

October 2018

Worth It

“In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:10, NRSV.)

We’ve spent the month of September walking through the Epistle of James together in our worship services. It is not an easy journey because every passage speaks directly to us and highlights many of our shortcomings. In the midst of all these daunting challenges and calls for transformation, I believe we have a unique hope as we strive to draw closer to God. I want to remind you of this eternal truth.

We don’t do good works to get God to love us. We do good works because God *already* loves us. This joyful response is central to our faith and crucial to living out what we believe in a world desperate for Good News. The world says we’re only valuable when we are producing something, selling something, or buying something. God says I love you no matter what! I know it can be difficult to believe this at times. Either we don’t feel worthy, or we put on the thin veneer of self-importance and attempt to “fake it until we make it.” It reminds me of a story I heard awhile back. A new lawyer came to town. New city. New office. No clients. When he saw someone coming to his office, he immediately picked up his phone and said, “I’m flying to New York on the Timmons case; It looks like a biggie! Make sure to bring Paul in from New Jersey on the Pettus case. Also, I may be joining Houch, Staup, and Patton as a partner. Gotta go now, someone just walked in.” With that, he hung up his phone, turned to the man, and said, “Now, how may I help you?” The man replied, “I’m here to hook up the phone!”

We don’t have to try to impress God. The Lord loves you just the way you are, but God loves us so much, God doesn’t want us to remain where we are. Know that you are adored and accepted, and you don’t have to impress others to get your needs met. You are precious to God, and that means you are worthwhile. I hope you hear this Good News. Live it out this month!

In Hope and Confidence,
Pastor Dave



Deacon Doings

The Book of Order states: "It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress, both within and beyond the community of faith." The Care Giving Committee members share God's love to our church members in their time of need in a variety of ways. We coordinate meals, send cards, assemble Advent bags, and assist at funerals as needed.

Several St. Mark members prepare and deliver meals to individuals and families as needed through the year. In addition to these meals, we also provide "We Care" meals in April and October. These meals are prepared by the committee, as a group, in the church kitchen and then delivered to the recipients.

Cards are sent to new babies, sympathy, get well, birthdays, thinking of you, and USO Christmas cards. We appreciate the congregation's support by signing the cards that can be found on the Care Giving Table during worship services.

Along with all of the meals, cards, and funeral assistance, we are in our 2nd year of assembling and delivering Advent bags to our homebound members. The bags include 25 individually wrapped small gifts to be opened each day of Advent (or all of once if they so chose!)

If you would like to be added to the email distribution for providing meals thought the year or find out more information about joining the Care Giving Committee, please contact Christy Brewer.

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 October 28, 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.

Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Report

Our Ministry Information Form (MIF) is now available to applicants on the CLC (Church Leadership Connection). Session approved the MIF at the September 17 meeting and after approval from the Presbytery's Pastoral Transitions and Care Commission's moderator, Rev. Dr. Johanna Wagner and Clerk of Session, Carol Weber official approval our committee secretary, Clay Douglas, entered it on the PCUSA website. We anticipate receiving applications by the middle of the month. Meanwhile, we will be formulating our interview strategy.

We will take great care in our deliberation knowing that selecting the right person for St. Mark is the most important part of our search. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue our mission to select the best person to support St. Mark in our vision to share the hope and encouragement of our Christian faith by serving the entire congregation but primarily our youth and children. Respectfully; Jan Boehme, Tom Dolson, Clayton Douglas, Bertha Larez, Lisa Marsh, Loren Polak.

Session Snippets

The session completed a very large docket of important business at its September meeting. Among the highlights:

The session approved the Ministry Information Form (MIF) presented by the Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (DAPNC). The committee can now input the form online at Church Leadership Connection.

Applications for review by the DAPNC should start arriving shortly after this step is complete.

The session approved the job description presented by the Personnel Committee for a Church Office/Facilities Manager staff position. This position replaces the Office Manager staff position. The Church Office/Facilities Manager will primarily focus on the day-to-day operations of the church, facility management, human resources, communication, and information technology, and administration with staff, managing volunteers, assisting with financial management of the church, organizing events, and maintaining relationships. This position will be the first step in revamping the full-time staff duties and responsibilities to better adhere to our current church climate and position our full-time staff going forward.

