

August 2018

## *No Small Thing*

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“Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”  
(John 13:33-35, NRSV.)

**G**rowing up, we were the family that attended church on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday nights. If the church doors were open, it was a pretty good bet the Burgess family was there. I knew the church layout by heart, all the familiar hymns, and what dishes went the quickest at the monthly congregational potluck. Most of all, I knew I was loved, and this is no small thing.

I write this message on the last day of Vacation Bible School. It is such a joy to hear the singing, see the smiling faces, and share in the learning going on in our facility this week. A small army of volunteers are making this a memorable week for church kids and guests from all over our community. The kids are growing through crafts, science, story time, and creative play. Some kids might forget the daily lesson, but I believe they will always remember they are loved at St. Mark, and this is no small thing.

VBS wraps up at noon today, and the sanctuary will transform once again to its usual setup for Sunday worship. We had services of “Witness to the Resurrection” on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. I talked with the families earlier this week about the upcoming funeral services, and the theme that came up repeatedly is how much these individuals loved St. Mark and how much they were loved in return. This is no small thing.

Sometimes, we look at the world’s problems and wonder how we can ever possibly make a difference. Walking through life can break our hearts. However, I believe there is good news all around for the youngest and oldest in our community. We can persevere in loving each other and the world in a wide variety of ways, and when we feel completely spent, we can come to our community of faith and be reminded of God’s eternal love for us. This is no small thing. It is everything!

In Hope and Confidence,  
Pastor Dave



## Deacon Doings

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The Stephen Ministry Program is a service under the St. Mark Board of Deacons. What is a Stephen Minister? What do they do? Do you know? We are the people who quietly walk with you through difficult times. We offer one-on-one confidential care to anyone who wishes to receive it. We deliver prayer shawls to many people in the congregation to help comfort and remind them how much God loves them. Did you know the Stephen Ministers have offered cancer support to the congregation and the community? We also have GriefShare. This is a support program for anyone who has lost a loved one. We know what you are going through and want to help. Don't go through the grieving process alone. We have a new session starting September 11. Call Debbie Hames for information.

Currently we have ten active Stephen Ministers and would like to add more. Is this a ministry that is calling to you? Are you a good listener and want to help people? Consider joining us. We will be starting a new training session this fall. Call Jean Steward for information.

## We're Excited!

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Our congregation's Stephen Leaders are ready to launch a new training class for Stephen Ministers. If you want to find out more about this one-to-one caregiving Ministry, please contact Jean Steward or Debbie Hames.

The Leader in charge of training, says: "It's work, it's fun, it's a great time for spiritual growth. I'm excited about finding out who God will bring together in our training session."

**One Sunday Worship  
Service at 9:30 AM**  
through  
**September 2, 2018**  
**(Saturday evening worship  
continues at 5 PM.)**

## Celebrating Pastor Burgess First Year at St. Mark

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Time Flies! Pastor Dave Burgess and family will celebrate one year at St. Mark on Sunday, August 5! Let's celebrate with a little bit of pie and coffee after the 9:30 AM church service! If you would like to share your favorite pie recipe and bake up a delicious homemade treat to share with your church family, please sign up at the table in the Narthex! See you there!

## New Call for Rev. Jim Poinsett

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Rev. Poinsett, our interim preceding Rev. Dr. Dave Burges's call to St. Mark, will be the new Interim Pastor/Head of Staff of the Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Bucks County, PA, which is outside of Philadelphia, where he currently resides. He will begin his ministry at TMPC on August 1.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

September Issue

August 17

October Issue

September 21

E-mail Newsletter & Bulletin materials to

[cpfeil@discoverstmark.org](mailto:cpfeil@discoverstmark.org)

E-mail Items for the website

to Cathy Schindler: [cschindler@discoverstmark.org](mailto:cschindler@discoverstmark.org)

