith completed her Bachelor of Music degree in England. For the previous year she served a North Delta Church as minister of music. A Celebrate! Singing was held Sunday May 30th at 8:00PM after the Evensong. She started a Children's Choir in the fall.

As of Easter 1993, Pat Barron, President of Altar Guild, reported they had 18 members dedicated to care of the Altar and Sanctuary. Each week a team cleaned the brass, arranged the flowers, decorated the church on special occasions, and most importantly prepared and set up all vessels and linens for the communions.

The Rev. Peter Niblock retired on August 31, 1993. He had served as the Rector for a period of eleven years and seven months.

The Rev. Jim Fergusson became the interim Rector, and he and his wife Annette were warmly welcomed to St. Mark's in January 1994. He graduated from the Vancouver School of Theology in the 1960s, and had been appointed Rector at Sechelt and Mission, before accepting a position as the representative of the Anglican Church of Canada in Jamaica, where he served for 10 years. On returning to Canada, he left full time ministry and worked with young people in Richmond.



The Rev. Fergusson became full-time Rector on April 1, 1994. A Service of induction was held for him on April 6, 1994, with the Right Rev. Bishop Michael Ingham officiating and the Rev. Eric Lowe as a guest speaker.

On September 18, 1994 at 3:00PM a Service of Consecration of St. Mark's Church was held. The Celebrant was the Right Rev. Bishop Michael Ingham. The service was attended by The Rev. Jim Fergusson, the Rev. Alvin Miller, the Rev. Eric Dexter and many clergy throughout the area, along with the St. Mark's congregation, Wardens Graham Edwards, Ed Tackaberry, and Erling Vegsund, and treasurer Rea Anderson.



Left to right: The Right Rev. Bishop Ingham, the Rev. Eric Dexter, the Rev. Jim Fergusson, the Rev. Eric Lowe and the Rev. Alvin Miller.

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Chapter Eight:

1990's

In 1994 the Rev. Fergusson introduced TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) to St. Mark's, having worked previously with teenaged street children in Richmond. The walls "bounced" when St. Mark's hosted the Diocesan TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) conference, as the young people learned of the extravagant Love of God.

In 1994, Anne Screck started the "First Fruits" garden project, raising \$630.50 for outreach. This tradition is still going on each summer under Anne's leadership, as of this printing (2010). Parishioners bring in produce from their gardens for all to buy, and monies raised go to outreach.

Another highlight of 1994 was the 6th Annual Salmon Barbeque, which was very successful and featured Evelyn Michelson at the piano.

In 1995 the Junior Church was growing, with three directors running the school: Margaret Appleton, Lyn James and Sandra Lumb. The parish gave thanks to Mari Ann Hussen who contributed so much over the years, and would continue contributing her musical talents to the children.

Peter Robin was named Rector's Warden in 1995, and Anne Schreck and Alan Newberry People's Wardens.

The second "Guess Who's Coming for Dinner" was held, raising monies for P.W.R.D.F. Six or eight people would go to a member's home, and the host and hostess would not know who was coming. Fun was had by all. This was a wonderful time for the Parish Family to get to know each other.

The Rev. Eric Dexter died August 24, 1995.

Wind of the Spirit, a weekend of spiritual renewal given by the Rev. Larry and Audrey Eddings was held October 20-22, 1995 with a large attendance of parishioners.

John Albrecht, Youth Director, was asking for volunteers, for drivers, cookie makers, and small group leaders and co-leaders for the many things he wanted to do that year with the Youth Ministry, which was growing by leaps and bounds.

The Men's Club was thriving with Stan Hodgson at the Helm. He had started the Men's Club soon after he joined the church in 1987 and was famous for making fruit pies in remembrance of his wife who had recently died.

Sixty people attended a talk on "Let's Unveil Mental Illness." The co-promoter was Pat Louis, who eventually started the Front Room Program.

Olive Pociwauschek took over as Coffee Hour coordinator, from Doreen Deane, who with husband Robert, was moving to Vancouver Island. Olive coordinated the seniors' Christmas luncheons, with the help of Isabel Chernoff, who would take a day off of work, and many other volunteers.

Home Bible Study groups were growing: Friday Night Bible Study Group in the home of John and Roberta Braddock; Day-time Fellowship Group on Fridays 10:00AM - 12:00 PM with Ann Hewlett, coordinator; Practical Christianity – a Biblical Perspective on Thursday evenings 7:30PM - 9:30PM with Tom Mason, coordinator; and Friday evenings Saints Alive, at Rose and Peter Robin's home, with the Rev. Jim and Annette Fergusson as coordinators.

In 1996, Ken Turnham and John Reader were named People's Wardens.

A.C.W. was very active with 27 members, with an average of 23 at each meeting. Monies were raised for outreach programs by undertakings such as the Spring Tea, the November Holly Berry Fair and catering of funerals, weddings and anniversaries.

Peter Robin was named Rector's Warden, John Reader and Norman Reimer were named the People's Wardens in 1997.

The Ladies Evening Guild was steadily growing and by 1997 they had a membership of 32. They used the money they raised to support many projects in the church and outreach, such as Atira House. That year, the A.C.W. hosted World Day of Prayer with Ollie Miller as the speaker. Joan George organised this very successful event.

The Parish Nursing Program was making great progress, co-ordinated by Billie Askey, with the help of Judy Hyslop. Several people from St. Mark's attended an all day Conference at Trinity Western University on "The Parish Nursing Program: Ministry Training". Billie Askey continued to co-ordinate the program through 1998.

On May 25, 1997 St. Mark's bade a fond farewell to the Rev. Al Miller and his wife Ollie as they entered retirement.

Then in July 1997, the parish welcomed the Rev. Eric Lowe and his wife Margy. He was appointed as a part-time Assistant for six months. He continued until the Rev. John Oakes was appointed as Associate Priest. Soon after the Rev. Eric Lowe became critically ill, and was incapacitated for a full year. He then became the Hon. Assistant, often returning to part-time duties when the Rev. Oakes was appointed to Holy Trinity Vancouver and the Rev. Fergusson retired.