The session enthusiastically affirmed member Donna Schiro's decision to answer a call to pursue training as a Commissioned Pastor, and approved allocation of funds to assist Donna with training expenses. Donna requests the prayers and support of her church family as she begins this exciting and wonderful new chapter in her faith journey.

October 7 is designated World Communion Sunday. The Peace and Global Witness special offering will be taken that day to support peacemaking and reconciliation ministries. The session approved the motion from Church Support that the 25% of funds retained by St. Mark be being evenly divided between the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services, and St. John Episcopal Church Peace Meal. Donor checks should be designated "Peace and Global Witness Offering" on the memo line, or use the designated envelop in the October packet.

Also happening on October 7, the session has called for a congregational meeting immediately following the 10:30 service for the purpose of electing officers. The nominating committee has worked diligently this spring and summer and is ready to present its slate of nominees. The names and short bios will be made available soon.

The Membership and Evangelism committee is offering new member classes beginning October 28 and is anticipating a large class. The new members will be presented to the congregation on November 18.

October Go-Getters Outing

Tuesday, October 9, we will be going to My Just Desserts in downtown Alton. The building dates to 1845 and the restaurant has been open since 1989.

They are known for their famous chicken salad and home made pies. As time permits, we can drive past the historic homes nearby and see the Elijah Lovejoy monument. We will leave from the church at 11:30 AM.

Please contact Jan Graves, Nancy Sutch, or Sharon Tharp. Our group meets for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month.

Isaiah 58 Needs

For the month of October, Isaiah 58 Ministry requests donations of shampoo, razors and canned (not glass) pasta sauce. The 900 families that this mission serves send a thank you for your generosity.

Mission Fundraiser – Plan Grande 2 Scholarship Fund – October 22 at LoRusso's

St. Mark and our sister congregations in the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery are actively involved in a long-term covenant partnership with the rural community of Plan Grande 2, Nicaragua. Supported by CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua), the mission of this partnership is to “follow Christ's example to love and care for one another as we cultivate understanding and acceptance of our similarities and differences, work for justice, share joy, hope and the message of the Gospel.”

St. Mark and the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery have been strong, consistent supporters of the Plan Grande 2 scholarship fund. This fund is carefully administered in collaboration with community leaders by PCUSA Mission Co-Worker Tracey King-Ortega and cross-presbytery support is coordinated by Harriet Hall and Barbara Wilcock.

Celebrate and Support our successful scholarship students

Learn about the recent national crisis in Nicaragua and the positive developments in Plan Grande 2

Explore ways to support and become involved in this mission

Enjoy a terrific meal at one of St. Louis' finest Italian restaurants

Monday, October 22, 2018, 6:00-9:00PM, Dinner served at 7:00 PM

LoRusso's Cucina, 3121 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63139

\$60 per person -- Reservations Required

RSVP by Wednesday, October 17 via email pg2nicaragua@gmail.com or call Harriet Hall 314-963-7112

Checks payable to “GLPBY” mailed to 20 North Maple Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119

If you have any questions or suggestions about St. Mark Mission activities -or- want to explore how to become more involved, please contact Christine Polak, Clarice Hutchens or Joyce Blackwell, Committee Co-Chairs.

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Every year since 2000, our presbytery has sent a delegation to visit with our partners in Plan Grande 2 Nicaragua. Members from many GLPBY congregations have participated. We did not just decide on our own that getting kids to stay in school was the priority for the community. We engaged in conversations with the community leaders and together initiated the Scholarship Program in 2004. Initially there was no secondary school in the community which meant that students had to ride public transportation to a town 10km from PG2. Within a few years, the demand for a secondary school in the area grew – due in part to the increased enrollment enabled by the scholarship program. PG2 community leaders advocated for a local school and now students attend the 15 de Septiembre school within walking distance of their homes.



