

**ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
January 27, 2019**

**PROGRAM**

Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary

- a) Convene with Prayer
- b) Motion to Allow Session to Approve Minutes of Congregational Meetings held in 2018
- c) Statistical Report & Necrology Report
- d) Reports of Standing Committees and Organizations
- e) 2019 Budget and Financial Report – Brian Sprague
- f) Terms of Call
- h) Closing Prayer and Adjournment

**2018 STATISTICAL REPORT**

|   |           |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Active Members, December 31, 2017       |           | 606 |
| Professions of Faith                    | 13        |     |
| Certificates of Transfer                | 11        |     |
| Other Gains                             | <u>3</u>  |     |
| Total Gains                             | 27        |     |
| Losses for 2018:                        |           |     |
| Certificates of Transfer                | 0         |     |
| Deaths                                  | 11        |     |
| Other Losses                            | <u>31</u> |     |
| Total Losses                            | 42        |     |
| Total Active Members, December 31, 2018 |           | 591 |

ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
February 11, 2018  
Following the 10:30 Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Docket

1. Convene with Prayer
2. *Motion* – To allow Session to approve minutes of Congregational Meetings held in 2018
3. *Motion* – to amend the St. Mark Presbyterian Church Bylaws SECTION VIII as follows:  
The “Endowment Funds Committee” shall consist of five persons, one member of Session (e.g., Chairman of the Church Support Committee) and four at-large members to be elected by the congregation at a Corporation Meeting. The terms of office of the at-large members shall be four years. Any member of the Committee shall not be eligible for re-election to a consecutive third term until at least one year after the expiration of such member’s second term. The Session shall appoint a member currently serving to this committee. No other Session members shall be eligible.
4. Statistical Report and Necrology Report
5. Dismiss the 2017 Nominating Committee, with thanks
6. Reports of Standing Committees and Organizations
7. Budget Report – *Scott Collier, Church Support*
8. Terms of Call
  - Pastor Rev. Dr. David Burgess
  - Rev. Pastor Susan Hayes - Motion to accept the resignation of Rev. Susan Hayes and to ask the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy to dissolve her pastoral relationship with St. Mark church
9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Weber  
Clerk of Session

St. Mark Presbyterian Church  
Docket of the Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, July 8, 2018  
In the Sanctuary

- A quorum was declared and the meeting called to order at 10:35 am. Moderator Rev. Dr. David Burgess opened the meeting with prayer.
- Elder Shelley Lester, Nominating Committee co-chair, presented the slate of candidates for the Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (DAPNC):

Bertha Larez  
Jan Boehme  
Loren Polak  
Tom Dolson  
Lisa Marsh  
Clay Douglas

- Rev. Burgess asked for a motion to approve the slate of candidates. The motion was made and seconded. As there was no discussion, he called for the vote. The motion was unanimously approved.
- After a brief question and answer period Rev. Burgess called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am following a prayer by Rev. Burgess.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Carol Weber  
 Clerk of Session

St. Mark Presbyterian Church  
 Minutes of the Congregational Meeting  
 Sunday, October 14, 2018  
 In the Sanctuary

The meeting was called to order and a quorum declared at 11:35 am. Moderator the Rev. Dr. David Burgess opened the meeting with prayer.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the following slate of nominees for election as Deacon:

**Class of 2021**  
 Sharon Cardwell  
 Jan Graves  
 Jack Martin  
 Mary Schibler  
 Linda Smith  
 Valery Steiner

**Class of 2020**  
 Debbie Hames

**Class of 2019**  
 Amelia Burgess

As there were no nominees from the floor or objections, the motion was passed unanimously.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the following slate of nominees for election as Ruling Elder:

**Class of 2021**  
 Cay Noble  
 Patty Livesay  
 Glenn Knopf  
 Jim Arnet

**Class of 2019**  
 Zach Neal

As there were no nominees from the floor or objections, the motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the following slate of nominees for election as members of the 2019 Congregational Nominating Committee:

Bob Stewart  
Jeff Wilson

Doris Martin  
Laurie Dolson

As there were no nominees from the floor or objections, the motion was passed unanimously.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the following nominee for election as member of the Endowment Committee:

Bob Snyder, Class of 2022

As there were no nominees from the floor or objections, the motion was passed unanimously.