A 24-hour Prayer Vigil was held in March and again in November of 1997, with many people taking part. It was organised by Norman and Violet Reimer. Every member of the congregation was prayed for along with many requests for healing in the community.

A Goals and Objective Committee, convened by Colin Wright and Doug French, worked diligently to produce a set of guidelines for the continued operation and growth of St. Mark's. There was a divergence of opinions in the group, however internal problems were surmounted by their desire to complete their task. The Goals and Objectives were reviewed by Church Committee and accepted as presented in October 1997. The report was used to form part of the background necessary to prepare a parish profile to invite prospective Assistant Ministers to apply for vacant positions.

The City of Surrey awarded 1st Prize to St. Mark's for its garden, thanks to Les and Jean Edmonds for their efforts.

The 1998 Rector's Warden was Michael Weller. The People's Wardens were Norman Reimer and John Reader.

The Junior Church was active that year. At the start of Lent, the Junior Church and Youth Group enjoyed making Nail Crosses. In the spring, they also gathered various supplies for Norman Reimer to take to Cuba.

At this time Lyn James and Wendy Hlady stepped down as coordinators of Junior Church, and Mari Anne Hussen took over as coordinator. In the fall, with over 80 children registered, many teachers helped Mari Anne, including Kelly Rose, Lilian

White, Laura Thiessen Jenny Klenner, Wendy Hlady, Debbie Emery, Sandra Lumb, Leslie Hebb, Kate Hoos and Lyn James.

St. Mark's was honoured to have the Rev. Dr. Eugene Peterson visit and preach in March. Dr. Peterson authored many Christian books and was most recently noted for his translation of the New Testament called "The Message."

The Rev. Jim and Annette Fergusson were invited to the pre-Lambeth conference followed by the Leaders' Retreat in Canterbury England in July. On his return, the Rev. Fergusson stated, "It was an honour to be asked and such a moving experience to be a part of such a diverse body of Anglicans representing such a variety of cultures and nationalities and feeling the deep sense of unity as God's Spirit moved among us."

Grand Piano

A desire was expressed that a grand piano be purchased for St. Mark's. Permission to begin fund-raising was granted by the Church Committee with the stipulation, "None of the money was to come from church funds, but from special fund-raising events."

Marinus van Prattenburg, a well-known piano restorer, was asked to be an honorary member and advisor to the fund-raising committee. Other members were Lyn Szabo, Chair; Rose Robin, Vice Chair; Pamela Martin-Holmes, Music Director; Jack Blachford, publicity; Peter Robin, Mari Anne Hussen, Linda and Denny O'Donovan, Joan George, Stan Hodgson, and Jean and Les Edmonds.

The first fund-raising event was a concert in April 1997 given by local vocalist Marissa Gaetan and pianist Stephen Horning. The second concert in March 1998 was a very successful community event called, "Arts in the Afternoon". It featured Bruce Vogt, Associate Professor and Head of the Piano Department at the University of Victoria, and Susan Young, Soprano, Music Faculty, University of Victoria. The concert of classical music was enhanced by an exhibition of paintings by Norah Beaumont, Marilyn Edwards and Doris Auxier (Art Faculty), Trinity Western University.

When Marinus decided to move to Peachland, he offered one of his restored pianos at cost. The offer was regretfully declined as the committee felt there were insufficient funds at that time. Jean and Les Edmonds then generously offered to assist in the purchase of the piano. Proceeds from concerts held through the fall of 1998 and spring of 1999 would be applied to the purchase fund.

St. Mark's acquired the magnificent instrument as a result of the generosity of Marinus van Prattenburg and Jean and Les Edmonds, many musicians and artists, Stan Hodgson and the Men's Club, Lyn Szabo and members of the fund-raising committee, and all in the community who supported them.

It was a Chickering Grand built in Boston in 1895 and completely restored by Marinus during the winter of 1997-98. A concert grand, the piano was over seven-feet long and had an assessed value of \$30,000. It was expected to attract artists and concerts to St. Mark's and thus become a source of revenue for the church, as it was one of the very few instruments of this calibre in the area.

Pamela Martin-Holmes commented, "This is the finest instrument I have ever played. It has a light responsive touch with contrasts that are bright and full. It lends itself well to congregational singing. It is a wonderful experience to play and a joy to have for our services."

The Rikk Watts Conference was held September 25-27. Watts was a theologian in great demand. A Parish Conference Weekend organised by Annette Fergusson was a great success, with a large number of parishioners attending. Grateful thanks were given to Rector's Warden Michael Weller and People's Wardens John Reader and Norman Reimer.

In the fall of 1998, Peter Klenner joined St. Mark's for one day a week as Pastoral Assistant, while completing his degree at Regent College.

Roots of the Alpha Program

A variety of Bible Studies were in place. Saints Alive was being held in the home of Rose and Peter Robin, coordinated by the Rev. Jim and Annette Fergusson. Bible studies were also being held by John and Roberta Braddock on Friday nights, the current guide was "To Run and Not Grow Tired".

The Bible Studies were discontinued for a short time in order to devote time and energy to the new Alpha Program, which was introduced by Tom Mason. Tom brought back audio tapes from the British Isles. The Rev. Roger Simpson in 1996-97 was incumbent at Holy Trinity Church, London, England, and in the fall he arranged for Nicky Gumbel and his team to give a three-day seminar at Holy Trinity Church. Based on this seminar, Alpha started at St. Mark's under the direction of John Braddock.

The first Alpha Course ran from January 19 to March 23, 1998. Eleven people, divided into three groups, met each Monday evening for a total of 10 weeks plus an Alpha weekend. The series was launched by an introductory dinner held in the Church Hall.

A Youth Alpha course was conducted in parallel and attended by 20 young people.

Since then St. Mark's has assisted many other churches on the peninsula to start their own Alpha courses. Many dedicated volunteers enabled the Alpha courses to continue for 10 years.

Bible studies resumed and have been held in many private homes, coordinated by Michael Weller.

By January 1999, St. Mark's was reaching out to the community through advertising in the Peace Arch News, attracting people who were new to Christianity.

