

February 2019

There is Beauty in Hope

It's been awhile since we've had a real winter here in Missouri. Several years have gone by without any significant snow accumulation or school cancellation. It feels like Mother Nature is making up for lost time this go-round. As I write this on January 16th, I have one eye on several inches of snow slowly melting outside my window and the other on a treacherous forecast for the weekend. I don't love winter, but I don't hate it either. It is more than a necessary evil that gets us ready for a beautiful spring. *There is beauty in hope.*

How folks viewed the recent snowstorm likely depended on where they were when the heavy flakes were falling. If you were safe in a warm and fully stocked home, it was likely a beautiful evening, but if you were stuck on a freeway or surface street trying to get home, the snow was anything but lovely. I believe our present circumstances greatly color our outlook on the world. We appreciate our health more after going through an illness. We are most thankful for companionship after periods of separation and isolation. We rejoice in the warmth of the sun and the budding of flowers more after a particularly harsh winter. *There is beauty in hope.*

January is the coldest month of the year, February is the shortest, and spring arrives in March. I know there are plenty of cold, grey days and dark nights ahead of us, but this isn't the end of our journey. I saw wonderful things this past weekend as strangers pushed cars up icy hills and folks shoveled their neighbor's driveway. The good news is all around us if we have the eyes to see. *There is beauty in hope.*

St. Augustine encourages us to keep our eyes on Jesus through both the good and difficult times.

"Jesus is beautiful in heaven and beautiful on earth. He is beautiful in his mother's womb, beautiful in his parent's arms, beautiful in his miracles, beautiful in inviting people to new life, beautiful in not worrying about death, beautiful in giving his life, beautiful in heaven. Listen to the son with understanding and let not the weakness of the flesh distract your eyes from the splendor of his beauty."

There is beauty in hope!

In Hope and Confidence,
Pastor Dave



The first Session meeting of the year was held January 28, 2019. Highlights include:

The following five Elders – the Class of 2021 – attended their first meeting: Jim Arnet, Glenn Knopf, Patty Livesay, Cay Noble, and Zach Neal.

Top business was the approval to hire Abigail (Abby) Johnson for the Office and Facilities Manager position. Abby comes to the church with experience as the City Clerk of the City of Ballwin and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Missouri State University. She begins February 1. Brian Hostetler, the Interim Office and Facilities Manager, will help to train her to smooth the transition. Abby's email address is ajohnson@discoverstmark.org.

The 2019 Nominating Committee members are: Elders Linda Larimer and Patty Livesay; Deacon Sharon Cardwell; and Bob Stewart, Doris Martin, Jeff Wilson, and Laurie Dolson from the congregation at large.

The damaged St. Mark signs at each end of Claymont Drive (Baxter and Clayton Roads) will be replaced.

Featured Session Committee

Each month, as space permits, we will include a brief description of one of the Session's Standing Committees. This month, the Mission Committee, which provides interpretation and encouragement to support PCUSA mission, including speakers, mission trips, communication, and projects which help fund mission causes, including the Christmas Alternatives offering. If you think you could help the committee with its work (as your time permits with no commitment), please contact the church office, 636-394-3344 or bhostetler@discoverstmark.org.

Christmas is long gone. Easter is coming. These are the "headlines" of the Christian faith.

But what happens in between?

I was sharing with some friends, using Ferguson as an example, that to understand what is going on in a community or with a social issue, you need to read and watch for the "little stories" in between the headlines. It is these stories that provide a full picture and real understanding of what is going on in the world.

So it is with the Christian Faith. The headlines are great, but what influences me the most is the "in between" stories. In January, we always have the Baptism of Christ, an incredible scene, and the beginning of Christ's ministry through his first miracles and teachings. In February, there is the beautiful Corinthian "love is patient" reading and from Luke "blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." Because these "in between" stories are so important to understanding the Christian message, I do my best to reinforce them through the Anthems and Special Music I choose for each particular weekly service.

Christmas is sweet. Easter is glorious. It is the "in between" that makes them so.

Looking forward to seeing you "in between."

Soli Deo Gloria

Marsha

Thank You

Dear St. Mark Family,
We wish to thank the St. Mark family for the caring, cheerful and loving support given to Susan during her recent struggles. It and the support which has continued, comes from the great heart and spirit of St. Mark.

Mailing *The Messenger* is relatively costly, more so because the mailing does not qualify for bulk mail postage rates. *The Messenger* is emailed to church members as soon as it is ready, making it available several days before it arrives in the mail. The pdf version of *The Messenger* can be downloaded and saved, making it easier to find later on. And, the pdf is in living color! *The Messenger* is also available at www.discoverstmark.org and *hard copies are always available at the Welcome Center in the narthex*. If you would like to join the effort to **Go Green**, please contact the church office (636-394-2233) or send an email to bhostetler@discoverstmark.org.