- A motion was made and seconded to dismiss the 2018 Nominating Committee, with thanks, effective January 2019. The members are: Randy Pierce, John Northrip, Missy Reiter, Nancy Sutch, and Lexi Brewer. The motion was passed unanimously.

There being no further business a motion for adjournment was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Burgess at 11:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Weber  
Clerk of Session

## 2018 Moderator's Report

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

(Isaiah 40:28-31, NRSV.)

It has been a very busy year here at St. Mark. 2018 brought many challenges and opportunities, but, through strong leadership by your session and your faithful service, we accomplished many wonderful things. **Our church is blessed.** Countless numbers of volunteer servants worked tirelessly to make sure we had uplifting worship, quality education for all ages, meaningful mission engagement, and so much more. I do not have the time or space to thank all of you individually in this report, but please know I see all you do and am thankful for your service.

I have gathered very little moss in the past year. I estimate I preached at approximately 130 Saturday and Sunday services. I particularly enjoyed our sermon series focused on the ministry of the Presbyterian pastor, Mr. Fred Rogers. I officiated one wedding, preached at nine funeral services, and baptized seven people. I enjoyed getting to know many of our youngest worshippers during our time with children. I took over the Confirmation Class in January and loved working with our middle and high school students. This is such an important time in their lives and in the life of any congregation, and I was honored to walk with them for those five months.

A large portion of my work centered on strengthening the church's Christian education ministry. I participated in two book studies and led the combined Summer Sunday school class on reclaiming civility in public discourse. I facilitated the discussions on Third Wednesday and helped to lead a new Sunday school in the Fellowship Hall. I am thankful for where we are, but I would like to see these programs grow throughout 2019. Education is a cornerstone in our faith and a hallmark of the Presbyterian Church.

We also had a lot of fun in 2018. We enjoyed chili cook offs, trivia nights, holiday parties, and community outreach celebrations. I wore lederhosen for the Fall Festival and a red coat, cap, and beard for our Breakfast with Santa. These are special events where we welcome in guests from the neighborhood, and I am so thankful to serve with such a hospitable congregation.

I attended the Presbyterian Board of Pensions Credo event back in May and the PCUSA Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in September. Life is full, and God is good...all the time.

In Hope and Confidence,  
Pastor Dave

## MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT

For 2018, the most pressing issue was finding a children's/youth Music Director. After reviewing many resumes, and 3 set of interviews, we were able to hire the talented *Sarah Vlodek*. This is her first church position, so there was a need for some coaching, but Sarah is now taking the initiative and we look forward to seeing and hearing how the music program will develop with her leadership and creativity.

An issue brought to my attention by the bell ringers was the need for better lighting. After researching the solutions, ordering samples, and having 3 bell ringers test them, I ordered and set up the ones we now have, along with new stands which are less bulky and more portable. All bell ringers are very appreciative of the new lights.

Related to bells, they were in much need of refurbishing, particularly the springs which control the clappers. Because of the generosity of a supportive church member, I was able to take the bells to have them refurbished. Bell rehearsals go more smoothly as a result of these repairs.

For the upcoming year, the goal, as always, is to continue encouraging the musicians of the church to participate in our diverse and creative music program. In particular, and partly with the help of Sarah Vlodek, I hope to have the middle/high youth participate more in worship by singing, playing instruments, and playing in bell groups.

From a personal and totally subjective perspective, the Chancel Choir members seem to be both a more spiritual and a more cohesive group than when I first began my work as the Music Director. During rehearsals, I always explain the spiritual reason why I chose an anthem for a particular service, and we pray for each other. There are fewer negative comments, and **lots of laughter**. I hope to see this trend continue in 2019.

Soli Deo Gloria  
Marsha Medley, Director of Music

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

St Mark is fortunate to have our Pastor and St. Mark members who provide us with Christian Education opportunities.