Education Centre

The basement was designed, with help from Michael Weller, to enable it to be used as an Education Centre, as envisaged by Stan Hodgson when the church was built in 1988. In 1998 work was started to complete the basement as an Education Centre, with classrooms and a central hall. The work was carried out by the faithful St. Mark's Construction Company.





Education Centre: Hall Rooms

Education Centre: Classrooms

The total cost for the Education Centre was \$25,564.37. This amount was raised by Designated Givings of \$3,600.02, a McMahon bequest of \$5,185.18, a Huggins be-

quest (partial) of \$3,428.61, a Kathleen Pain Investment of \$7,624.56, and a New Projects Investment of \$5,726.00.

In 1999 Michael Weller became Rector's Warden, and Genelle Leifso and Graham Edwards were named People's Wardens.

Peter Klenner was appointed as full time Pastoral Assistant on January 1, 1999. On July 9, 2000, he was ordained as a Deacon, having completed his Internship at Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church in Surrey and the following Sunday took up new duties at St. Cuthberts in Delta. He was ordained Priest in December 2000.

In the summer of 1999, St. Mark's said farewell to John and Pamela Martin Homes as they left to study at Wycliffe College in Toronto. The congregation thanked them for their faithful ministries carried out at St. Mark's. In the fall, LeeSun Kim took up duties as Music Director, and Kim Whaites as the new Youth Director.

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Chapter Nine:

The Journey of Christmas

In 1998 John Reader awoke one morning with an idea: why not present the true story of Christmas in a series of tableaus, complete with theater lighting and accompanied by a recorded narrative? He presented his idea to St. Mark's Men's Club.

In 1999 there was much discussion, planning and design, followed by drafting, construction and creative realization. Linda Bergwall, a graphic artist whose clients included companies in New York, donated her services. She developed a conceptual design for nine scenes, each one a progressive step in the Journey of Christmas.

"C, H, R, I, S, T, M, A, S".



Each scene illustrated one part of the story of Christmas and to emphasize the sense of taking a "Journey", the top of each picture was adorned with a letter from the word "Christmas". Together, the scenes spelled out

Linda Bergwall's conceptual designs were translated into reality in a heartwarming display of inter-church support. Backdrops for five of the scenes were painted by children at local schools: Heritage Christian School; White Rock Star of the Sea Catholic School; White Rock Cloverdale Catholic School; St. Bernadette School; and Surrey Peace Arch Fellowship, Surrey.

From the illustrations the content of the message for each scene, and the music and sound effects were determined. In addition, the figures, backdrop and props were designed.

The figures, costumes, remaining painted backdrops, construction, lighting, electronics, narration and numerous other tasks were completed by St. Mark's parishioners, adults, children and teenagers.

Scene 1: "C"
The Birth of John
the Baptist foretold



Scene 2: "H"

The Birth of Jesus foretold

Angel visits Mary

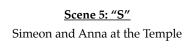


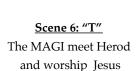
Scene 3: "R"
The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem

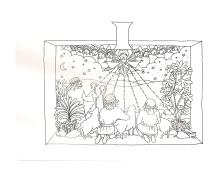


Scene 4: "I"

The Angels appear to the shepherds









Scene 7: "M"

Mary and Jesus escape with

Joseph to Egypt



Scene 8: "A"

The children of Nazareth
are murdered



Scene 9: "S"

Mary and Joseph return to

Nazareth with Jesus



Linda Bergwall's original conceptual design for St. Mark's "Journey of Christmas"

The Men's Club undertook the project. In 1999 several meetings were held for the purpose of creating the "Journey of Christmas". The members who participated were: Chairman: John Reader; Secretary: Nancy Dexter.

At one of the first meetings, the committee toured the site (at the back of the church) to determine the layout and preparation required. A number of meetings were held throughout 1999 to discuss what would be the requirements to make this come to fruition.

All aspects of the work were discussed, such as site preparation, electrical requirements for the pathway and individual tableaus, audio and guides, displays, figures and backdrops. As these discussions continued, sub-committees were formed to determine and carry out the necessary work for the project.

The subcommittees consisted of:

- 1) Layout of Scenes: Stan Hodgson, Ed Rennie, Adele Rennie
- 2) Lighting Chart: Rose Robin ,Peter Klenner
- 3) Electrical Work: Peter Robin, Inky Klett, John Reader, Roy Cleaver
- 4) Catering: Hilda Smith, Margaret Reader
- 5) Security: Les Edmonds
- 6) School Participation: Chris Ogilvie
- 7) Scenes: Denny O'Donovan, Ron George, Rose Robin, Ted Lindsey, Bob Tivey, Peter Hobson
- 8) Sound: Chris Walks
- 9) Publicity: Brian Walks

Once the organization had been defined, the creating of the whole tableau could start. The area situated at the back of the church was surveyed. Logs and other debris were cleared. A pathway was determined to allow easy access to each scene. Lights were set along the pathway.

The props were made and tarpaulins painted to act as backdrops to the scenes. Mannequins were constructed and dressed accordingly for each scene.

It was decided that the scenes were to be displayed in the form of cabanas rather than tents. Also there should be an explanation of each scene. CD players were purchased, and secured inside each scene. The narrations were written by Peter Klenner, and recorded by Annette Fergusson.

Publicity for the "Journey of Christmas" was handled by Brian Walks, who arranged for posters to be displayed and newspapers to write about the event. Guides were trained to take the visitors through the site, and to operate the CD's for the audio contribution.

Preparations were made to welcome visitors who had been through the Journey of Christmas into the church hall for refreshments such as hot chocolate and cookies, and seasonal entertainments, such as singing.

After all of the work carried out by the Men's Club and volunteers from the congregation, all was ready for the opening to the public. The dream of John Reader had come to fruition.

"The Journey of Christmas" opened for the first time on December 10, 1999, and lasted until December 27, from 5:00PM - 8:00PM. It made a big impact on the community. It attracted 2,530 people despite torrential rains and wild weather during its first week.

Since the inaugural display, each January a committee has met to determine how the overall presentations can be improved and with the help of many volunteers this has been accomplished.



THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST FORETOLD



THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS





SIMEON AND ANNA AT THE TEMPLE



THE BIRTH OF JESUS

AT BETHLEHEM

THE MAGI MEET HEROD AND WORSHIP JESUS



MARY AND JESUS ESCAPE WITH JOSEPH TO EGYPT



THE CHILDREN OF NAZARETH ARE MURDERED



MARY AND JOSEPH RETURN TO NAZARETH WITH JESUS







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Chapter Ten: St Mark's in the 21st Century

St. Mark's began reaching out to the community with its own website in 1999. The website was designed, installed and maintained by Doug French.

In 2000, the Rev. David Short was invited to be the guest speaker at St. Mark's Parish Conference Weekend, the title of which was "Don't Stop me Now; I'm Growing in the Grace of God". There was a great turn-out and a great sense of fellowship at this conference, once again organised by Annette Fergusson and her many helpers.

The Women's Retreat at Westminster Abbey was led by Annette Fergussen in September 2000 with 24 people in attendance. It was greeted with such enthusiasm, that she led another in November.

St. Mark's hosted Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) a Diocesan youth weekend in May. Many of the parish youth were involved, and generously gave of their time so they could serve other youth as they took active roles on the Ministry teams.

Genelle Leifso and Michael Klaver stood down as Wardens, whilst Michael Weller agreed to be Rector's Warden again, with Alvin Myhre and Rea Anderson as People's Wardens for 2001.

The Rev. John Oakes joined St. Mark's Church as Associate Priest on March 1, 2001. He had a Bachelor of Classics from Oxford University, a Masters in History from U.B.C. and Master of Divinity from Regent College. He had served several parishes in the area. He was welcomed along with his wife Kirsten and two daughters Nathalie and Stephanie. To everyone's surprise, the Rev. John Oakes was appointed Priest in Charge at Holy Trinity Church, Vancouver on December 1, 2002.



One of his initiatives at St. Mark's was Friday Nite Live, a contemporary praise and worship service he created in collaboration with Kim Leifso and others. It was a great success with the youth.

Another of his initiatives was the College and Careers Bible Study, for those aged 18 to 30-something. The group met bi-weekly on Thursday evenings.

In November 2001, Norman Reimer left once again on a missionary visit to Cuba. This time he took boxes of Spanish Bibles of the New Testament, almost 1,000 pens and other gifts. On arrival in Cuba, the 200 Bibles were counted time and time again. After three and half hours he was able to leave for his hotel. As far as he knew the Bibles were still being counted in the Hall of Customs, even when he left. The pens and other gifts were warmly welcomed. He met up again with the Rev. Raimundo Garcia Franco whom he had given \$17,000 of medical supplies on his last missionary visit.

On July 8, 2001 the Youth Group director Kim Leifso along with her husband Chris, took a number of the youth to the Dominion Republic on a mission to aid a family in need. They spent their days building, and evenings evangelising.

September 2001, Sara Cianta took over as Music Director. She followed Leesun Kim, who had just married James Clark at St. Mark's on September 29, 2001 and was leaving for Leeds, England.

Pat Louis was honoured posthumously in a Front Room ceremony on October 27, 2001. During the ceremony, the kitchen at The Front Room Resource Centre in Surrey Centre, Walley, was officially named the Pat Louis Community Kitchen in her honour. Members of St. Mark's were present for the ceremony, as she had been both a member of St. Mark's for many years and a founder of Front Room. She had passed away in 1999.

The Parish Visiting Ministry, co-ordinated by Olive Pociwauschek, functioned widely in the parish, with 24 volunteers visiting 27 parishioners. Its mission was to help members to feel part of the parish family in their difficult declining years.

In October 19 – 21, 2001 another Parish Conference weekend was held at St. Mark's with Pastor Ken Shigematsu, Senior Pastor of Tenth Avenue Alliance Church in Vancouver, officiating. The three-day conference commenced Friday evening and was completed with a service on the Sunday. A large number of parishioners attended. The conference was co-ordinated by Annette Fergusson.

The Alpha Programs were thriving again in 2002, proving to be a wonderful tool to reach out to the community. The parish gave grateful thanks to John Braddock for all

his work, and to Michael Weller also for co-ordinating the Bible Studies. In January an Alpha reunion supper was held in the church hall to mark the 5th anniversary of the Alpha Program. Additional Alpha follow-up Bible Studies were being given, including studies on Philippians, Sermon on the Mount, and Isaiah.

Michael Weller again was named Rector's Warden, with Rea Anderson and Alvin Myhre named as People's Wardens and Barbara Richards as Treasurer. A Canonical Committee was set up to find a new Rector in preparation for the planned 2003 retirement of the Rev. Jim Fergusson.

In 2002 there was a change in leadership of the Sunday School. Mari Anne Hussen, the dedicated and talented coordinator of many years, retired. A team of three ladies, referred to as "T3" and composed of Mary Edwards, Leslie Hebb and Kate Hoos, assumed the leadership of the Sunday School.

Lorraine Law, Library Coordinator, reported the library continued to be regularly used with over 150 books read in the past year. The library received generous donations of a total of 120 books from several church members.

Brian Walks continued to work and inform the parish of the Stewards in Action Ministry, advising on the five areas of ministry that St. Mark's shared with other churches in the Diocese. Alpha and the Journey of Christmas were prime examples of SIA sponsorship. SIA sponsored the first Alpha Conference in 1997 when 11 members of the congregation at St. Mark's stepped out in faith to find out more. SIA committed to The Journey of Christmas even before the scenes were built.

The Ladies Evening Guild supported many church related programs over the past 42 years, and this year donated \$5,000 to the Kitchen Renovation Fund. A \$500 Bursary was given to Marianne Anoneuvo, a youth member of the church. The Ladies Evening Guild was holding two fund raisers each year: a Fashion Show in the spring and, combined with A.C.W., the Holly Berry Fair in the fall.

