



January, 2012

Voices from the Past

Our Sanctuaries

The Presbytery purchased the land for St. Mark (10.77 acres) in 1960 for \$65,000, several years before the congregation was organized. Within the first year, a church building was being discussed under the leadership of Bob Lucas, our organizing pastor. Dec. 1963, Kenneth Wischmeyer was chosen as the architect with ground-breaking in 1964. The first sanctuary and classroom building (now Fellowship Hall and the Pre-school area) was built for \$130,000 and dedicated in 1965. The bell tower in the photo was omitted from the plan.

By 1969, the congregation had outgrown the space, but postponed a building program until the new pastor, Howard Gleason, came in 1970. P. John Hoehner was selected as the architect for the new building with would include the church and pastor's offices (still being used as pastors' offices and a conference room), choir room (102), and the sanctuary (now the Narthex). In order to finance the building program, though, we had to sell 5.4 acres (Caprice Gardens Court).

This sanctuary (Narthex) was dedicated in 1974. The stained glass (our long windows) was described: "The thirty faceted glass windows. . . with reds and yellows at the top marking daybreak, and blues at the bottom, marking nightfall. The glass has been purposely chipped to refract light. The glass is held in place by a combination of epoxy and small rocks, in something of the manner the first windows were made 1,000-1,100 years ago."

By 1986, St. Mark needed another sanctuary. After several studies including a geological one which determined we could build a basement (with some blasting), Gale Hill was selected as the architect. Instead of turning the "old" sanctuary into classrooms as some suggested, the Gale Hill design created the gathering area in our beautiful Narthex.

In addition to a sanctuary seating 500-600, we had a new choir room, additional classrooms, parking and space for new offices--- all built by L.A. Schaefer Construction with our member Bob Schaefer. Howard Gleason remembers, "[Raising the steeple] was a neat moment. A handful of people watched a workman riding the steeple in the air with the help of a crane 100 feet above the ground while another crane lifted the cross." Dedication was February 1990.

Although a new office was in the original plan, it had to be cut due to budget problems. We had "The Rock Garden", an area that was finished on the outside but just gravel on the inside until 1998.



Christmas Card Tree

The year 2011 marks the 39th year that St. Mark Presbyterian Church has elected to greet others in the congregation by way of one greeting card on the tree at the church. The idea was first proposed by our late member Genie Reniker. The savings made in postage and cards is placed in a box at the base of the tree, and the money is given to the work of our Children's Foundation of Mid-America. It's a good feeling when the check goes in the mail to make an investment in young lives. We hope you share that sense of joy, knowing that young lives that have experienced immense troubles in such a short period of time are receiving positive help.

Those who have chosen to greet you in this manner in this year are listed below. Read this list with care, and know that they have been thinking about you, about the young lives aided through our Children's Foundation of Mid-America, and the love Christ gives to each of us.

Bill & Arbogast
Fern & Leon Argo
Bob & Boots Berry
Dale & Hellen Birkbeck
Dick & Doris Blumer
Ray & Donna Bosenbecker
Joan Buses
Frank & Charlene Calkins
Shirley Carroll
Jim and Peggy Carson
Fred & Terry Conrad
Linda and Paul Doane
Steve & Barb Drake
Jerry & Joyce Dressel
Barb Gray

Helen Heyde
Barry & Marie Holt
Helen & Kirby Hook
Earl & Mae Hudson
Jim and Ellen Hynes
Wray & Diana Johanning
Glen & Brenda Keely
Doc & Lee Koch
Bertha Larez
Tim & Ann Leonard
Mary, Dave and Hannah
Jan Loudon
Jack & Esther MacDonald
The Manhals
Larry & Pat Marshall

Virginia Maule
Bob, Ethel & Ken McLuen
Mike & Marilyn McMillen and Family
Karen Meister
Millie Miller
Keith & Marci Monteith
Larry & Doris Dieckgraefe-Mrazek
Gary & Sherry Naylor
Ed & Lu Perantoni
Eric & Susan Peters
Randy & Becky Pierce
Rick, Mary Beth & Koda Powell
Katie Ritchey
Connie Roessler
George & Cathy Schindler

Isabelle Schrepfer
Arleen Schulenburg
Dale & Sally Shepherd
Dorothy Showman
Norm, Valery, Amanda & Sarah
David & Nancy Sutch
Marie Tennill
Susan Tiffany
Flo Warfield
Mike & Dale Weir
Ralph and Jack Wuetherich

