

Issue: July 2022

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

# The Messenger

## The “First” Times

Just having returned from a week’s long trip to Copperhill, TN. with our St. Mark youth mission team, I am filled with a joy I haven’t felt for three years. In 2019, prior to my ordination, prior to my being called to St. Mark, and prior to my installation as Associate Pastor, I lead two mission teams, both which launched from a church in Brunswick, Ohio. The first was a multigenerational team that served in Ponce, Puerto Rico and the second was a High School team that served in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to these missions, I have served in Nicaragua, Cameroon, the Bahamas, and multiple other cities across the U.S.A. I provide this list not for any sort of weird twisted bragging rights, but because this sort of ministry has been a constant thread throughout my adult life and one that continues to draw me closer to others and especially closer to God. It was in fact on one mission trip to Nicaragua back in 2014 that I experienced something difficult to explain and yet so impactful that I knew beyond all doubt that my life as I knew it was about to change. Some have said that the money spent for these type of mission trips on travel, accommodations, etc would

be better used if they were sent to the mission site as a check. And In some cases, and some ways I do find that to be true. However, there is something to be said about traveling the road together, joining in a 24/7 life, and working as a team toward a common goal alongside the mission partners on the ground that cannot be experienced in any other way. At the same time as I think about the week behind me in TN., I now look with great anticipation to the week ahead in North Dakota with the St. Mark Spirit Lake mission team. 14 of us will travel to Spirit Lake North Dakota July 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> to serve the local community in partnership with the Tribal Council and with our partners at Spirit Lake Ministries. Both teams will be sharing their stories with the congregation sometime in the near future. Keep your eyes and ears open for information. In the interim, feel free to ask the team members about their experiences as they will be happy to share! Reflecting on all my past mission teams and trips, I become a bit nostalgic and my heart sings anew. Names and faces run through my thoughts in rapid succession, occasionally pausing as I remember

the story that I share with that person. There is Oswald who lives in Estelí, Nicaragua with his brother Manuel and their grandmother. I remember playing my trumpet with Oswald and working alongside him as we built a brick room for their home. There is Samuel who walked me through the local Ikiliwindi market introducing me to the vendors as we visited the butcher booth, the spice booth, and the coconut oil booth. And Elizabeth who held my hand as we talked and walked on my first full day in Cameroon. There is Lamar the son of a Baptist minister who has three little dogs that he loves and cares for. And as a thank you to our team he brought us bags of lollipops on our last day in Copperhill, TN. I am passionately drawn to serve God in this way. I wonder...what has God given you a passion for? What calls you into relationship with others? What prompts you to serve and share life with another? I’d love to hear your stories!  
Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor MP

**June 20, 2022**

Things are very busy at St. Mark. If you think summer is “time off”, you need to think again.

- The St. Vincent DePaul Donation Box will be removed from the parking lot. There have been issues with large items being dumped there. Alternative options for clothing donations are being pursued.
- Claymont Preschool Director—Susan Talley has already started working in that position. Susan and her family are members at St. Mark, and she has been a Preschool Teacher. We are excited to have her on board.
- Ethan Forte has accepted the position of Music Director with a start date of July 18. Ethan’s degree at University of Missouri is as a Music Educator and he comes highly recommended from First Presbyterian Church in Fulton, where he has been serving as the Choir Director.
- Troy and Chris Hargrove were accepted as members to St. Mark via transfer of letter from Second Presbyterian. Their daughter, Olivia, age “six on July 4!” comes with them!
- And then there are the mission trips—the Youth to Tennessee in June and the Adult Group to ND in July. We will hear about their experiences at Worship in August.
- Plus VBS and the ABC Sale! Step up and volunteer to help. There are many opportunities, and everyone has a lot of fun!

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministers are specially trained members of St Mark who provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to those in our congregation and community experiencing grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss and other life difficulties.

If we can be of support, please call Bette Nuzum.



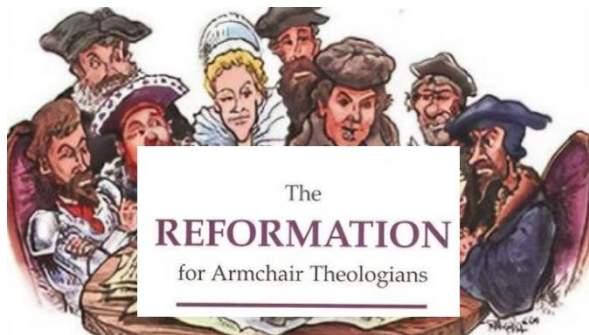
May 23 arrived at Aberdeen Golf Club, Eureka, Missouri with a sold out event of 144 golfers, 30 plus volunteers and ideal weather with temperatures in the 70s and lots of sunshine. The event raised approximately \$32,000 with all proceeds benefiting Circle of Concern, one of several local missions supported by Saint Mark Deacons.