Pastor Dave is continuing his 3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesdays; speaking on various theological and church related topics and encouraging questions. He also taught Sunday school class on Reclaiming Civility and the Animate Faith curriculum discussing faith with 21<sup>st</sup> century theologians.

On Palm Sunday Pastor Dave lead a special discussion on worldwide water issues and “what we can do to help provide clean water for all God’s children”.

The Adult Discussion Class meets at 9:00 am Sunday morning in room 306. The discussion of timely issues and books are led by class attendees. Ron Goff leads with contributions from Gary Naylor, Ivan Collier, Don York, Dan Cobb, Jeff Wilson, Ed Perantoni and Lu Perantoni.

Cliff Shoep’s Sunday school class meets at 9:30 am in room 102 between the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Bible studies included: Abraham to Nehemiah, the study of minor prophets, the Doxology, Psalms, the Epistle of James, the Book of Confessions, History of the Kingdom of Israel, Joshua Judges and Samuel, Saul, David and Solomon. Special thanks to Bruce Cranston for leading the Feasting on the Word curriculum for winter spring 2018.

Discussion of Waking up White by Debby Irving was led by Julie Northrip in the spring. This book was discussed throughout the Presbytery.

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson discussions were held in the Adult Discussion Class and three Wednesdays during the summer. Thanks to Julie Northrip, Gary Naylor, and Dan Cobb for participating in leading the discussions.

Glen Corlett leads the Weekly Men’s Bible study meeting in room 102. They have been studying the book of Romans.

Thank you, Diana Johanning, Joan Corlett, and Pat Marshall, for our excellent Library. We invite you take advantage of St. Mark’s Christian Education classes and discussion opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bertha Larez, Chair

**BOARD OF DEACONS**

*“The opportunity for service and caring for God’s people is great. Through the example set by Jesus Christ, the deacons continually find ways to mobilize the strengths and resources of the congregation. In doing so, through faith, the deacons lead the congregation to accomplish tasks that serve the greater congregation and community.” – St. Mark Board of Deacons Mission Statement*

To accomplish and fulfill our mission, the Board of Deacons lead ten standing committees and four major fundraising events. As elected by the congregation, the 2018 Board of Deacons was composed of seventeen deacons who serve three-year terms and a youth deacon who serves a one-year term.

| <b>Class of 2018</b>   | <b>Class of 2019</b>   | <b>Class of 2020</b>   |
|--|--|--|
| Jerry Dressel<br>Pat Eisenberg<br>Debbie Hames<br>Debbie Lienemann<br>Kathleen Maas-Stokes<br>Becky Pierce<br>Emma Caplinger | Joyce Blackwell<br>Jan Boehme<br>Wayne Brent<br>Keith Monteith<br>Jean Steward | Lauren Arnet<br>Christy Brewer<br>Nikki Douglas<br>Janet Dusch<br>Christine Polak<br>Mark Michel |

The Board of Deacon Officers were: Joyce Blackwell – Moderator, Mark Michel – Vice Moderator, Becky Pierce – Secretary, and Jerry Dressel – Treasurer.

**GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SERVICE**

During 2018, the deacons raised and distributed approximately \$50,000 to mission partners as well as coordinated and participated in many hundreds of service hours to the Caregiving and Stephen Ministries as well as to mission partners and programs summarized below. The committee reports that follow are high level summaries of the activities of the highly engaged 2018 Board of Deacons. Our work is made possible by the St. Mark congregation’s and staff’s active involvement, generous donations, and prayers of support. For all that you have done and contributed, please accept the gratitude and appreciation of the deacons.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Blackwell, Deacon Moderator

**CARE GIVING COMMITTEE** – Christy Brewer, Chair

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 coordinates meals, sends cards (get-well,

sympathy, birthday, and thinking of you), assists families during funeral/memorial services, as needed, and assembles/delivers Advent bags. During 2018 our committee provided the following:

- Meals (including “We Care” meal activities provided in April and October) 101
- Funerals: 7 funeral receptions.
- Birthday and Sympathy Cards: Birthday-50 (age 85+), Sympathy-22, Get Well-20
- Care Giving Table Cards: approximately 34 Thank you to the congregation for taking the time to sign these cards before/after services, they are greatly appreciated by their recipients!
- USO Christmas Cards
- Advent Bags: 25 The bags are assembled/delivered as a reminder of God’s love and the love of their Church family.