Session Snippets

Session Notes from the December Meeting

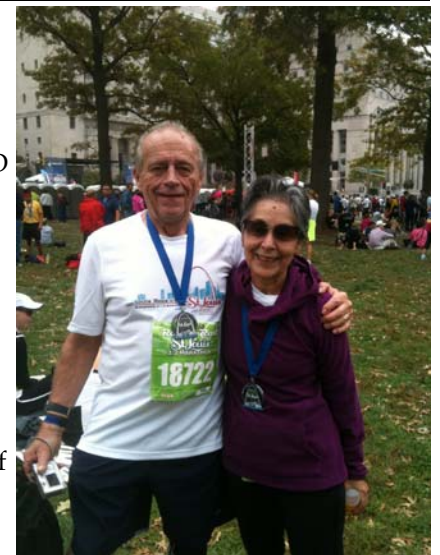
• Mary Bracke, our faithful organist, will play for the St. Mark congregation for the last time on January 29, 2012. She and her husband have moved to Columbia. We wish them all the best and thank her for her years of service.

- Trivia Night is being moved to February.
- In January watch for the beginning signs of celebration for St. Mark's 50th Anniversary.
- The 2012 Budget was approved.

Elders who had completed their terms – Bill Arbogast, Andrea Larimer, Doris Martin, Shari Pfefferkorn, Jim Thurman, and Dick Wallace – were thanked for their work and dedication to St. Mark.

Fifth Annual Half Marathon

Over the past four years, 39 people whom had never been in a half marathon race crossed its start line, AND all of them finished its 13.1 miles. Their age range was 25 to 71 years with the median age about 56. This feat was accomplished under the auspices of the St. Mark Virtual Training Partner Program. Since then 26 of them decided it was such a rewarding experience that they have gone on to



either walk or run yet another half marathon. Pictured are Dick Wallace and Bertha Larez who walked/ran their first one two years ago. Dick is now the owner of four half marathon medals and Bertha owns three.

So if, right now, you can **walk** for 30 minutes, then you, too, have the potential to earn a medal at the Go! St. Louis Half Marathon this April 15. The 14-week training program begins with a meeting on Saturday, January 7, 8:30 a.m. at church. Contact Victoria Sherman for more information AND visit www.gostlouis.org.

Thank You

Our heartfelt appreciation to each caring heart of our St. Mark family. I always think of the prayer of St. Francis when I think of St. Mark family being the shadow of our peace. The encouragement of hugs, cards, prayers, and food. Property Committee and the cleaning ladies came to help do things Jim couldn't do all summer long. So many gifts of caring from everyone.

We are very grateful to the girls in the office giving us hugs, calls and support. The memorial service and the mercy meal. The ministers love and support. I just know that Jim was so touched and grateful to be with his St. Mark family one last time.

Bless everyone,
Jim's family

* * * * *

Thank you for your kind expression of sympathy. At times like this your comfort and support mean more than words can say.

Bill

* * * * *

Thank you to everyone at St. Mark for the meals, phone calls, cards and visits during my recovery from surgery this fall. It was so appreciated. Bill and I really felt the love from our church family. Thank you everyone!

Vicki and Bill

St. Mark Supper Club

Date & Time: January 21 at 6:30P.M.

Join your church family parents (singles & doubles) for an evening of good food, and fellowship. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Childcare provided which includes pizza and snack for the children. (Donation for childcare requested.)

R.S.V.P. Patricia Rouff

Deacon Endeavors

The St. Mark congregation donated an amazing amount of food for clients of the Circle of Concern in the past few months. The high was in November bags of groceries, plus 4 bags of goods for children's birthday parties, as well as toiletry items.

The Caregiving committee served another luncheon in December for members who provide extra care for their loved ones, participated in the distribution of dozens of meals to congregants, sent get-well and sympathy cards, and made sure that homebound members received CDs of Sunday services.

Dozens and dozens of used clothes were taken to Isaiah 58 charity. And dozens and dozens of shoes were given to the 'Shoeman' to be sold to generate money for clean water projects in Third World countries.

On November 13, the St. Mark/Red Cross Blood drive had 25 participants.