Church Management Software Upgrade Update

In January, we went on-line with our new Church Management software, called SimpleChurch CRM. We are now using the new software for:

- Recording 2019 donations and 2019 pledge progress
- Recording attendance at worship services
- Emailing information to the congregation

On the weekend of January 12 and 13, we used the notification capabilities of SimpleChurch to notify church members of the cancellation of services due to inclement weather. We sent out three emails and two text alerts that weekend. If you didn't get the emails, we don't have your correct email address in the system. If you didn't get the text alerts, we don't have your cell phone in the system, or it is not properly listed in the system.

If you want to get text or emails and didn't, please send an email to gschindler@discoverstmark.org to update your information. If you don't do email or text and want to be added to our voice call list, contact the church office, 636-394-2233.

Session members and other early adopters are logging onto the system and helping the Technology Committee work out any implementation issues. We will be offering access to the software and its on-line church directory to the full congregation by the end of February.

We are excited about the new capabilities that SimpleChurch gives St. Mark as we move forward!

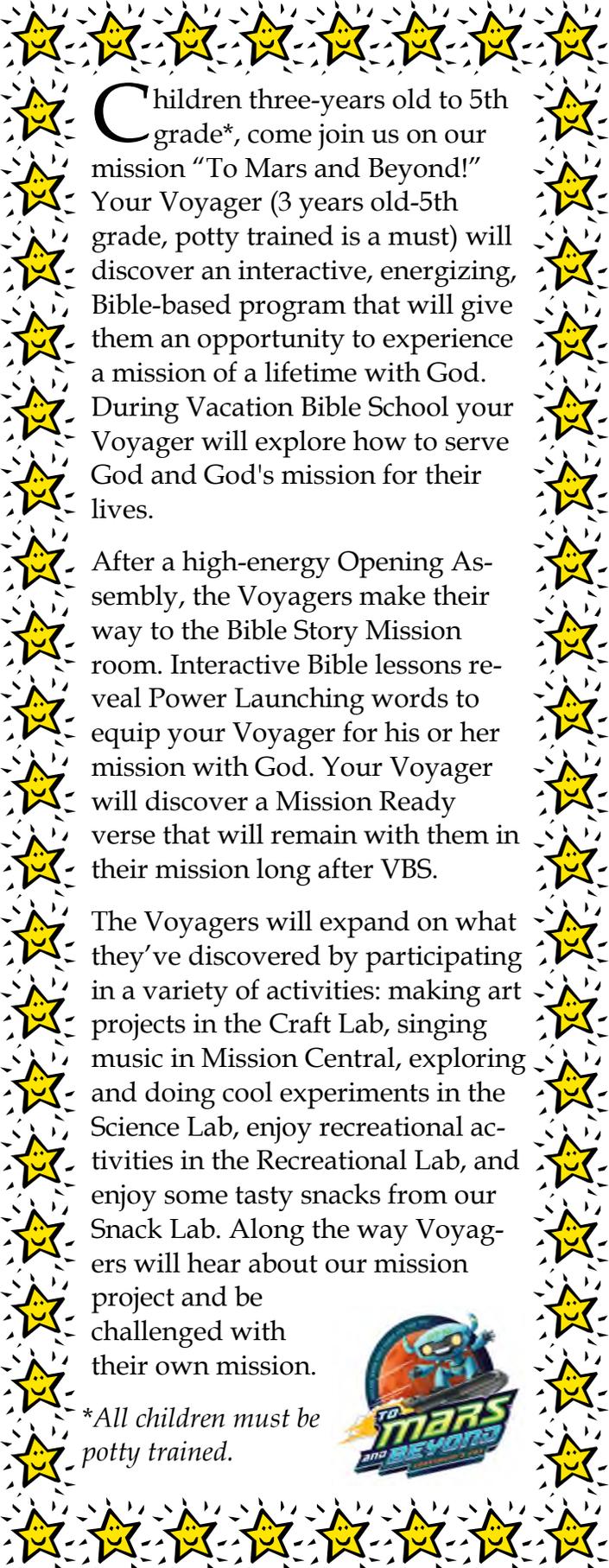
Technology Committee

St. Mark Prayer Circle

Help! The Prayer Circle is becoming a semicircle. Please consider joining us on Monday mornings at 9:30 in the church library to pray for St. Mark members, their family and friends, our community and the world.

We are on the way to the rest of our day by 10:30. It's a great way to start the week.

We are an equal opportunity group – male, female, and all ages. All are welcome!