**CIRCLE OF CONCERN/FOOD COMMITTEE** – Jan Boehme, Chair

This committee is responsible for the weekly collection and delivery of food and personal care items donated by our congregation to Circle of Concern located in Valley Park, MO. Members are informed of Circle of Concern’s needs in our weekly bulletin. In addition, deacons deliver special collections made throughout the year by our preschool, children and youth ministries, summer back to school supplies drive, and Giving Thanks Dinner. The deacons also collect items for Circle’s Birthday Club. This club provides presents and items to give a birthday party for all clients under the age of twelve.

Pastor Bags, located under the Circle table outside of Pastor Dave’s office, are filled with food and personal care items. These bags are given out by our Pastors and staff to help fill the gap of time until people can receive Circle’s help.

**CLOTHING/SHOES COMMITTEE** – Jean Steward, Chair

Approximately 500 bags of clothing and shoes were donated to local donations centers during 2018. Two key changes occurred during 2018 for this committee. First, given that the volume of shoe donations to the “barrels” had steadily decreased year on year, shoe donations were consolidated with the clothing shed donations. Second, the prior mission partner who picked up clothing, no longer had the capability to handle the volume of donations. After several months of members delivering to local donation centers, St. Vincent DePaul Society began picking up clothing and shoe donations from the shed in April 2018.

**COMMUNION COMMITTEE** – Becky Pierce, Chair

Communion was served every Sunday at the 8:30 service, on the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 service, and at the preceding Saturday night 5:00 service. Communion was also served on Maundy Thursday, World-Wide Communion Sunday, and Christmas Eve. The committee purchased supplies, prepared the elements, and enlisted help from present and past deacons and elders in serving communion. A gluten-free tray is also provided for those needing that option.

**FLOWER COMMITTEE** – Pat Eisenberg, Chair

Donating flowers as a memorial or to commemorate or honor an event not only enhances our worship services but provides cheer to those who could not attend church. The deacons would like to thank all members of the congregation who provided flowers for worship during the past year. In 2018 there were a total of 52 chancel bouquets ordered from a local florist. Of these, 25 were taken home by the donors, and 27 were delivered by the deacons to homebound members.

For Easter, 26 families donated a total of 56 lily plants which were ordered from a local greenhouse. 18 were taken home by the donors and 38 were delivered to homebound church

members. For Christmas, 27 families donated a total of 69 poinsettias plants which were ordered from a local greenhouse. Of these, 14 were taken home by the donors and 55 were delivered by the deacons to homebound members. There were 4 rosebuds ordered in 2018 in celebration of new births in the congregation.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE** – Keith Monteith, Chair

The Health and Wellness committee organizes blood drives, CPR training, and maintains the 8 first aid kits located throughout the church property, as well as the AED unit. The committee continued to sponsor Red Cross blood drives, with four blood drives completed in 2018. A total of 70 donors, including 4 first time donors, donated 65 units of blood, which can benefit up to 195 patients. To reverse a springtime decline in donors, the committee leveraged a social media site, claymont.nextdoor.com, notices in the church bulletin, announcements during church services and the Red Cross recruitment tools including blanket emails to all previous donors, resulting in an increase in donations on the last drive. The committee coordinated 2019 Red Cross blood drive dates with church administration and Red Cross leadership, with drives scheduled on March 24, May 19, August 4 and October 13.

**ISAIAH 58 COMMITTEE** – Jean Steward, Chair

2018 saw a revitalization of St. Mark engagement and support for this mission partner. Isaiah 58 serves low income families and individuals in the south St. Louis city through weekly fresh food distribution, a food pantry, thrift store, and healthy lifestyles programs. Several deacons and elders have become regular volunteers. This partnership is two way as the Executive Director, Rev. Brenda Booth, has joined our Chancel Bell Choir. The congregation generously supported Isaiah 58 throughout the year with donations of food and hygiene products, as well as a spice drive in February, peanut butter drive in the spring, back to school supplies in the summer, along with sharing some of the 39 bags of food donated for Giving Thanks Dinner. St. Mark volunteers were actively involved on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and the Thursday before Christmas, when over 400 families were provided ‘the fixins’ for their holiday meals. In addition, several PW Circles and the Deacons generously donated new toys to stock the Isaiah 58 Christmas Store allowing the clients to purchase gifts for their family members at a significantly lower price than in a traditional retail store.