A report by Hilda Smith, President of A.C.W., describes the annual A.C.W. Social Action Plan as covering a range of support. The group collected used stamps, with proceeds of the sale going to Arthur Turner Training School in Pangnirtung. Campbell Soup Labels were collected and redeemed for supplies and equipment for the World Mission for the Deaf. The group made two trips a year to W.A. Memorial House in Vancouver to deliver the stamps, labels and "Hot Socks" for Seafarers, an Anglican

outreach community. Used clothing was collected and taken at the same time, along with layettes for newborns.

There were three Retreats at Westminster Abbey that year, a Youth Retreat in March, and two Womens' Retreats in October and November. Led by Annette Fergusson, these are well attended and with enthusiasm.

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) was once again hosted by St. Mark's in May.

In 2001, the Rev. Jim Fergusson reached what was then the mandatory retirement age of 65. The Right Rev. Bishop Ingham agreed to the maximum two-year extension, so the Rev. Jim Fergusson retired on April 30, 2003, having served 10 years as Rector. His wife, Annette, shared his ministry; they were a team. He was considered by the parish a very compassionate person, and would visit parishioners in hospital and at home whenever there was a need, irrespective of the time of day or night. He encouraged input and ideas from the Wardens and Church Committee and other lay leaders, and was a regular participant in all parish activities, including helping in the kitchen.

A farewell party was given in their honour, attended by all parishioners and many guests. The hall was completely full. They would be missed by all. Fortunately they would not be far away, as they would continue living in their home in Delta.

The original kitchen was built as part of the construction when St. Mark's moved to Ocean Park in the mid 1960s. It served the needs of the initial hall, accommodating approximately 100 people.

However, kitchen needs changed when the new sanctuary was completed in 1990. At that time, the hall was enlarged to incorporate the area that had been used for worship in the original building. This increased the hall capacity to approximately 240. St. Mark's actually served this number on occasions such as the Men's Club barbecues, parish pot luck dinners, and annual pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.

As a result, the kitchen had become a very crowded space! It was also unsafe with poor traffic flow for the volume of activity taking place and inadequate counter space for preparation and serving food.

Early in 2002, the Church Committee authorised Alvin Myhre, People's Warden, to

establish a working committee to produce a proposal and estimated costs for a redevelopment of the kitchen. A representative group from the organisations using the facilities was created, as follows:

John Reader, Chair,
Hilda Smith, A.C.W,
Jean Edmonds, Evening Guild,
Stan Hodgson, Men's Club,
Olive Pociwauschek, Coffee Hour, etc.
Michael Weller, retired Architect (Rector's Warden)
Alvin Myhre, People's Warden

The committee canvassed the parish for input and visited a number of fairly new church kitchens in the area. Existing space was re-evaluated and the plans were developed on the basis of relocating the kitchen from the original interior space to its present location (as of 2010), incorporating a commercial gas range and exhaust hood, commercial grade refrigerator and freezer, stainless steel counters and mobile dish containers. The balance of the original kitchen would be used for storage. During the evaluation, it was decided to replace the two furnaces serving the original complex, then over 30 years old, to satisfy the needs of the new kitchen and to upgrade the efficiency level of the furnaces.

Preliminary plans were presented to the congregation at an information meeting, and on June 2, 2002, a special vestry meeting was held to discuss financing. The following resolution was passed:

"Be it resolved that the Vestry of St. Mark, Ocean Park approve the proposed renovations to the kitchen as per the plans available to date. The work will proceed subject to the obtaining gifts and pledges over a four (4) year period, to cover the cost." The estimated cost was \$100,000.

The project was completed, using some volunteer labour, within budget and financed completely by the parish within the four-year period.

On May 1, 2003 the Rev. Peter Klenner became Rector. St. Mark's welcomed him and his wife Jenny, along with their three children, Daniel, Benjamin and Sarah. The former Pastoral Assistant had became a Deacon December 2000 and later an Assistant Priest at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church.

After the Rev. Klenner became Rector, the Rev. Lowe continued to help until the Rev. Jonathan Blanchard was appointed.

Michael Weller remained Rector's Warden, Alvin Myhre People's Warden, and John Reader replaced Ralph Van Nes, who unfortunately had to stand down.

The Rev. Peter Klenner was inducted in May 2003 by the Right Rev. Bishop Ingham with the Rev. Dr. Eugene Peterson giving the address.

The Rev. Klenner continued the biblically based teaching, albeit with a more dramatic tone, and his wife Jenny, amongst other things, contributed her beautiful singing to St. Mark's worship and her gift for teaching to the church school.

A new N.I.V. Pulpit Bible was donated.

Barbara Richards announced the church had total revenues of \$305,642.67 which included a grant from the Diocese. This grant was applied for and received in a form of an applied credit, to the monthly expenses. Total expenses for year were \$305,126.07, resulting in a net surplus of \$516.60.

In keeping with St. Mark's tradition of using modern means to reach out to the community and connect with the parishioners, Kathryn Smith took over the Sound Ministry in June 2003. This entailed the control of the sound mixer and taping of the service. In the fall of 2004, a computer was purchased which enabled both audio tapes and compac discs (CDs) to be used for recording the service and distributing it to parishioners unable to attend services.

In 2004 Susan Jensen became Rector's Warden, and John Reader and Paul Mills were named People's Wardens. Jenni Driscoll Holmes became the Music Director, replacing Sarah Ciantar. Justin Read-Smith became the Youth Director, replacing Kim Leifso.

The Journey of Christmas was well attended; 2,188 people walked through on this Journey, and then enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies afterwards. John Reader, Chairman, thanked all the people who helped make it such a success.

The Treasurer reported a net surplus of \$4,110.54. That year, total revenue was \$304,039.20 and total expenses were \$299,928.66. \$62,000.00 was contributed towards outreach funds and other designated funds. The St. Mark's parish had done well, and pledges were still being received for the kitchen renovations. The Music Director reported a senior choir of 20 members started in September. Seven anthems were sung between September and December.

Ladies Evening Guild reported 31 members and 4 Associate members. Donations were made to Canadian Bible Society, Operation Eyesight, Camp Artaban, Emmaus Ministries, Christmas Luncheon for Parish Seniors, Lunch Box Program, and Front Room Ministry. Plus, lap quilts were presented to the Salvation Army.