## Music Notes

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**T**hank You to all our summer musicians, youth, adult, singers, and instrumentalists who have provided Inspirational Music for our Worship Service. This is a fun time of year for me as I get to work with a wide variety of musicians, and to get to know people a little better. You, the congregation, get the opportunity to be still and listen to God's voice through beautiful and inspiring music. And God gets to enjoy us as we worship together! Win-win-win! **But we are not done yet!**

**Give-It-A-Try Bell Choir** will meet Wednesday, August 8 at 6:15 PM for about 45 minutes to learn a simple piece to play on Sunday, August 19 in worship. This is for current, former, and wanna-give-it-a-try bell players. (YOUTH (grade 5 and up) and ADULTS. Basic note reading skills are needed-- quarter notes, half notes, whole notes. (We will give the trickier parts to the experienced players). I **do** need to know how many will be there in order to pick music, so PLEASE let me know by August 1 if you want to come. [mmedley@discoverstmark.org](mailto:mmedley@discoverstmark.org).

**More Bells News.** Thanks to a generous donation from an appreciative congregant, the Bells will go off to be refurbished on Monday, August 13, and are scheduled to be returned the week of August 27. Breaking springs, out-of-whack tension, etc. etc. have made the bells challenging this year, so it is time for a major overhaul. This refurbishment should make them easier to play and allow us many more years of providing beautiful music in worship.

**Chancel Choir** will have their first rehearsal on Wednesday, August 29 at 7 PM to get a headstart on our September music and the Christmas Cantata. Talks are underway for organizing a social hour after rehearsal (starting at 8 PM). Maybe wine and cheese? Dessert?? We can catch up and get reacquainted as we start the new choir year.

**Page Turners Needed!** When I play difficult Preludes, I often struggle with page turns. Have you ever wanted to get up close to the organ to see how it works? Then this is an opportunity for you. If you are interested in turning pages for me on the Prelude, contact me at [mmedley@discoverstmark.org](mailto:mmedley@discoverstmark.org). Youth (5 foot tall or more) and adults are welcome. You do not have to read music, just watch for my nod, and be ready to turn.

*Soli Deo Gloria*  
*Marsha Medley*

## St. Mark Eagle Scout Gives Closing Prayer at 223rd General Assembly

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**E**agle Scout Patrick Rouff, an active youth at St. Mark, was selected to give the closing prayer he wrote in consultation with Pastor Dave Burgess, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Presbyterian Church (USA) 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly on Wednesday, June 20, 2018. Patrick represented of The National Association of Presbyterian Scouters and the Boy Scouts of America.

Patrick is the son of David and Tricia Rouff. They, along with their daughter Meghan, are very active in the St. Mark Children and Youth Ministries.

Patrick is an Eagle Scout in Troop 603. He holds three of the Religious Awards and is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. He will be a Senior at Lafayette High School. This summer Patrick is serving as an Intern at Keystone Software in Eureka.

A Video of Patrick' s prayer can be found at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9b6pwohzbz0syllw/Patrick%20GA%20Prayer%203.mp4?dl=0>



If you have been told *Giraffe's Can't Dance*,  
come see for yourself!

**Presbyterian Women's  
2018 Fall Brunch**

**Saturday, September 8 at 10 AM**

The PW Board invites you to be our guests  
for a get together with fellowship, delicious food,  
entertainment and reflection.

This is a time to catch up with friends and make new ones.

As always, we guarantee smiles  
and a few laughs along the way.



Plan now to make  to the PW Brunch!

PW Board members be making calls the last week in August to take your reservation!

*St. Mark Outing*



Come join us for a day at the ballpark. Enjoy a St. Louis Cardinals game against the Milwaukee Brewers. The game

is at 1:15 PM on Sunday, August 19. This is the Cardinals Hall of Fame Weekend. Adults will receive a Dizzy Dean watch, and the kids will enjoy a free frozen treat and running the bases. Each ticket also includes a free hot dog and soda. Tickets are \$20 each. For more information please see Ellen Hynes or Elizabeth Oglesby.