**MISSION COMMITTEE** – Joyce Blackwell, Clarice Hutchens, Christine Polak, Co-Chairs Through deacon coordinated fundraising activities, special offerings, and the Session allocated commitment to the general mission of the church, over \$90,000 in funds were donated to mission partners during 2018.

In addition to the four fundraising events (ABC Sale, Christmas Alternatives, Christmas Tea, & Circle of Concern Golf Tournament) summarized below, as well as the Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 activities above, St. Mark members provide time, resources, and talents to work with our mission partners in the St. Louis area. Highlights of this year’s hands on activities include: food and hygiene product collection and delivery to Circle of Concern, Isaiah 58, and Presbyterian Children’s Home & Services, Peace Meal at St. John Church (Tower Grove Park), Mound Ridge Camp and Retreat Center ongoing facility upkeep, meals for UKirk gatherings, and staffing for Partners for Just Trade sales and education outreach events. Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, and baking products were available for sale every Sunday in the Narthex. Fair trade growers receive an above market income from the underlying items they produce. The sale of Equal Exchange products virtually covers the cost of the church’s coffee served throughout the year on Sunday and other gatherings at St. Mark in 2018.

Following is a list of the major mission partners and special offerings supported by St. Mark.

| <b><u>LOCAL MISSION PARTNERS</u></b>   | <b><u>INTERNATIONAL MISSION PARTNERS</u></b>   | <b><u>SPECIAL OFFERINGS</u></b>   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBJ</li> <li>• Circle of Concern</li> <li>• Isaiah 58</li> <li>• Lafayette Industries</li> <li>• Lydia's House</li> <li>• Mound Ridge</li> <li>• Peace Meal</li> <li>• Presbyterian Children's Homes &amp; Services</li> <li>• UKirk</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marion Medical Mission (clean water wells)</li> <li>• Medical Benevolence Foundation</li> <li>• Partners for Just Trade</li> <li>• PCUSA International Agricultural Missions</li> <li>• PCUSA Mission Co-Workers</li> <li>• Haiti-Mark Hare &amp; Jenny Bent</li> <li>• Peru-Jed &amp; Jenny Koball</li> <li>• PCUSA Plan Grande Dos Scholarship</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Great Hour of Sharing</li> <li>• Pentecost (40% was designated by SMPC to PCHAS &amp; Ukirk)</li> <li>• Peace &amp; Global Witness (25% was designated by SMPC to PCHAS &amp; St. John Episcopal Church Peace Meal)</li> <li>• Thanksgiving Offering</li> <li>• Christmas Joy Offering</li> </ul> <p><b><u>PCUSA GENERAL MISSION COMMITMENT \$25,000</u></b></p> |

In early 2017, the St. Mark Session chartered a Mission Task Force to assess all mission activities at St. Mark. The recommendations included bringing coordination of St. Mark mission activities through a central committee under the Board of Deacons with an elder representative as co-chair along with other members from the congregation. Under this directive, the committee has completed its first year in 2018. We are most appreciative of the congregation's ongoing participation, support, and prayers. We look forward to an impactful 2019.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** – Jean Steward, Chair

The goal of Stephen Ministry is to provide one-to-one confidential care to anyone who wishes to receive it. We offer training and on-going support to those who wish to serve as Christian caregivers. Stephen Ministers help meet the needs of hospital patients and nursing home residents, new mothers, the divorced or bereaved, and other persons facing various stresses and transitions of life. While most of this Christian caregiving is to St. Mark members, we also minister to persons throughout the community based on referrals from St. Mark members and other community resources.

