

November 2018

Kindness Everywhere

November is always busy at church as we remember loved ones who are now with the Lord on All Saints' Sunday, dedicate our financial pledges on Celebration Sunday, rejoice for everything God has given us on Giving Thanks Sunday, and delight in the Reign of Christ on the final Sunday of the month. We have a full slate of activities every weekend at St. Mark. The building will also be busy throughout the week with preschool activities, classes, and choir opportunities for all ages. Tuesdays are normally pretty quiet around here, but we will have plenty of our neighbors onsite when Gleason Hall becomes a polling place for the national, statewide, and local election on November 6.

I believe it is so important to take part in this process, and I am thankful to live in a country governed by the will of the people. We will not agree on every candidate, party, or issue, but I believe our strength is in our diversity and not our homogeneity. The Presbyterian Church has a Book of Common Worship; we do not have a Book of Common Opinion. God alone is Lord of the Conscience, and reasonable people can reasonably disagree. That's true in the sanctuary, the session room, and the ballot box.

I am weary of the constant attack ads, the retreat of many into political tribalism, and the complete lack of civility in public discourse. My hope is we can all be salt and light in this challenging season. It's important to vote our values, but to live out our values in the world is far more needed. I have learned it does no good to be right if we are not righteous; it honors God little to be powerful if we are not kind. I encourage you to begin every November morning singing/reading the words to the timeless hymn, "This is My Father's World."

This is my Father's world:
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world,
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

God is good all the time. May we seek kindness everywhere we go and live out kindness in everything we do.

In Hope and Confidence,
Pastor Dave



Deacon Doings

In December, the Deacons will again sponsor a fundraiser for the sole purpose of donating to Lydia's House. The St. Mark Christmas Tea will be held on December 1 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Narthex. Tickets will be sold after services on November 10-11, and we anticipate selling out. (Any remaining tickets will be sold at the Boutique on November 13-14.) Tickets are \$25.00 per person.

At St. Mark, this fundraiser has grown to be a multigenerational outreach to our congregation and our community. Deacons may organize the event, but the participation of other ministries makes it happen. Presbyterian Women offer their talents in developing very tasty savories, and Choir women have joined in the sweets area! St. Mark Youth continues to serve all guests with great courtesy dressed in those "fun to see" Christmas clothing!

How are funds raised for Lydia's House? Any items remaining from the PW Holiday Boutique can be purchased at the Christmas Tea. Then, the Silent Auction provides the best fundraising opportunity. Donations are gathered, and tickets to the event are sold. The event features local high school entertainment performing while tea is served; this year, Lydia's House chaplain will come again and speak for a few moments about their goals. Questions? Contact Debbie Cloud.

Giving Thanks Dinner November 18

St. Mark's annual Giving Thanks supper is **Sunday, November 18 at 11:30 AM**. Please RSVP by signing your family up to attend at the Fellowship Table in the Narthex. We will offer a children's menu this year, so please check that off on the sign-up sheet! Please bring a pie or dessert to share with your church family. We will be collecting non-perishable foods and/or monetary donations for **Circle of Concern**. (Monetary donations will be used to purchase fresh, perishable foods for Circle Clients.) Hope to see you and your family at the event!

Explore Membership at St. Mark

This is an exciting time in the life and ministry of St. Mark, and we encourage all our guests to learn more about the Christian faith, the Reformed Tradition, and our Presbyterian Church. We are offering a Membership Exploration Class on November 4, and November 11 from 9:30-10:25 AM. Pastor Dave will help facilitate this three-week class, and everyone is encouraged to attend. We are thankful you have "discovered" St. Mark, and we believe now is the time to explore the mission and ministry of our congregation. Please contact either Elder Linda Larimer or Pastor Dave (dburgess@discoverstmark.org) with questions or to RSVP.

Share Your Advent Story

With your help, the church blog (discoverstmark@blogspot.com) will again feature our members' stories, poems, photographs, thoughts, prayers, carols or appropriate scripture. To get you started, I will give you a list of words. Sit down in your favorite writing place and think about each word and Christmas or Advent.

When you are finished with your inspiration, send it to Jaclyn Moran, or put it in the "Historian's" mailbox in the office. We do have a deadline which is December 1 (Advent begins December 2)

Here is a "Word List" to get you started. More will be found in the bulletin or on the Congregation Bulletin Board on Facebook.