The Sunday School Ministry Team reported 14 people were helping with teaching the young members of St. Mark's, with support of 6 additional members of the church.

A.C.W. reported membership of 19 active members and four non-active members. They met in the Library the second Tuesday each month. Monies were sent to outreach programs including: Diocesan A.C.W., United thank offering, Save the Children Fund, St. Mark's garden, hall maintenance and catering for the seniors' luncheon. As usual, monies were raised by the Spring Luncheon and Holly Berry Fair.

Front Room Outreach Ministry benefited from great support from the parish and an inspired idea of Rev. Peter Klenner: a Front Room Outreach Showcase presentation. Funds available for distribution during 2004 were \$13,934.42.

St. Mark's Ministries of Prayer were quite active. Intercessors lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People, 7 members at that time. The Prayer Chain, coordinated by Rena Mason, consisted of 11 people who prayed daily for special needs of others. Prayer teams, coordinated by Violet Reimer, supported the 10:00AM Eucharist with two people available for personal prayer, one on each side of the church. Committee Prayer Support was composed of a number of people praying together for members of the Parish Council during monthly meetings. The Alpha program participants were upheld in prayer as well as any other concerns in regards to the administration of the church.

The basic Alpha Course was in its seventh year, and was very well attended, being ably led by John Braddock.

In 2005 Lynne Hurd took over the position of Rector's Warden when Susan and Ken Jensen moved to Salt Spring Island at the end of the summer. Paul Mills and David Fuller were the People's Wardens.

The Treasurer, Barbara Carrington Smith (nee Richards) thanked Margaret Kirk-patrick for her faithfulness in being a long-time Envelope Secretary and the Office Administrator Leigh Peddle, for making everything work with her graciousness and willing help.

The Canonical Committee reported they had not yet found a candidate for Assistant Priest to assist the Rector.

In October the Rev. Dr. J.I. Packer ministered to St. Mark's during the Parish Conference, on the subject of "The Authority and Inspiration of Scripture". Fifty people attended this successful weekend.

The Metropolitan the Most. Reverend Archbishop Terry Buckle preached and shared the Eucharist in November.

T. Justin Read Smith, the Youth Ministry Leader, reported that the youth were exploring different ways in which faith impacts our lives. A trip was made to A Rocha Field Centre. They also explored what it means to be a community, primarily the Body of Christ. Different events were held to help understand the meaning of community.

In 2006 Vivienne Wiens joined the church as Director of Children's Ministry and Interim Youth Director.

The Rector's Warden was Lynne Hurd, People's Wardens were David Fuller and Paul Mills.

In April the Missions Ministry leader Patricia Hall brought Stephen Lungu from African Enterprises Ministries. He challenged comfortable Christian lifestyles here in Canada as he shared his testimony.

In August, St. Mark's was blessed with the arrival of the Rev. Jonathan Blanchard as Assistant Priest. St. Mark's welcomed him and his wife Deanna and children Samantha and Timothy. Jonathan's obvious pastoral passions and Deanna's wonderful musical gifts were a wonderful blessing and compliment to the current ministries in the parish. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from University of Manitoba in 1990 and received an M.Div from Wycliffe College in Toronto in 1995.

The Rev. Jonathan Blanchard was ordained a Deacon at St. Peter's on the Rock, Kirkland Lake, Ontario in the Diocese of Moosonee in the fall of 1995. He answered a call from the Arch-Deacon of the Diocese of Moosonee to lead a Vacation Bible Study for the summer of 1998, and then to finish his curacy at St. James Geraldton, Ontario. His experience at VBS and at Geraldton was very positive, and reinforced the calling he had for



clergy ministry. He was ordained into the order of Priests in 1999 and then spent 12 months as Assistant Priest and later as Rector in Charge. For five and half years, he was Rector of St. Mark's in Iroquois Falls and Priest in Charge of St. John's in Matheson.

In September over 60 people were involved in a St. Mark's Prayer Vigil for 30 days. The parish witnessed healings and personal revivals. Rev. Jonathan Blanchard was warmly welcomed by all; he became involved with everything very quickly.

A very successful Vacation Bible School was implemented by Vivienne Wiens, that was enjoyed by many children and adults who helped make it such a delight.

The Men's Club reported that Jock Ferguson had taken over the Torch from Stan Hodgson, who had been in charge faithfully for many, many years.

John Reader and Brian Walks ran another successful presentation of Journey of Christmas, with the help of dozens of parishioners.

February 2007 saw Judy Tony named Rector's Warden, and David Fuller and Michael Dobson as People's Wardens.

The Rev. Peter Klenner resigned in June 2007, giving one month's notice. He left to form a new church under the auspices of the diocese of Rwanda. Some of St. Mark's church members left with him.

The Rev. Jonathan Blanchard was appointed Temporary Priest in Charge by the Right Rev. Bishop Michael Ingham. He not only held the church together, but continued to help the church move forward in faith. The parish was blessed to have the Rev. Eric Lowe's constant support and wisdom during this interim time.

Lynne Hurd became Bishop's Warden until a new Rector was inducted, and Michael Klaver, Barbara Carrington Smith became People's Wardens.

Early November saw the departure of Vivienne Weins, the director of Childrens Ministries and interim Director of Youth Ministries.

In December, the Director of Music Ministries, Jenni Driscoll-Holmes, also left St. Mark's. Deanna Blanchard graciously agreed to step in as interim Director of Music.

The Worship Committee started two evening services – Evensong on the first Sunday of the month, and a Family Service entitled "God is Great" on the third Sunday of the month.

The Canonical Committee had been busy since November, interviewing possible candidates for the position of Interim Priest-in-Charge.

Welcomers Ministry attracted many new members. In general, eight teams of eight or more people carried out this special ministry of hospitality and friendship to all who entered St. Mark's. The ministry was coordinated by Roberta and John Braddock.

The church website was redesigned by Doug French into a blog. The new site enabled anyone to listen to or download the Sunday "Message" in a digital format. It also allowed parishioners to comment on matters connected with the information on the website. In addition, Kathryn Smith extracted the weekly "Messages", so they could be heard via the church website.

