

September 2018

Journey of Discovery

“Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy”
(Proverbs 3:13-18, NRSV.)

We recently took trip to Virginia to spend time with my brother’s family and visit some of the historic sites in the Commonwealth. It was a whirlwind as we toured Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, Monticello, and Charlottesville. Our family drank long and deep from the cup of American history, and everyone enjoyed their time. Virginians are proud of their past, but they take particular pride in Thomas Jefferson. He had many accomplishments, but I was particularly interested in the Louisiana Purchase and the subsequent commissioning of the Corp of Discovery. Lewis and Clark’s journey into the unknown included hardships, disasters, joy, and help from unexpected places. In short, it was a lot like life.

We might think we already know everything that is essential and that there is nothing new under the sun. However, we are charged with finding wisdom and understanding along life’s journey, and this requires learning something new every day. St. Mark is starting a new tradition called **Discover Sunday on September 9**. We will have tables set up around the Narthex in between the two services promoting all the things we do throughout the year. It’s an opportunity to learn about mission, education, worship, fellowship, family ministry, and so much more. St. Mark is very active in our neighborhood and the world, but we only get a glimpse of the much larger picture in our worship services. This is a great opportunity to invite friends to church as we all discover St. Mark together. I pray you will make it a point to join in our congregation’s mission and ministry in the coming year. God is doing great things all around us! Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

In Hope and Confidence,
Pastor Dave



Deacon Doings

As the saying goes, it takes a village. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning we come together at St. Mark to worship. While listening to the sermon, singing a hymn or sharing the peace have you ever thought about what happens in the background to help worship to run smoothly?

The Worship Support Committee is a deacon led committee comprised of both deacons and members of St. Mark congregation. Together this group supports worship by ensuring greeters are present in the Narthex on Sunday morning, ensuring recruitment, coordination and training of ushers and coordinating liturgists. The Worship Support Committee also provides physical care of the Sanctuary and Narthex including the table, pulpit, font, paraments, candles and pew racks. For special services and seasons, the physical care team works with direction from pastoral staff and music ministry to prepare the Sanctuary to reflect the importance of such special times.

Going back to my questions: Have you ever been curious of when and why paraments are changed? Have you ever considered what it is like to be a greeter or usher? Have you ever wondered how liturgists are assigned? I was curious of all these things! To my surprise, I am learning that anyone from St. Mark congregation can volunteer to be involved in these areas of worship support! Really, anyone!

Currently, the Worship Support Committee is interested in forming another usher team. We are looking for "warm" individuals who are willing to support worship through distribution of bulletins, collecting the offering and begin an overall welcoming presence at St. Mark. If you are interested in learning more about ushering, please contact Pat Eisenberg.

Nikki Douglas, Worship Support Deacon

GriefShare Class Begins September 11

Stephen Ministry will be facilitating GRIEFSHARE at St. Mark beginning Tuesday, September 11. This is a support group for anyone experiencing grief over the loss of a loved one. It is a 13 week course that allows one to attend one, a few or all sessions. It will meet for 13 weeks from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in Rooms 17-19. If you are experiencing grief, we hope you will join us in a Christian support setting that will help you learn coping strategies to help make life easier. If you would like more information, please call Debbie Hames or Bob Lienemann.

Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Your Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has completed the MIF (Ministry Information Form) and will meet with our Presbytery liaison to review our work before we submit it to St. Mark's Session for their approval. After Session's approval our information will be submitted to CLC (Church Leadership Connection) for potential applicants to peruse. As applications are submitted to our Presbytery contact, Rev. Chris James, the applications that are deemed appropriate to St. Mark will be sent to the committee.

Your prayers are very important to our work 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

Discover Sunday

St. Mark will host the inaugural Discover Sunday on September 9 in the Narthex. Various church committees will have information tables introducing their ministries and mission. It is a fantastic way to learn more about how we serve our neighbors both near and far. We fulfill our calling best as a church when every member is a minister, and this is a wonderful opportunity to discover how you can share your unique God-given talents. It is also a great Sunday to invite a friend to join you at church. The event will run from 9:30-10:30 and from 11:30-Noon. Please contact Pastor Dave if you have any questions or if you would like to reserve a table.