*Training in CPR and First Aid*

We have a few spots in CPR/first aid/Automated External Defibrillator training scheduled for Friday, August 17. Claymont Preschool teachers will be attending and we hope some members of our congregation will also find this a convenient time and decide to join us. The training will be conducted away from St. Mark. For more information, please contact Lynne Dauve at [ldauve@discoverstmark.org](mailto:ldauve@discoverstmark.org). Please join us!

**Upcoming PW\* Events**

**\* Presbyterian Women**

- August 16 Ruth Circle 9:30 AM Library
- August 22 Book Club, 9:30 AM  
*Bear Town* by Fredrik Backman  
PW Board Meeting, 11:30 AM
- August 23 PW Board Members will begin making calls about the Brunch.

**PW Annual Fall Brunch**  
Saturday, September 8  
10:00 AM.



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## Thank You

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It is with the sincerest and warmest feelings that we express our appreciation for the care given to Don and his family during his illness and passing. Pastor Dave's visits and prayers, along with the congregation's ongoing prayers were felt and helped sustain us during this very difficult time. The assistance from the church staff and volunteers at his memorial service and the luncheon that followed was incredible. Don's faith was strong and unending. He appreciated the church more than words can express.

The Family

Thanks to Dave for his hospital visits. The flowers, cards, phone calls, prayer shawl were appreciated. Special thanks to my friends from Adult Discussion Group for their daily visits as it helped pass the time. Thanks for all the concerns.

Ron & Shirley

Thank you from Joan's Family,

After Mom's memorial service on Friday, the family gathered at Mom's condo to celebrate her life and comfort each other. Thanks to all who sent cards and came by to visit Mom. She was blessed with your thoughts and prayers. We also enjoyed the goodies provided by St. Mark. Mom felt blessed to have such a great church family. Not only did you welcome Mom and Dad with open arms as new members, you embraced them with your love for many years. God Bless you all!

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## Library Corner

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New additions to the Adult Library include:

Half Truths: God helps those who help themselves and other things the Bible doesn't say by Adam Hamilton examines some half truths people often believe that sometimes when repeated can hurt people. These half truths can lead people to conclusions about God that are not only untrue, but may push some people away from God.

What am I supposed to do with my life? Asking the right questions by Douglas J. Brouwer offers a personal, spiritual response to the vocational questions people often ask. This book will encourage many to reflect on their lives and vocations.

Angry people...and what we can learn from them by Warren W. Wiersbe uncovers some surprising insights about anger and points out biblical principles that will help you control and display anger in a way that protects, builds up and brings glory to God. The anger of Moses, David, Elisha, Jesus, and Jonah are discussed.

These books can be found on the cart in the Narthex.

COME IN AND CHECK US OUT!

## Vacation Bible School 2018 – Rolling River Rampage

Paddle Captain, Lauren Arnet, and song leaders, Sarah Burgess and Julie Prine, shared Rolling River Rampage with over 150 children this last week. One couldn't miss the enthusiasm throughout St. Mark! Special thanks to the 70+ volunteers who stepped in to share God's amazing love and keep the children safe. May we all remember their "Rafter Ready" verse, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. Isaiah 43:2"



## Christian Ministries

### Upcoming Dates to Place on Your Calendar

Blessing of the Backpacks is Sunday, August 12 during the 9:30 AM service.

Regular Children's Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, September 9 during the 10:30 AM service.

## LED Bulb Replacement

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The Property Committee has 1,200 used florescent bulbs to dispose of. If you can use any or all of these bulbs, some of each size will be available in the Pastor's hallway, along with a variety of screw-in bulbs, help yourself. **FREE FREE FREE !!!**

The Property Committee has been replacing 1,200± existing florescent and incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs throughout the church since the first of the year. The use of LED bulbs is estimated to save the church approximately \$8,000 a year in electrical cost and in addition the life expectancy of the LED bulbs is 8 to 10 years. We have joined Ameren Electric in their "Incentive Program" to convert to the LED bulbs, wherein they pay for the majority of the cost of the bulbs.



ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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BALLWIN, MO 63011

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