Our ministry during 2018 included:

- Providing approximately 500 hours of one-on-one service
- Offering support to several church members through, pastoral visits, phone contacts and cards
- Distributing 38 sets [4 books each] of Journeying through Grief booklets to persons after the loss of a family member
- Delivering 30 handmade prayer shawls to church members and friends during hospitalization or other crises
- Providing Greeters four times a year
- Providing a cancer support group for those in need
- Providing Grief Share, a 13-week support group for people experiencing loss of a loved one, twice in the calendar year
- Continuing to guide and support each other through small group peer supervision

We conducted a new Stephen Minister class in the fall consisting of 50 hours of training in preparation for being commissioned as a Stephen Minister. Four St. Mark members completed the training as well as three from Trinity Lutheran.

Active members of Stephen Ministry include: Helen Berger, Marti Fruechte, Debbie Hames, Marie Holt, Bob Lienemann, Bette Nuzum, Gail Wagner, Jean Steward, Missy Reiter, Kay Merz, Janet Dusch, Jan Boehme, Jaclyn Morgan, Doug Anderson and Robyn Mikes.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** – Kathleen Maas-Stokes, Chair

Using the church bus and their own vehicles, the transportation committee provided or coordinated rides for church members and others who were unable to drive themselves. The church bus periodically picked up members at Meramec Bluffs and private homes for worship services. In addition, the church bus was used for Go-Getter and youth outings.

It is a blessing to have the church bus and to be able to offer transportation to members who wish to continue to attend worship and participate in the life of the church when they can no longer drive themselves. As our congregation ages, demand for this mission may increase. Having additional drivers who are authorized to drive the bus and are willing to drive on Sundays and Saturdays would be beneficial. Several deacons have volunteered to assist the driver. A second person is helpful to test brake lights and turn signals when pre-drive tests are performed as well as assist with loading and unloading of passengers.

**WORSHIP SUPPORT COMMITTEE** – Nikki Douglas, Chair

This Board of Deacons committee was established in 2018 with an emphasis on *support*. At the request of St. Mark staff early in the year, a team of deacons was chartered to identify and subsequently coordinate worship support activities. The scope of the committee's responsibilities does *not* include worship planning, design, leadership etc., which are responsibilities of the head of staff and session

Major duties of this new committee are:

- Coordinate, train, and recruit ushers, greeters, and liturgists for regular worship services.
- In addition, this committee ensures the sanctuary is prepared for worship and special services (i.e. proper paraments, baptismal font, candles, ashes for Ash Wednesday, palms for Palm Sunday, Advent candles, etc.).
- Coordinate physical care of sanctuary and narthex including table, pulpit, font, paraments, candles, ritual of friendship pads, pew racks etc. Work with the property committee as appropriate.

**ABC SALE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT COMMITTEE** – Becky Pierce, Cindy Bartell, Vicki Chabot, Co-Chairs

The ABC (Attic, Basement, Closet) sale was held on August 3 and 4, 2018. Set up began the week before and many hours of labor went into transforming our church into an incredibly well-organized rummage sale. Over 85 St. Mark members volunteered in this event. Our net profit was \$11,880.30, a slight decrease from the prior year. This year we continued to implement many online advertising tools, as well as having flyers available at some of the other churches in our area during their 2018 sale. We continue to sell items on eBay throughout the year. The proceeds of the sale fund donations to the local mission partners that St. Mark supports. Please mark your calendar for the 2019 event which will be held on August 2nd and 3rd.

**CIRCLE OF CONCERN GOLF TOURNAMENT ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT** – Debbie Brown, Chair, Wayne Brent, Deacon Liaison

A net profit of over \$20,000 was generated from the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Circle of Concern's Charity Golf Tournament held Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at Aberdeen Golf Club. The tournament was a huge success with a 14% increase in profit from the year prior. 31 teams registered to play (full field is 36) with 145 people in attendance. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor - Orthopedic Specialists - and the rest of the sponsors/golfers/committee members and most importantly, our volunteers who helped organize this event. St Mark looks forward to hosting this event for the 15<sup>th</sup> year on May 21, 2018.