Saint Mark has served as the event sponsor for the past 16 years and has worked in concert with Circle staff and volunteers to create good will within the community for both entities as well as raise needed funding. The following demonstrates the direct impact Saint Mark had on this years’ tournament:

- Members funded \$12,000 in Sponsorships and Auction Items
- 18 members served as volunteers on the day of event
- 12 members participated as golfers
- 6 members served on the Golf Committee

Thank you, Saint Mark members for sharing your time, talent and resources to make this event a success.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



### FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

**The Reformation for Armchair Theologians,  
by Glenn S. Sunshine**

Join us Friday mornings throughout the summer from 9:00-10:00 am online or in room 102 as we venture onward to learn more about our faith tradition.

Contact Pastor MP to be added to the Friday morning Bible Study group email and to receive your Zoom link and class dates.

mpanco@discoverstmark.org

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school for children PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.

### NURSERY

Nursery Care, for ages 0 - 2yrs, is available Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 11:00 am.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Blessing of the Backpacks & Bible Sunday –  
Sunday, August 21**



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JULY 18-20!

Go to [www.discoverstmark.org](http://www.discoverstmark.org) to register children from preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade to attend this year's Vacation Bible School AND consider registering yourself to volunteer as well! Also, if you would like to volunteer to help decorate before or clean up after VBS, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4DA4AD2FAAF94-vbsprep1> to sign up!

### VBS and Mission ... Mission and VBS ... You Too Can Make Waves!!!

This year our VBS Theme is "Making Waves – What You Do Today Can Change the World Around You"

The mission for VBS will focus on "SOLES FOR SOLES" Each child will be asked to check at home for gently worn shoes that they have outgrown, or adult shoes that are no longer worn, and with their parents' permission bring them to VBS. The shoes will be donated to our local mission partner Isaiah 58 Ministries, as well as the St. Mark ABC sale where all proceeds go to local missions.



The second theme is "SCHOOL READY FRIENDS" we are also collecting packages of socks and underwear as well as monetary donations for those items which will be distributed to Isaiah 58 kids during their back-to-school fair. (Checks made out to St. Mark with VBS mission on the memo line can be mailed to or dropped off in the church office.)



Please drop off your donations in the designated collection area in the Narthex during the month of July.

Come on everyone! Let's "make waves!"

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



The youth mission trip to Copperhill, TN was a success on all fronts! The team was welcomed to the home of a local resident where they completed general home maintenance alongside two other youth groups. They worshipped nightly led by the college camp worship leaders, and topped off the week with some fun activities including a trail ride. Hear more about this trip, as well as the Adult Mission Trip, at worship on Sunday, August 21.



### BOWLING AT WEST COUNTY LANES

When: Sunday July 24th 3-5pm  
Where: West County Lanes 15727 Manchester Road  
Ellisville, Missouri 63011  
Cost: \$10.00 per person  
Includes: 2 hrs. of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, & unlimited soda  
Contact Pastor MP if you want to save your spot on the lanes!



### Youth Hangout Fundraising Opportunity @Ballwin Days

Sunday August 21st 11-5:30

Youth will be working the soda and water booth where they will be selling water, soda, and Gatorade. With each sale there is an opportunity to earn tips for youth activities such as future mission trips and retreats. Please let Pastor MP know if you can come for all or part of the day!

## MISSION AT ST. MARK

### JULY FOOD PANTRY MOST WANTED ITEMS

We are collecting the following items for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58:



- Tuna
- Canned Vegetables (low sodium preferred)
- Coffee, Tea
- Baby Wipes
- Multi/All Purpose Cleaner



Please place your donations on the table in the pastors' hallway. You may also write a check indicating the mission partner(s) on the memo line.

### ADULT MISSION TRIP: JULY 9-16 – SPIRIT LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA



Please pray for God's presence and blessings on the members of the mission trip. Hear more about this trip, as well as the Youth Mission Trip, at worship on Sunday, August 21.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

**Sale Prep Days -- July 31st, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Sale Days – August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

There are so many ways to help!

Some of the ABC jobs require muscle, some require patience, some require sitting, some require sorting and organizing, some require greeting shoppers and answering questions -- but all require a giving spirit and a willingness to do all that we do in the name of Christ.

This is truly an all-church effort, **that directly benefits our local mission partners.**

Please prayerfully consider where you can serve and sign up to do your part. Thanks!

If you wish to work in a specific department, please contact a department chair. A list of the department chairs is included in the SignUp Genius link below or may be obtained by contacting one of the ABC Sale Co-Chairs.