Session Snippets

Session approved the following motions at their August meeting:

- To allow the choir to serve wine and beer brought by members following their first rehearsal of the musical season, August 29.
- The Endowment Committee motion that \$1643.12 be taken from the Endowment Fund to purchase replacement music stands and lights for the bell choirs.
- To approve a request from Olivia Viehland for a certificate of transfer. She is now attending another church.
- To allow the Cub Scouts to hold a fundraiser at church selling popcorn. The date is yet to be determined.

In other business, the session will begin the process of writing a contract for a van driver in preparation for hiring a driver for Sundays.

Nominees are still needed to fill positions for both elder and deacon. Please give prayerful thought to accepting a nomination if you are asked.

Library Corner

The St. Mark Library was started as an Eagle Project by Ron Fischer in 1970. It was first a small bookshelf located along the wall outside the present Adult Library. As it grew, more space was required and the library was moved into what is now the Pastor's Conference Room. After a number of years, more space was needed and when the present office was finished, the library was separated. The adult section was moved to its present location in the "Library/Bride's Room, and the Children's Library went downstairs to the children's room.

The Libraries contain over 1,000 books each, and although most of the collection deals with religious books, including Bibles, concordances, studies on individual books of the Bible, devotions, other religions, and hymnbooks, there are biographies, fiction, books on family life, and DVDs on various subjects including Bible studies.

For assistance in finding a particular book or subject, please use the card catalog or call Diana Johanning.

COME IN AND CHECK US OUT!

Recently Renovated Kitchen Annex

The kitchen annex has been renovated by the Property Committee and has gone from dark and cramped to light, airy and full of wonderful storage! For those who do not know where the kitchen annex is, it is a small storage room located directly across from the kitchen near the back door of the church. The room has been used to store extra kitchen equipment, paper goods, BBQ supplies, and miscellaneous items that needed a home. This spring the room was emptied to begin the renovation; you may have seen all of the contents on tables in Gleason Hall! Property committee painted the concrete floor, gave the walls a fresh coat of paint, painted the ceiling tiles and gave the room some updated lighting. Then upper cabinets were installed along the wall with a new custom made cabinet placed below for enclosed storage. The custom cabinet was painted blue, and a beautiful countertop was added. Then the walls were lined with open storage units, for floor to ceiling storage with additional units added to the center of the room. A large shelf was added above the freezers for BBQ supplies. Aprons are now stored behind the door with hooks, brooms and a step stool that can easily be found hanging in the annex. Once all the contents were returned to the newly renovated annex we found an abundance of storage space with some empty shelves waiting to be filled! In addition to improvements in the annex, the cabinets in the kitchen have also been given a fresh coat of blue paint to match the annex, and a new blind has been installed on the window!

Please stop by the annex and the kitchen to take a peek at the improvements! Our very talented and hardworking property committee has done a beautiful job creating a space that is beautiful and functional for our church. We are grateful for their hard work!!



Thank you, Thank you, St. Mark Congregation!

Once again the ABC sale is just a memory. The racks and hangers have been put away, awaiting the gathering, sorting and selling of treasures next year. It took so many of you contributing goods, time and talent to make the 2018 all-church rummage sale a grand success!

The total reached nearly \$12,000. What is important about that figure is that it will enable the Board of Deacons to reach out into the community with a helping hand and to hopefully make a difference in so many of the lives of our neighbors. The deacons will deliberate carefully in order to make meaningful choices.

In addition to the cash that was received and that will go right back out into our area, real goods were donated to a variety of places. During the week of the sale, a trailer from Remains sat outside in the back parking lot, ready to accept recyclable goods. After the sale, trucks pulled up to the front of the church, two from the Salvation Army and one from the Kidney Foundation to load unsold items from all departments except for clothing. The clothing went out the door by the kitchen into the truck from Isaiah 58. The loading was done by department workers and a "Takedown" committee, along with hardworking Boy Scouts and their leaders from the St. Mark troop. (We promised them many more spaghetti supper tickets would be sold next year!) Boxes of books were taken to the Veterans Administration to share at the hospital there. Suits, shirts, pants and suitcases were donated to the parole system so that those going out to find jobs would have interview clothing that they needed.