PROMISE
WONDER
PREPARE

Fall Festival 2018

The Fall Festival was enjoyed by children of all ages. The music from Good Turn Daily kept our toes tapping and moving around outside on a brisk fall day. Thank you to the numerous individuals who assisted in facilitating this day for our St. Mark families. Of course, Pastor Dave's new Root Biergarten was a huge hit for root beer and root beer floats!



Music Notes

Sarah Vlodek, our new children's music director started rehearsals on Wednesday, October 17. She has begun preparing the choir for a mini-musical to be presented Sunday, December 9. All you parents who have been waiting for this, it is time to commit! Sarah also met our middle school students, and if there is interest and commitment, she would be an enthusiastic musical leader for them. There will also be an opportunity for those who play instruments (at least 2 years of band/orchestra or private lessons) to participate in the Advent season and on Christmas Eve. Watch for bulletin announcements and emails!

The Chancel Choir has begun preparing the cantata **The Promise of a King** by Larson and Martin for Sunday, December 16 at the 10:30 AM service. We will again be accompanied by guest musicians. One feature of this cantata is the use of the Micah 6:6-8 passage. As we remember the wise men bringing their gifts to the newborn King, we are asked to think about what we can humbly bring to our Lord. We do invite anyone interested in singing with us to join us for rehearsals starting Wednesday, November 28 at 7:45 PM, then progressively earlier as we get closer to December 16. There is also a rehearsal Saturday, December 15 at 9 AM.

Soli Deo Gloria, Marsha

Christmas Boutique

Christmas Decorations and Ornaments
Handmade Holiday Items - Children's Items - Jewelry
Hand Painted Folk Art Items - Floral Arrangements
Personalized Items - Cookbooks
and Many More Unique Gift Ideas
Also Wonderful hand-made items and Fresh Baked Delicacies
by the women in our church

Tuesday · November 13 · 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday · November 14 · 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Join us for lunch or dinner at the

Angel Street Cafe

featuring:

St. Mark's Famous Chicken Salad
Homemade Soup - Salads - Heavenly Desserts

Join in on the Fun and Fellowship
By Helping with the Christmas
Boutique, Tuesday and Wednesday,
November 13 and 14

We need people to make soup, chicken salad and/or desserts, lend us card tables, help during the boutique and put a sign in your yard or neighborhood. It is a great time to fellowship with other members and those who come to visit. Please sign up at the PW table in the Narthex or call Laurie Dolson. I know you will have a great time! Yard signs will be available at the PW table in the Narthex by Wednesday, October 24.



Bake Sale Bakers and Candy Makers

Thanks to your response last year! This is a great fundraiser--people attending the Christmas Boutique look forward to picking up your home made goodies (cakes, pies, cookies, candy, breads, etc). We appreciate all your help and look forward to this year's contributions from all of you. We can't do it without you!

Here are some tips that will help this year:

DO make lots of your wonderful treats, and wrap them in clear plastic or put them in clear bags.

DO Label what you brought.

DO bring your goodies to the office annex the day before the Boutique or early Tuesday so we can price and get them ready for sale.

Please Do Not package your items in aluminum foil, colored plastic wrap or holiday themed gift bags that are hard to see through.

If there is anyone who is willing to bake something Gluten Free we had many requests for these. We could also use items that are Fat Free.

Anyone willing to bake some of these specialty items, please contact Sharon Cardwell.

Another adventure awaits...
Angels, Miracles and Stained Glass
It's a program. It's an outing.
It's both!

Thursday, November 1, 2018

8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Joan Huisinga
Tour Guide

With stops at
Convent of the Pink Sisters
Second Presbyterian Church
Christ Church Cathedral
Shrine of Saint Joseph
The New Cathedral
and lunch at Mary Ann's Tearoom

\$25.00 for tour plus your lunch at
Mary Ann's Tearoom.

**Due to space limitations
reservations will be required.**

For more information,
contact Mary Beth Powell.

**Reserve your place at the PW Table
in the Narthex.**

Attention: Go-Getter Ladies

Our next outing will be on Tuesday, November 6. (Please note the date change to the first Tuesday of the month, due to the Christmas Boutique.) Please mark your calendars now to attend our November outing to Magpie's on Main in St. Charles. This is an historic building and features an extensive menu.