Children three-years old to 5th grade*, come join us on our mission "To Mars and Beyond!" Your Voyager (3 years old-5th grade, potty trained is a must) will discover an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that will give them an opportunity to experience a mission of a lifetime with God. During Vacation Bible School your Voyager will explore how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

After a high-energy Opening Assembly, the Voyagers make their way to the Bible Story Mission room. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Power Launching words to equip your Voyager for his or her mission with God. Your Voyager will discover a Mission Ready verse that will remain with them in their mission long after VBS.

The Voyagers will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making art projects in the Craft Lab, singing music in Mission Central, exploring and doing cool experiments in the Science Lab, enjoy recreational activities in the Recreational Lab, and enjoy some tasty snacks from our Snack Lab. Along the way Voyagers will hear about our mission project and be challenged with their own mission.

*All children must be potty trained.



Upcoming PW* Events

*Presbyterian Women

February

- 6 – PW Board Meeting
- 8 – Eve Circle – The Wolf Cafe
- 20 – *Retreat Registration Deadline*
- 20 – Rachel Circle – Contact Susan Peters
9:30 a.m. Members' Homes #
- 20 – Martha Circle – Contact Shirley Weir
12:30 p.m. Library
- 21 – Ruth Circle (knitting circle)
Contact Diana Johanning
10:30 a.m. Library
- 21 – Hannah Circle – Contact Sherry Naylor
7:00 p.m. Members' Homes #
- 21 – Judith Circle
Contact J. Baggett/P. Williams
7:00 p.m. Room 102
- 27 – Book Club – Contact Linda Doane
9:30 a.m. Room 102
The Dry by Jane Harper

March

- 6 – PW Board Meeting
- 8-9 – Annual Women's Retreat
- # Location varies. Check weekly bulletins.



SAINTS & SIBLINGS WINTER EVENTS

Upcoming Saints outings:

February 10th - Roller Skating @ Skateport

March 10th - Flying Spider

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

March Issue

February 15

April Issue

March 15

E-mail Newsletter & Bulletin materials to

ajohnson@discoverstmark.org and

bhostetler@discoverstmark.org

E-mail Items for the website

to Cathy Schindler: cschindler@discoverstmark.org

*Claymont Preschool at St. Mark Fall
2019 Registration*

Registration is open to all families for preschool classes beginning August 26, 2019. Please help spread the word to your neighbors about our fabulous preschool. Half-day classes are available for children who will be two years old before October 1, 2019, through pre-kindergarten. Classes meet 9:00 to 12:00 with extended day until 1:30 for older children most days.

Currently, there are 80 children attending Claymont Preschool. The Preschool enjoys a wonderful reputation for excellent, caring teachers and superb kindergarten readiness, causing some classes to fill quickly. We encourage St. Mark church members who may not have turned in their registration form to do so NOW so they can get the fall preschool class which fits their schedule best.

Please call Lynne Dauve, 636-386-5437 (KIDS) or stop by the Preschool Office during the week for a tour. Our registration form and other Missouri required forms are also available at discoverstmark.org.

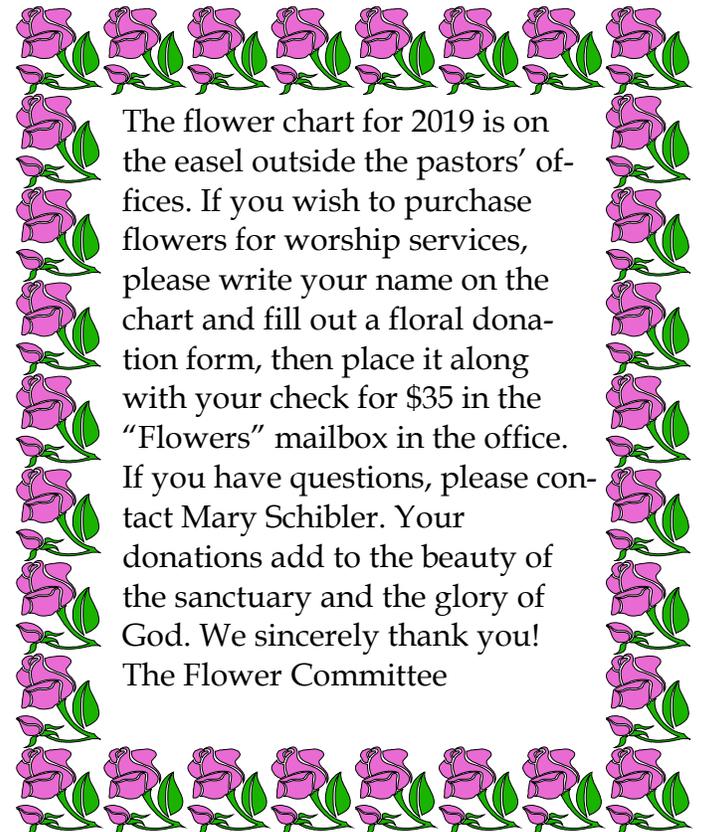
Chili Cook Off

Chili Cook Off, Sunday, February 10th after the 10:30 am service. Sign up in the narthex to share your chili and compete for the trophy! Everyone is invited to come and taste the chili, vote for his or her favorite one, and enjoy fellowship with our church family! Vote for your favorite chili with your dollars: \$1 = 1 Vote! All proceeds benefit the Fellowship Committee. Hot dogs, chips and homemade sweets will also be available!