Organizations within the church benefit, too. The Christmas Boutique, the Claymont Preschool at St. Mark, the Fellowship Committee, Presbyterian Women, the Property Committee and Children's Ministry all received items that they needed.

The sale actually continues year-round in yet another way. Jaclyn Morgan faithfully lists some unique treasures on EBay in the months to come in order to make additional funds for the Deacons to delegate. She takes on the task of monitoring this, shipping items all over in order to make the ABC event even better.

There are so many of you to thank, and we inevitably find that we have left someone out. The problem is that this all happens so quickly in the space of one week, and we often don't have time to jot your name down or to have a sign-in sheet at a key place. Therefore we are not including a list with this article. Please know that we are grateful for each and every one of you, and we hope that you know that! By name we do need to thank Carol Pfeil, Jim Brewer and the Burgess family for all that they did during the week of the sale. And all of the rest of you (nearly 100) can feel certain that you have made a difference as you were doing God's work. We pray that you will continue to help us next year; see you August 2, 3, 2019 - and the intense week before!

With love, C. Bartell, V. Chabot, B. Pierce

Attention: Go Getter Ladies

We will begin our GO GETTER luncheons on September 11, at the newly opened DREAM HOUSE BOUTIQUE, located at 15451 Clayton Road, Ballwin. Our church bus will leave the church promptly at 11:30 AM so please be at the church before that time.

This newly opened boutique is not really a restaurant per se, they have their food catered in. So, with that being said, it is very important that you get your reservation in prior to **September 4**.

You may notice that the mailing list for this month is quite extensive. We are recruiting new additions to our Go Getters. If you wish your name to be removed from the mailing list, please respond to this email and I will be happy to do so. If you would like to join our group for the first time, we would be happy to have you. If you have questions about our group, please feel free to call either Nancy Sutch, or Sharon Tharp. Our group meets for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month. We enjoy our food, fun and fellowship!

Have a blessed week! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank You

Dear St. Mark Friends:

I received a beautiful bouquet of flowers today and wanted to say "Thank You."

So very many people at St. Mark have been so good to me with meals, cards, etc. that just saying thanks doesn't seem adequate.

Thank y'all once again. I pray that I will someday soon be able to get back to church.

With love to all, Doris

Stork Club

Congratulations to Jon and Anne on the birth of Harry. The maternal grandparents are Ray and Donna.

Where Do Our Mission \$'s Come From and Where Do They Go?

Monetary donations that are given to our core mission partners are sourced from Session allocated funds, designated donations from St. Mark members, along with the majority of funds being generated through fundraisers such as The ABC Sale, Christmas Alternatives, Christmas Tea for Lydia's House, Circle of Concern Golf Tournament, PW Christmas Boutique, etc... This support is in addition to on-going hands-on volunteer activities and in-kind gifts collected during back to school drives, Thanksgiving food drive, Children's/Youth Ministries Christmas gift drives for designated mission partners, and ongoing food pantry donations to name a few. A list of our core local and international mission partners are listed below. To ensure that we are good stewards of the resources we share with our mission partners, there is a direct connection between St. Mark and each of our core mission partners.

Local Mission Partners:

BBJ

Circle of Concern

Isaiah 58

Lafayette Industries

Lydia's House

Mound Ridge

Peace Meal

Presbyterian Children Homes & Services

UKirk

International Mission Partners:

Marion Medical Mission

Medical Benevolence Foundation

Partners for Just Trade

PCUSA Mission Co-Workers

Haiti-Mark Hare

Peru-Jed Koball

PCUSA Nicaragua PG2 Scholarship Fund

If you have any questions or suggestions about St. Mark Mission activities-or-want to get involved, please contact Christine Polak, Clarice Hutchens or Joyce Blackwell, Committee Co-Chairs. Please stop by the Mission Committee table at Discover St. Mark Day on September 9!