Outreach Front Room Ministry, now in its 15th year, had grown from teams making sandwiches in the church kitchen and serving them at the Front Room, to 12 outreach programs with a budget of \$16,991.40. Four programs were delivered to the Front Room Homeless Shelter, and eight programs delivered through SFWSS (Women's Place). A steering committee of members of St. Mark's consisted of Barbara

Grantham, Pat Aiken, Betty-Ann Bainbridge, Ann Coleman, Fran Friedel, Richard Mason, Frank Pearson, Shannon Paulsen, and Darlene Wiegand.

St. Mark's joined in the "Get Fit, Keep Fit" program, which proved that the parish was together in its key values with considerable emphasis on being Christ-centered and on Biblical teaching.

Men's Club reported that it continued to grow with an influx of new members, offsetting the losses experienced the previous year. At Dinner Meetings, Men's Club adopted the practice of cooking more than was needed, which was then supplied to the Fraser Valley Women's Center (Women's Place).

The Men's Club continued to support the work in Africa being undertaken by Rich Roberts of ACTS, as well as a wide variety of local organisations under the guidance of Jock Ferguson, coordinator.

Two BBQs were held in the Orchard at A Rocha, thanks to the generosity of Markku Kostamo.

In October a work party of 11 parish members spent two days of fellowship at Camp Artaban on Gambia Island, helping with the year-end cleanup and building renovation.

A.C.W. reported they now had 20 active members, and Sheilagh Essex continued to send anniversary cards for young and old who were baptised at St. Mark's for the following three years. Hilda Smith also reported that they continued to take socks to the Mission to Seafarers, Christmas gifts to the residents of St. Jude's, donations of layettes and used clothing for distribution by Memorial House, and raise funds through used postage stamps and Campbell's soup labels.

Kathryn Smith and Janet Van Nes worked at creating new and unusual articles to sell at the Holly Berry Fair and the Spring Luncheon.

The Ecumenical World Day of Prayer was held in St. Mark's on March 2, 2008. It was considered a very successful event with Annette Fergusson as guest speaker.

Ladies Evening Guild reported they assisted at the Men's Club Pancake Supper, and were also involved in the Lenten Lunch Program. They also assisted A.C.W. with the

World Day of Prayer. The Guild outreach supported a young lady in Africa by helping her to finish her schooling and hopefully go into nursing.

Kathryn Smith, President of the Alter Guild, reported they continued to work behind the scenes, setting up for all weekly and special services. They were installing new cabinets in the sacristy and thanked everyone who helped, financially and in manpower. New members continued to be needed. The group met four times a year, following the 10:00AM Wednesday service, to discuss the decorating or future special services.

A great welcome was given to the Rev. Craig Tanksley and his wife Holly who arrived on April 22, 2008 to be the interim Rector. Born in Tacoma, Washington, and now a Canadian citizen, he had extensive experience in both evangelical and Anglican churches, as well as missionary service in the Far East. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwest University, Kirkland, Washington. He studied at the Fuller Theo-



logical Extension in Seattle, and completed a Master's degree in Theological Studies from Regent College, Vancouver, B.C.

He was ordained by the Assemblies of God in 1981 and as an Anglican Priest in 2001. The Rev. Craig Tanksley went to St. Alban's in 2002. He energized and enriched the parish with his enthusiasm, his irrepressibly sunny temperament, loving and attentive pastoral care, and outstanding preaching. In the spring of 2008, he left St. Alban's to join the pastoral team at St. Mark's.

The Rev. Craig Tanksley was born into one of the smaller Pentecostal organizations called the Open Bible Standard Churches. He was described by the Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett of the Vancouver School of Theology, as "one who, rooted in the neo-Pentecostal tradition, has come to a deeper appreciation of the Anglican tradition."

On joining St. Mark's, the Rev. Tanksley said, "I want parishioners to grow into the full stature of Christ. I want them to attain the maturity in faith to which God is calling them. I believe that God is calling all of us to be more than we are; something that God envisions us to be. A good picture of full Christian maturity can be seen in Psalm 1. Those who walk in the counsels of the Lord, 'are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither'. Bearing fruit year after year, faithfulness rooted in drinking of the life of God and bearing the fruit of the Kingdom of God. That's what I want to see happened to people. We won't

arrive in this life to full Christian maturity, but the thing is to keep on this road, growing to fruitful maturity."

He brought a lifelong love of gospel music. His wife Holly, also an ordained minister in the Pentecostal Church, brought a beautiful singing voice.

Justin and Liz Read-Smith left the parish in May 2008. Justin was ordained and began his Curacy in London, England.

In 2008, Lynne Hurd became Bishop's Warden. Michael Klaver and Barbara Carrington Smith became People's Wardens.

The Youth Leadership was formed with Cam MacPherson and Lauren Smith taking up the reins, under the guidance of the Rev. Jonathan Blanchard.



Some of the members of the Congregation, in the Garden

Wendy Aiken, Kate Hoos and Margaret Appleton took on the leadership of running the Sunday School, with an average of 20 children attending each week. The Summer School being organised by Pat Zammit, with the help of volunteers and parents, proved a great success. Also at Christmas, Pat organised a pageant with the children for the congregation to enjoy.

A special event was held in the church in September, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the A.C.W. At the event, members of St. Mark's A.C.W. read the lessons, led the Prayers of the People and acted as Greeters and sides-people. The special speaker was Judy Bueschkens, past President of the Diocesan A.C.W. A luncheon was provided for the parishioners who stayed and studied numerous displays of the work and outreach of the A.C.W. through the years.

The Mission Ministry Team, Brian Walks, Barbara Walks, Toni Wallis and Patricia Hall reported that St. Mark's welcomed inspiring visits and presentations by Skye and Chris Walks with Camp Artaban, and Clara Atagi from Mercy Ministries, Surrey. Also Frank Pearson with his team showcased the Front Room Community Outreach Ministry, with a moving presentation from Sheila, a homeless woman who benefited from the Front Room program.

Anne Schreck reported that the "Get Fit, Keep Fit" committee work was now complete, new ministries had been created, new directions were in focus, and some groups were praying and pondering their formation.