Debbie Brown will return as tournament chair in 2019. The committee has begun planning for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual tournament which will be held on Monday, May 20, 2019. Mark your calendars and plan to come play. If you don't play, consider volunteering on the committee or at the event and see what's it's all about!

**ST. MARK CHRISTMAS TEA TO BENEFIT LYDIA'S HOUSE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT COMMITTEE** – Debbie Cloud, Chair, Pat Eisenberg, Deacon Liaison

The St. Mark Christmas Tea to benefit Lydia's House was held on December 1st in the St. Mark narthex. It was the fourth annual fundraiser formerly known as Christmas Tabletop Tour and Tea (which in turn had replaced the long running St. Mark Christmas House Tour). The formal program featured Rev. Carolyn Held, Lydia's House chaplain, who spoke to guests about the organization's efforts to end domestic violence by offering transitional housing and healing support services for abused women and their children. The event netted over \$5,700, a modest increase over the prior year's results.

Fifteen tables of 8 guests (120 seats) were decorated by volunteer hosts with festive china, utensils, glassware, centerpieces, decorations and of course, tea pots for their table. Vox Solus, a cappella ensemble from Lafayette High School (under direction of teacher Ken Tucker), again provided musical entertainment. In addition to St. Mark youth, Lafayette and Marquette National Honor Societies provided volunteers to serve food and drink to the attendees.

**ST. MARK CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVES ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT TO BENEFIT INTERNATIONAL MISSION PARTNERS** – Clarice Hutchens and Christine Polak, Co-Chairs

The Mission Committee extends a thank you to the congregation for its support of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Alternatives campaign. PJT ornaments from artisans in Peru and Haiti were made available as a part of the Christmas Alternatives program. Proceeds from the sale were designated to Christmas Alternatives. A total of \$10,489 was raised. Designated support from the congregation was distributed to the following mission partners: PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru) and Mark Hare and Jenny Bent (Haiti), Presbyterian Children's Home and Services; Agriculture missions (Presbyterian Giving Catalog), Medical Benevolence Foundation, Marion Medical Mission (Africa), and The Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery Nicaraguan Plan Grande Dos Scholarship Fund.

**BUSINESSPERSONS BETWEEN JOBS**

BBJ maintains its commitment of 46 years to reach out to all in our community who are in job transition. We're committed to providing the tools, resources and support required to assist jobseekers in their search for employment. During 2018 we continued to add content and event information to the BBJ.org website for additional resources available to the unemployed. BBJ operates as a free service to jobseekers and we are grateful for the ongoing support from the Deacons and contributions from volunteers and jobseekers who have landed in new positions.

During 2018, attendance at weekly meetings continued at a reduced level especially in the late fall. Every week has a steady influx of one or two new people, offset by people steadily getting jobs. Many of these jobs are part-time, independent contractor, or significantly below their skill level. which has become the new-normal of the employment scene. Frequently we see familiar faces returning after the seasonal work or the special project has ended. Many are realizing that this may be the “bridge” until they can retire, or perhaps the “new normal”. A significant trend in 2018 was the appearance of more young people and more women in attendance.

BBJ is blessed with many dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers who give freely of their time and talents insuring that our organization provides an effective support base for our membership. In 2018 we welcomed Ron Kremmel to the BBJ board. Ron has been a volunteer for several years and we grateful for his contributions.

We are thankful to all of the following people for their efforts in helping us accomplish our mission:

- The BBJ Board of Directors: Dick Wallace, Roger Stoll, Mike McCarty, Nicole Meyer, Dwayne Miller, Bob Bohn, Ron Kremmel and Mike Hoffey.
- The volunteers/consultants who are frequently present on Mondays: Karen Gabriel, Vic McCool, and John Meyer.
- Pastor Dave Burgess for his strong support with weekly prayers to start our meetings.
- All of the wonderful presenters (too numerous to list) that so graciously speak and share their expertise with us each Monday.