Upcoming PW* Events

*Presbyterian Women

- September 8 PW Annual Brunch
10:00 AM Gleason Hall
- September 14 Eve Circle #
Contact Laura Adams
9:30 AM Location varies
- September 19 Rachel Circle #
Contact Susan Peters
9:30 AM Members' Homes
- Martha Circle
Contact Shirley Weir
12:30 PM Library
- September 20 Ruth Circle (knitting circle)
Contact Diana Johanning
9:30 AM Library
- Hannah Circle #
Contact Sherry Naylor
7:00 PM Members' Homes
- Judith Circle
Contact J. Baggett/S. Tharp
7:00 PM Room 102
- September 26 Book Club
Contact Linda Doane
9:30 AM Room 102
Book Selection Meeting
- September 29 Giddings Lovejoy Gathering
John Knox P C 9:00 AM
- October 4 PW Board Meeting
Location varies. Check bulletin.

Aliquid Novi*

What can I do in September?
Attend the Giddings Lovejoy PW's

Fall Gathering
LEARN TO DO GOOD

Saturday, September 29
9 AM—2 PM \$10.00

John Knox Presbyterian Church



Women from GLPW at the Worldwide Church Gathering in Louisville KY, August 2018

* Do something new

Presbyterian Women's 2018 Fall Brunch

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

Saturday, September 8
10:00 a.m.

**Stick Your Neck Out!
Try Something New!**

The PW Board invites you to be our guests for a get together to start the new program year!



Enjoy catching up with friends and making new ones.

Enjoy delicious food.

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

Meet Lily and celebrate the big 3-0!



PW Board members are now making telephone calls to St. Mark women. Be ready to make your reservation when you get the call. You may also sign up at the PW Table in the Narthex or call the church office (636-394-2233).

SAINT'S & SIBLINGS FALL EVENTS

September 23	2:00 PM	Pet Blessing, Upper Parking Level/St. Mark
September 28		Sleepover at Sea Lion Sound – St. Louis Zoo
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 – St. Mark
December 9		Christmas Party & Angel Tree Gift Wrapping – St. Mark

Children Fall Sunday School

Children Fall Sunday School commences September 9. The Nursery is also available throughout Sunday morning for children ages birth-3 years. The Children's Ministries welcomes and encourages all children through 5th grade to regularly attend the Sunday School program during the 10:30 AM service.

Wednesday Night Fellowship for Children Ages 3-5th Grade

The Children's Ministries Committee invites your children to join us for bible study, mission projects, games and fellowship starting Wednesday night, September 12. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM for Holy Moly Bible study and activities.

Bible Sunday September 16

All children entering 3rd Grade receive a bible on September 16. Please notify the Children's Ministries Committee if you are new to the community and wish to have your child receive a bible.



Youth Bible Study

Youth activities resume the week of September 9. Youth Bible Study begins on Wednesday, September 12 and will be held every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 in the youth lounge. Grab a friend and come for snacks, games, and an exploration of scripture.

Youth Activities

The Messy & The Blessy, Sunday, September 16. Bring some old clothes and head to the Caplingers immediately following the 10:30 service for an icky-sticky, messy good time!



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DATED MATERIAL - Return Service Requested

Men's Bible Study

The weekly Men's Bible study will resume Tuesday, September 11 in Room 102 from 7–8 AM.

We will be using NT Wrights New Testament For Everyone Bible Study Guide on Romans. Prayer suggestions and useful background and cultural information thoughtful questions will guide us more deeply into God's Word.

The class is very informal and all men are welcome. It is a great way to start your day! Come check it out.

For addition information call Glen Corlett.

St. Mark Offers God & Country Classes

God and Country classes for children and youth in grades 2 through middle school will begin Saturday, October 6. These classes satisfy the Religious Award requirements for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and most other youth organizations.

For information, call Diana Johanning.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

October Issue	September 21
November Issue	October 19

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

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