- Alpha
- Newcomers
- 2) 3) 4) Seniors Ministry Feeding the poor, Caring for the homeless
- 5) 6) The Budget is a vision of the Church
- Children and Youth
- 7) A loving and caring community (on a practical basis)
- Prayer & Healing Spiritual Growth & Development
- 10) Music Ministry
- 11) Environmental Stewardship
- 12) Evangelism

The committee consisted of John Reader (Chair), the Rev. Jonathan Blanchard, Anne Schreck, Jack Blachford, Barbara Carrington Smith, Brian Walks and Michael Weller.

In February 2009, the Rev. Craig Tanklsey was installed as St. Mark's Incumbent Rector by the Right Rev. Bishop Michael Ingham followed by the Rev. Jonathan Blanchard being installed as Associate Priest. The Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett was guest speaker.

The Building Envelope Committee was reinstated under the leadership of Drew Gauntley, beginning the task of initiating a campaign towards capital improvements, including the repair of the leaking envelope. A building envelope is the separation between the interior and the exterior environments of a building.

In October at the Parish Conference, themed "Stepping Up and Reaching Out", was a great success, with the Most Reverend Arch Bishop Douglas Hambidge and his wife Denise as keynote speakers. The highlight was the presentation of a cheque for over \$8,000, representing money raised for PWRDF in 2009.

That November, some 94 parishioners went to the home of the Rev. Craig and Holly Tanksley, where a blessing was held with the Rev. Eric Lowe officiating. Food and fellowship followed and was enjoyed by all.

The Right Rev. Bishop Michael Ingham appointed the Rev. Craig Tanksley to be the Regional Dean for the South Fraser Deanery, an expanded role of pastoral care and communication with fellow clergy.

Lauren Smith was appointed as coordinator of Youth Ministries, her energy and enthusiasm described as contagious.

Lynne Hurd was appointed Rector's Warden, with Michael Klaver and Barbara Carrington Smith as People's Wardens. They commented on the remarkable growth in the church, both in numbers and spiritually, and with finances growing also.

Treasurer Terry Zeal reported total revenue was \$358,700.91, and total expenses being \$358,577.42, giving a net surplus of \$123.49.

Music Director Deanna Blanchard said she had a core group of 15 in the choir, and many anthems were presented. The contemporary Praise Team with Michael Dirk on the organ was a great success. There was much enthusiasm among the group, and it was growing.

Children's Ministry also reported that the numbers were growing. They had two "Music Mania" Sundays led by Staci Silva and one by Jim Claydon. The Vacation Bible Study was led by Linda Zeal, with help from Pat Zammit and many volunteers. Wendy Aitken and Margaret Appleton and Kate Hoos arranged many different things for the children to participate in, along with all the teaching.

Readers Ministry had over 40 people involved in its special work each Sunday. Roberta and John Braddock served as coordinators.

The Outreach Ministry received \$11,550 and distributed \$11,446 to many people in need, including Front Room, Disabled Women, Lunch Basket for Hungry Children, and more.

Michael Weller, coordinator of Bible Studies during 2009, reported eight groups undertook 15 different Bible Studies, in which 100 people participated. Journey of Christmas celebrated its 10th anniversary as a wonderful way for people to come and see Jesus' birth. Heavy winds and rains forced fewer people to come, but many nights 250 people would make the Journey. Brian Walks, Chairman, reported this is all about "putting Christ back into Christmas".

The A.C.W. was very active with 21 members and two honorary members. Kathryn and Hilda Smith made two trips to W.A. House to bring donations from St. Mark's of used and new clothing, stamps, soup labels, layettes as well as socks for Seafarers. A.C.W.'s two money raising events, the Spring Luncheon and Holly Berry Fair, were very successful. \$5,660 was distributed to local and outreach charities.

Gillian Jones took over as President of A.C.W from Hilda Smith who had held this position for many years. Janet Van Nes along with Sharon Hughes co-ordinated receptions for seven funerals and one wedding, helped by many members of A.C.W. Sheilagh Essex sent out 31 baptismal cards in 2009. Kathryn Smith and Janet Van Nes made many wonderful crafts for the two events.

Evening Guild reported they had received \$7,255.48 and distributed \$9,767.18 to Outreach, Bursary, PWRDF, St. Mark's furnace repairs, Operation Eyesight, Surrey Food Bank, and more. The Guild had been in operation for over 40 years, with Sue Indridson and Debra Maxell at the helm for many years.

St. Mark's Men's Club with Jock Ferguson as coordinator saw a growth in membership. The group was doing a variety of jobs around the church, enjoying great fellowship, running two B.B.Q's in the summer. Stan Hodgson was still supplying his wonderful pies, now ably helped by Brian Maxwell.

Prayer Ministry coordinator Lynne Hurd reported that 18 men and women in the parish prayed daily for the petitions given to them by the congregation. Mary Brown agreed to take over this Ministry.

Olive Pociwauschek reported that there were 27 people visiting 32 parishioners on whatever basis the visitor is able to maintain.

A New Comers Team Ministry was started this year with Holly Bear Tanksley as coordinator. She reported that St. Mark's had many visitors with a number staying to

become part of the congregation. Three New Comers fellowships were held during the year, introducing a total of 45 adults and teenagers and eight children to some of the church leadership and life of St. Mark's.

In 2009, the church kitchen storage area was subdivided to provide space for a sound room serving the hall and an area for Altar Guild storage.

A Seniors' Christmas Lunch was held in the parish hall with 68 guests attending, and enjoying a performance by the White Rock Children's Choir. Olive Posiwauschek, Isabel Chernoff and many volunteers helped to run this event.

The Men's Club again hosted a Christmas Dinner for 120 members, wives, and guests. A great time was had by all. This has been a tradition for many years.

In January 2010, a Celebration Service was held for the 20 year anniversary of the building of the new Church Sanctuary. The Rev. Peter and Pamela Niblock, and the Rev. Jim and Annette Fergusson attended. A luncheon was held in the church hall afterwards to celebrate this milestone. Festivities included a "roasting" for the Office Administer Leigh Peddle, honouring her 20 years of service to St. Mark's.