We will be leaving the church at 11:30 AM. Bring a friend and join us for food, fun and fellowship.

We look forward to hearing from you soon if you plan to participate.

Stork Club

Congratulations to Kurt and Allison on the birth of Mabel Ray. The maternal grandparents are Glen and Brenda.

Christmas Alternatives – Our 18th Year of Giving

Because we are blessed with many material possessions, when Christmas comes around, we encounter a huge challenge selecting gifts for family and friends. Finding the perfect gift for someone who has many wonderful possessions is a difficult task! With this in mind, in 2001 the newly formed Mission Committee at St. Mark created “Christmas Alternatives.”

After much research the Mission Committee selected three international and four national missions to support during the first St. Mark Christmas Alternatives. A shopping list was created that included items such as: school supplies, chickens and other animals, scholarships to train nurses, vaccinations for villages, drilling a water well and more. Purchasing a gift through Christmas Alternatives not only honored the recipient, but also aided other deserving people.

During Christmas Alternatives 2018, you will be able to give support to our mission co-workers Jed Koball in Peru and Mark Hare in Haiti. You might select to purchase ducks, goats or seeds for farmers in Haiti. Perhaps the person you honor with a gift would appreciate knowing that their gift would be building a well, supporting a health clinic or training a nurse. Medical Benevolence Foundation and Marion Medical Mission will apply your gift to make this possible. This is our third year with “Give a Child Christmas” a component that we developed with Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services. This gift allows children to celebrate Christmas at a modestly priced restaurant and receive a gift of new clothing such as a sweater or shirt.

Thank you for your support during the past 17 years. Our displays will be in the Narthex in December. We look forward to helping you select the perfect gift!

Poinsettias

St. Mark will continue our tradition of using poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary the last two Sundays of Advent. Please consider ordering one or more poinsettia to brighten your home or order a plant to be delivered to a homebound member as a tangible reminder of their spiritual connection to St. Mark. Order forms can be found by the flower chart on the easel in the pastors’ office hallway. Place the order form and a check for \$6 per plant in the “Flowers” mailbox in the church office by Sunday, November 25. Our poinsettias are sourced from a locally owned greenhouse. Any questions, please contact Pat Eisenberg, Flower Committee chair .

Stewardship Weekend
November 10 and 11, 2018



“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10, NRSV.)

SAINT'S & SIBLINGS
FALL EVENTS

- November 11 Lunch and Angel Tree
at St. Mark
- December 9 Christmas Party & Angel Tree
Gift Wrapping at St. Mark

Library Corner

The holidays are fast approaching!

Library books for Thanksgiving include:

Thanksgiving Tales: True Stories of the Holiday in America edited by Brian D. Jaffe includes happy, sad, funny stories about the Thanksgiving holiday.

Lessons from the Holidays by Dr. James Scott, Jr. brief essays about Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year.

For children, we have:

Thanksgiving at Our House by P.K. Hallinan tells all the activities that a family could do on Thanksgiving Day.

Thank you for Thanksgiving by Dandi Daley Mackall. The boy in the story is the last of his family for say what they are thankful for. He finally decides to "talk to God and say what's true. Lord, can I give thanks for YOU? and thank YOU for Thanksgiving!"

COME IN AND CHECK US OUT!

CIRCLE OF CONCERN ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is appearing in the Narthex on Wednesday, November 14. Please select an angel or two to help provide a Merry Christmas for one of our Circle of Concern families. Thank you.

BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Shh...There is a rumor within the Children's Ministries Committee that Santa and his Elf are returning this year to greet the children on December 9. Join your St. Mark family following the 10:30 Worship Service for brunch and fellowship from 11:30 AM—1:30 PM.



St. Mark "Mom's Night" Out

Mom's Night Out, Friday, November 16 at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Prepare a kit with daily kid crafts and activities to go with associated scriptures. And enjoy an evening with other moms from the St. Mark community. Childcare will also be provided. To make sure we have enough supplies, please RSVP by November 5 to Shelley Lester.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

December Issue November 16
January Issue December 14

E-mail Newsletter & Bulletin materials to
cpfeil@discoverstmark.org

E-mail Items for the website
to Cathy Schindler: cschindler@discoverstmark.org



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DATED MATERIAL - Return Service Requested