Stephen Ministry will be facilitating GRIEF-SHARE at St. Mark beginning Tuesday, March 5. This is a support group for anyone experiencing grief over the loss of a loved one. It is a 13-week course that allows participants to attend one, a few or all sessions. The class will meet for 13 weeks from 6:30 to 8:00 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.

Stephen Ministry will also be facilitating a special *"Loss of a Spouse"* GRIEFSHARE program. This is a one-time session specifically for people who have lost his or her spouse. We will meet Tuesday February 19th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in Rooms 17-19.. Please join us and meet our caring facilitators who can help you on your grief journey. For more information, call Debbie Hames.

2019 Flower Chart



The flower chart for 2019 is on the easel outside the pastors' offices. If you wish to purchase flowers for worship services, please write your name on the chart and fill out a floral donation form, then place it along with your check for \$35 in the "Flowers" mailbox in the office. If you have questions, please contact Mary Schibler. Your donations add to the beauty of the sanctuary and the glory of God. We sincerely thank you!
The Flower Committee

Do Something New!

What can I do in February?

This is **heart** month. Take care of **your** heart and soul! Give them special attention by committing to be part of the 2019 women's retreat! If one picture is worth a thousand words . . .



Treasured

22nd Annual St. Mark Women's Retreat
March 8-9, 2019

What could be more precious than diamonds?

You!

*For you are holy to the LORD your God;
it is you the LORD has chosen to be
his treasured possession.*

Deuteronomy 14:2

We are the precious, treasured possession of our Heavenly Father, who sought us and claimed us as His own in Christ. From coal to diamonds, we are continually being transformed in Christ and reflecting his glory and light into the world.

Join us for a bedazzling Women's Retreat. We will walk in the light of God's Word, enjoy fabulous food and tasty treats. We will lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving as we share fellowship, encouragement and good times with our sisters in Christ. As always we will share some laughs and smiles

Please make your reservation by **February 15**.

Reservation forms are available at
the PW Table in the Narthex



BAMain23 Memorial Fund Trivia Night

Help families affected by spinal cord injuries by attending a night of fun on Saturday, February 9 at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Town & Country. Doors open at 6 pm. Trivia starts at 7 pm. The fund was established in 2018 to honor Brandon Main who was a member of St. Mark. Brandon was stricken by Transverse Myelitis in December 2016, becoming a quadriplegic overnight. Funds are used to provide grants to those with spinal cord injuries to help pay necessary home modifications and other expenses. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yam6ynle> or email barmain23fund@gmail.com for more information.



St Mark Trivia Night – Saturday, April 6

Grab 7 of your superhero sidekicks, hop in your Batmobile, and join us for a night of trivia fun! Doors open at 6pm and trivia starts at 7. Cost is \$200 per table of 8 or \$25 per individual ticket & we will place you with a group of Caped Crusaders. The evening includes: 10 rounds of trivia, silent auction, wine grab, 50/50 raffle, and games. You may bring your own beverages and snacks to share with your table.

***F*ast Food Frenzy - February 10**

Bring \$5, a few friends and a big appetite as we cruise out to some of the local "fine dining" establishments for this unique progressive dinner. Fast Food Frenzy happens only once a year, and you definitely don't want to miss out on all the fun. We will meet at church at 4 pm and return by 6 pm. RSVP to Stacey Caplinger ASAP to reserve your spot!

***T*riennium Summer Conference - July 16-19**

Additional spots are available for Triennium youth conference held at Purdue University and the registration has been extended! Students entering grades 9-12 for the 2019-20 school year are eligible to register. The registration fee is \$191 per student. Follow this link for more information and to register online: <https://www.glpby.org/2019-triennium/>
Please contact Stacey Caplinger if you are registering for this conference, have questions, or are interested in scholarship information.

***C*hristmas Card Tree**

For over four decades, St. Mark families and friends have been invited to put a Christmas card on a tree in the corner of the narthex in lieu of sending cards through the mail to members of our church family. The thought behind this tradition is that each family would offer what they would spend on postage and cards as a donation to our mission partners.

The following families put a card on the Christmas tree: Blackwell, Bosenbecker, Buckhorn, Calkins, Dieckgraefe-Mrazek, Dressel, Johanning, Keely, Larez, Leonard, Magraw, McLuen, McMillen, Naylor, Pierce, Schindler, and Steiner.



ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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BALLWIN, MO 63011

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