If you are willing to volunteer where needed as a "floater" or if you are interested in a different role, please review the SignUp Genius slots, and click to sign-up.

[St. Mark Presbyterian Church: 2022 ABC Sale -- Work Days: July 31, August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th -- Sale Days: August 5th & 6th \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

*Not a SignUp Genius fan? Not sure where you'd like to volunteer? No worries!!! Contact one of the ABC Sale Co-Chairs and we'll match your interest and availability with volunteer openings.*

By the way, YES! we encourage (and need) you to sign up for multiple volunteer time slots.

## YOU'VE BEEN SAVING YOUR TREASURES 3 YEARS

...it's almost time to donate them to the ABC Sale!

**Donation Drop Off Hours are:**

**Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 11 am – 4 pm**

**Mon, Tues, Wed, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 8 am-Noon**

Save, clean, and box/bag any items you wish to donate. During donation drop-off hours, drive your vehicle to the double exterior side doors to the kitchen (Martha Entrance) and a volunteer will help unload your vehicle. It's that easy! (No items will be accepted after Wednesday; thanks for helping us with this deadline.)

**Yes please:** in general, acceptable donations to the ABC sale include most items that would be sold at a garage sale or by a thrift store. Donation receipts will be available upon request during donation drop-off hours.

It's hard to say "no thank you" to a donation. Due to lack of space, safety regulations, and the inability to "unload" certain items, we are NOT able to accept:

- electronics: including televisions, computers, monitors, keyboards, their cords, CDs, tapes, etc
- large furniture items: such as sofas, love seats, large entertainment centers, dining sets, mattresses (if it doesn't fit in a small SUV, we can't accept it)
- encyclopedias or magazines
- car seats, high chairs, car seats, or cribs
- Christmas trees
- hazardous waste (even if unopened): such as paint, chemicals, oil, household cleaning supplies
- *not sure???* – contact one of the ABC Sale Co-Chairs and we'll quickly get you an answer!

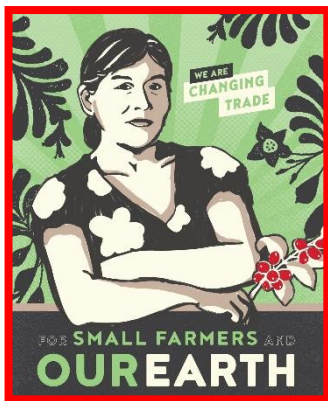
If the ABC Sale won't take it – where can I recycle or donate? Your answer is just a few keystrokes away! Be a good earth steward and use the following link: [Recycle Wizard - St. Louis County Website \(stlouiscountymo.gov\)](http://stlouiscountymo.gov)

THANK YOU for donating your treasures...remember, ALL proceeds go directly to our local mission partners!

ABC Sale Co-Chairs, Joyce Blackwell, Glenn Knopf, Pam Ladley

## EQUAL EXCHANGE / FAIR TRADE IN THE NARTHEX

Equal Exchange products will be available for purchase in the Narthex on Sunday July 17. Credit and Debit cards accepted. There is so much care and expertise from farmers that go into products, and in most supply chains, this is often overlooked. St. Mark supports Equal Exchange's mission to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sustainable, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between small farmers and consumers.



## ST. MARK WELCOMES A NEW DIRECTOR OF CLAYMONT PRESCHOOL!

St. Mark is pleased to welcome Susan Talley as the new Claymont Preschool Director. Susan has been a teacher at the preschool since 2016 and assumed the role of director in June.

*Dear St. Mark Family,  
Thank you so much for the retirement celebration with my favorite chocolate chip cookies. It has been my honor and my privilege to serve St. Mark as it's preschool director. My life is filled with years of wonderful memories. I feel this proverb applies to me--choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life. I have been very blessed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.  
Lynne Dauve*

## CLAYMONT PRESCHOOL AT ST. MARK

Is your child ready to play, learn, and socialize with others?

Claymont Preschool at St. Mark is still enrolling for the 2022-23 school year.

Contact Susan Talley at [stalley@discoverstmark.org](mailto:stalley@discoverstmark.org)

or call 636-386-5437 to find out more about our program.



# Celebrate



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How's your summer art project coming? Now is the time to move from thinking about to creating your square for the 60th anniversary banner! Some squares have already been completed. This doesn't have to be complicated. Think about using your favorite Bible passage. If you would like some ideas or help, give Mary Beth Powell a call. This is a fun way to recognize who is part of the St. Mark family at 60. 7-inch cloth squares are available in the Narthex. Extras are available so take one just in case. Church groups are encouraged to do a square too! We hope the squares will be placed in the "finished square box" by July 31.