Transportation Committee is facilitating the average of one member to church services weekly.

The Holiday House Tour was successful not only from a financial point of view (funds to support Lydia's House, an organization for abused women needing help), but from an outreach to showcase the St. Mark church and congregation. Many people touring came from outside of the St. Mark community. Those who attended the brunch saw our facilities and all experienced the warm spirits of the house hostesses as they toured. See separate article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Deacons provided leadership for the giving of gifts by our church members to the about 12 families in the 'Fostering Faithful Families' program.

Deacons voted to transfer any of their unspent funds at the close of this 2011 fiscal year to help retire the St. Mark Roofing Fund debt.

3rd Annual House Tour

The House Tour Committee would like to thank everyone for all their hard work and dedication to making St. Mark's Third Annual Holiday House Tour such a success. Approximately 50 St. Mark members volunteered their time and talents to insure that the event went smoothly. We are especially appreciative of the five homeowners who so generously opened their beautiful homes and shared their Christmas traditions with over 200 guests coming from Farmington to St. Charles. With a cool, sunny day, homeowners and guests alike seemed to enjoy the day. New this year was a delicious brunch served to 125 hungry tour goers earlier in the morning. Thanks to the success of the tour, Lydia's House, a shelter for abused and battered women and their children, will receive a generous donation.



St. Mark Financial Information

	November Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Offerings	\$67,924	*\$742,469 (*includes \$3,105 prepaid 2011 pledges)	\$729,662

Caregiving Christmas Party held Tuesday, December 13.



Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery Recognized

The Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery has received General Assembly Mission Council recognition as one of the top ten for involvement in Special Offerings. Approximately \$181,000 was donated in 2010 by our Presbytery. St. Mark contributed to that total. The Special Offerings include the Christmas Joy Offering, the One Great Hour of Sharing, the Peacemaking Offering, and the Pentecost Offering.

Through those opportunities we have supported retired church workers and their families, education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools, disaster response and related needs, and assistance for children-at-risk, as well as other causes.

Thank you for your commitment to these offerings and causes.

Library Corner

Since the month of January is Martin Luther King's birthday, books for the intermediate or middle school age young people include:

Run Away Home by Patricia McKissack, a native of St. Louis, is a story of an escape by a native American boy from a train taking his people to an Indian Reservation who hides in the barn of a recently freed black family. Turn him over to the authorities or find another solution to the problem? After all, "People deserve to be free."

Five Brave Explorers by Wade Hudson tells the stories of five explorers who happened to be black. Esteban discovered the territories of Arizona and New Mexico. Jean Baptiste Point DuSable founded Chicago. James Beckwourth helped develop the American West. Matthew Henson reached the North Pole. Mae C. Jemison traveled in space.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott by Conrad Stein tells the story of Rosa Parks and the "first organized attack on the oppressive system of racial segregation in the South."

These books and others are on display on the book cart outside the Adult Library. Also look in the Children's Library in Room 20 on the lower level for more books.

Teachers! Want a story to supplement your lesson. Books on the current curriculum study are available on the book cart also.

COME IN AND CHECK US OUT!

Presbyterian Women invite you to join us for

Precious Moments Together

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a time of reflection
through the Bible-inspired art of

Samuel J. Bucher



The tea table will be set with goodies featuring
fruits for the spirit in the midst of winter.

The Lord is my shepherd
I shall not want.
Psalm 23

This event is **NOT** for women only!
Check the PW Table in the Narthex for more
information about how you can be part of this
gala occasion!

Upcoming PW Events

- Jan. 4 PW Board meeting and Un-decorate Tree
- Jan. 25 Book Club Room 102 – 10:00 am
In the Garden of Beasts, by Erik Larson

YOGA

Join us for Yoga practice in Rooms 18/19, Tuesday, January 10 and 24 from 9:30am-10:30 am. (bring your mat)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

February Issue January 20

March Issue February 17

E-mail Newsletter & Bulletin materials to

cpfeil@discoverstmark.org

E-mail Items for the website to Cathy Schindler:

cschindler@discoverstmark.org



10:00-11:00 am Please join us!

Jan 5 and 19 'Miriam: Courage'

Feb 16 and Mar 1 'Hannah: Prayer'

Miriam, the first woman prophet in the Hebrew Bible reclaims for us the story of this strong female leader from the early days of our tradition.