All decisions about the structure and parameters of the scholarship program are made together with the community leaders and our team. Students are required to meet academic standards that go beyond the minimum required by the school to be considered “passing”. The \$200 annual scholarship is distributed by the leaders in PG2 to parents or other responsible adults in 2 installments during the school year. Generally, we support between 30 and 40 students a year. As of 2018 we have been blessed with over 80 graduates!

Many graduates remain in the area and work in whatever ways they can to contribute economically to their families. Some have moved away for construction work in Costa Rica or factory work in Esteli. Based on what we know from the leaders of PG2, it seems that about half of the graduates have continued their education in some way. We celebrate with the community that some young people have various careers including becoming teachers in rural Nicaragua.

Do Something New!

What can I do in October?

Broaden your horizons with *Horizons*, the magazine by and for Presbyterian Women. It's the resource for helping you explore where faith and life connect. Focusing on issues of faith—from the interplay between literature and theology to violence against women—*Horizons* gives you insights from women around the world and inspiration to live boldly. Within the pages of *Horizons*, you will find a wealth of information about what Presbyterian Women are doing throughout the country and around the world. Current and past issues are available on the PW Table in the Narthex. Pick one up and return it when you are finished.



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.**

Thank You

The kindness of relatives and friends who shared our sorrow, has comforted us in the loss of Brandon. We sincerely appreciate the notes, messages, flowers, meals and donations made in his name. Our hearts are broken in his loss, however, full from your love and support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Sincerely — Brandon's family

Upcoming PW* Events

*Presbyterian Women

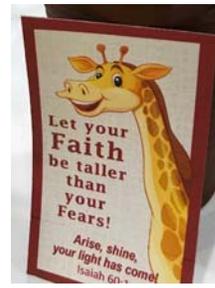
October

- 3 PW Board Meeting
- 12 Eve Circle Contact Laura Adams
9:30 am Location varies #
- 17 Rachel Circle Contact Susan Peters
9:30 am Members' Homes #
- 17 Martha Circle Contact Shirley Weir
12:30 pm Library
- 18 Ruth Circle (knitting circle)
Contact Diana Johanning
10:30 am Library
- 18 Hannah Circle Contact Sherry Naylor
7:00 pm Members' Homes #
- 18 Judith Circle
Contact J. Baggett/P. Williams
7:00 pm Room 102
- 24 Book Club Contact Linda Doane
9:30 am Room 102

November

- 1 PW Fall Outing
Angels, Miracles and Stained Glass
- 7 PW Board Meeting

Location varies. Check bulletin.



**Arise,
shine,
your light
has
come!**
Isaiah 60:1

St. Mark
Presbyterian Women's
2018 Fall Brunch
September 8



Stick
your
neck
out!



Giraffes CAN dance!



SAINT'S & SIBLINGS
FALL EVENTS

- October 7 11:30 AM
Apple Picking – Eckert’s
Fun Farm
- October 14 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Fall Festival
- November 11 Lunch and Angel Tree
at St. Mark
- December 9 Christmas Party & Angel Tree
Gift Wrapping at St. Mark

Saints & Siblings Go To Eckert’s Fun Farm

Join us for a family adventure to Eckert’s Fun Farm on Sunday, October 7. We will leave immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

November Issue October 19
December Issue November 16

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

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

Pet Blessing Held Sunday, September 23

We had another beautiful day in the church neighborhood for our annual Pet Blessing. Our church family, our surrounding neighbors, and pets joined together for a short service led by our children and youth. Every pet was blessed and received homemade treats from our children. The humans in attendance also had some treats waiting for them as well. We would like to thank Chuck Livesay for his assistance with the sound equipment.





ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
601 CLAYMONT DRIVE
BALLWIN, MO 63011

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALLWIN, MO
PERMIT #11

DATED MATERIAL - Return Service Requested



Fall Festival

October 14, 2018
11:30 AM—2:30 PM

- **Fantastic Food**
- **Bounce Houses**
- **Cake Walk**
- **Face Painting**
- **Fall Family Pictures**
- **Root Beer Bar/S'mores**
- **Lolli the Clown w/Balloon Animals**
- **Good Turn Daily Band**

**FELLOWSHIP & FUN
FOR THE ENTIRE
FAMILY**