Hannah was a woman who strived to maintain a faithful prayer life and relationship with God through times of pain as well as times of joy.

We meet these women as we bridge the generations and discover that we share similar stories and experiences of courage and prayer.

ST. MARK SAINTS & CIRCLE OF CONCERN
THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE

“ANGEL TREE PROJECT”





Happy Birthday!!

to the following St. Mark members, celebrating "their" day during the month of January. If your name is not listed, please contact the church office.

1/1	Wayne Bartell		Libby Stokes		Glenn Knopf	1/26	Grace Carmichael
	Ben Buchanan	1/9	Linda Baker	1/19	Taylor Staniforth	1/27	Michael Anderson
	Toby McCance		Sally Ebinger	1/20	Jameson Wild		Stephanie Knopf
1/3	Michelle Rowe	1/11	Chase Lambie	1/21	Craig Adoor		Togu Lumbantobing
	Ruth Shelton		Robyn Mikes		David McKelly		Andrew Thomas
	Jacob Wipke		Hayden Seidel	1/22	Carol Cox		Ernest Tuttrow
1/4	Delores Silies	1/12	Sean McLaughlan		Vicky Roberson	1/28	Jacob Coletto
1/5	Susan Anderson		Allison Pfefferkorn	1/23	Shirley Carroll		Kathy Durney
1/7	Phyllis Cobb	1/13	Brad Baber		Bruce Cramer	1/29	Emily Coletto
	Susan Mathews		Isabella Deters		Esther MacDonald		Trevor Vogl
	Sherry Naylor	1/14	Davide Pace		John Rodney	1/30	Greg Nuckolls
	Janet Smith	1/16	Merv Yoder		Larry Siebern		Terry Peterson
	Carol Weber		Sharon Yoder		Mike Smith		Valery Steiner
	Martin White	1/17	Bruce Cranston	1/24	John Dofter	1/31	Payton Sutherland
1/8	Carol Pfeil		Keven Dauve		Ashley Noark		
	Gary Seidel		Daniel Sidoti	1/25	Greg Reiter		
	Paul Stadnik	1/18	Frank Calkins		Carole Stafford		

SAINTS FELLOWSHIP (3rd, 4th & 5th Grades)

Saints Fellowship is sponsored by Children's Ministries. We incorporate mission projects and fun events to nurture their community of friendship within our church family. Parents are welcome and encouraged to participate in our events.

January 8	Swimming at the Point
January 22	Lunch followed by a road trip to Bounce U for <i>Cosmic Bouncing!</i>
February 12	Ice Skating for all youth groups
March 11	Bowling
April 01	Jerusalem Festival
May 5-6	Mound Ridge

Service project schedule to be announced in 2012

YOUTH STUFF!!

Middle School Youth Group will meet on Wednesday January 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

High School Sunday School will meet **High School Youth Group** will meet Sundays January 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 4 to 6pm.

Youth and Family Lunch Hope you can join us Sunday January 8 for the Youth and Family Lunch following the 10:30 am worship service!

Youth Worship At An African American Church & Lunch Sunday January 15, our youth will gather at 9:15 am at St. Mark and head to an African American church for an awesome worship experience! Following worship, we'll have lunch and should return to St Mark by 2pm.

High School Youth Outing to City Museum All St. Mark high school youth and their friends are invited to City Museum, Saturday January 21. We'll gather at St. Mark at 3 pm and we'll return around 8 pm. Hope to see you there!



ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Transforming Lives in Jesus Christ

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15th Annual Women's Retreat *March 2-3, 2012*

“Our Daily Bread”

Reverend Susan Hayes
Retreat Leader

Sleeping with Bread..

During the bombing raids of World War II, thousands of children were orphaned and left to starve. The fortunate ones were rescued and placed in refugee camps where they received food and good care.

But many of these children who had lost so much could not sleep at night.

They feared waking up to find themselves once again homeless and without food.

Nothing seemed to reassure them.

Finally, someone hit upon the idea of giving each child a piece of bread to hold at bedtime.

Holding their bread, these children could finally sleep in peace.

All through the night the bread reminded them, “Today I ate and I will eat again tomorrow.”

Bread is the sustenance of life. Join us in celebrating the *‘bread of life.’*

*Retreat information will be available at the PW Table in the Narthex
January 22, 2012*