BBJ and St. Mark lost a wonderful man, Fred Conrad, in 2018. Fred was actively involved with BBJ for over 37 years and continued to greet newcomers each week until he moved away from Ballwin and could no longer attend. Fred passed away September 25, 2018. We will miss Fred’s cheerful demeanor and enthusiastic spirit.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Martin, BBJ Board President

### **CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

The children's ministries committee enjoyed another great year in 2018 with growth in existing programs and new areas as well. The committee focuses on programs that build the faith, mission, and fellowship of children up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The committee continues to oversee Sunday morning and Wednesday activities for children, nursery, computer lab, children's library, Jerusalem Festival, Bunny Breakfast, Saints, and Vacation Bible School. Children's Ministries coordinates with other committees for the Fall Festival and children's musical performances. We continued our outreach efforts by also hosting a Pet Blessing led by the children and youth.

The Children’s Library is located on the lower level and houses children’s books and DVDs, in addition to a puppet theater. A small book display is available for children outside of the adult library with a reading table. Thank you to Diana Johanning and Pat Marshall for maintaining and upgrading both areas. Children’s Ministries also maintains a computer lab on the lower level for Sunday School classes and smaller groups of children.

The nursery and toddler rooms were updated with new flooring and is maintained by members of the committee for the convenience of our youngest children.

The Jerusalem Festival took place on Palm Sunday. Sunday school teachers led their classes through a rotation of age appropriate activities. The activities included visiting a temple, exploring plants and herbs of that time, crafts including pottery, creating a resurrection garden, the Marketplace, and, live animals. Thanks to help from numerous volunteers, the Jerusalem Festival was a successful and enjoyable family event at St. Mark.

Children's Ministries committee once again ran the Bunny Breakfast which had an increase in participants from our church family, from Claymont Preschool, and the surrounding neighborhood. Families enjoy a sit-down breakfast, egg hunts for various ages, pictures with the Easter Bunny and games. This year the committee opted to make this a free will donation event to try and increase our outreach to the community. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for cooking.

During Wednesday evening activities, the children learn short Bible lessons from the Holy Moly series, then focus on mission-based project. The children did several projects for the Presbyterian Children's Home and homebound St. Mark members. Towards the end of Fall, we were blessed to have our new Children's Music Director join our children on Wednesday nights. They worked very hard for Sarah Vlodek and perfected 3 songs for the church's enjoyment during the Christmas season.

The Saint's Program is offered for all elementary grade students and their siblings. They meet monthly and combine mission projects and fun outings. This year they adopted six families through the Angel Tree project. St. Mark continues to amaze us with their support of this ministry. Saints outings provide an opportunity for making a connection to our children while strengthening their connection to the church. This past year the children went to Incredible Pizza, roller skating, a Cardinals game, The City Museum, and bowling. The older Saints joined the Youth in a work weekend at Mound Ridge.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, children's ministries hosted Brunch with Santa after church on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The event was a huge success. Approximately 200 people attended from church, Claymont Preschool, and the surrounding neighborhood. With the help of some of our wonderful committee and Fellowship, the brunch went off without a hitch. Santa read a story to the children, then spent a little quality time with each child. There were plenty of coloring pages, crafts, and letters to Santa for the kids to complete. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the event and requested that we do it again.

Vacation Bible School was once again a huge success with our Rolling River Rampage theme. One hundred and sixty students spent the week learning about God and his great actions while singing, dancing, and participating in many other fun activities. The camp program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders continues to expand and included a field trip to Flying Spider for a day of jumping and bouncing. VBS families collected school supplies, which the campers packed in backpacks for Presbyterian Children's Home and Services. We worked with the Youth Committee to provide multiple afternoon programs for mid and senior high youth volunteers.

The Annual Fall Festival was held in October, and serves as a fun-filled outreach activity for our church, the neighborhood, and community. Children and adults enjoyed the festivities that included a bluegrass band, a bounce house, an obstacle course, pumpkin carving, a balloon artist, pictures, a cake walk, caricature artists, a tricycle race and face painting entertain kids of all ages. New this year was our St. Marktoberfest Root Biergarten and Float Station. A big shout out goes to Pastor Dave Burgess who dressed in lederhosen and served Fitz's root beer from a keg. Lunch was prepared by our wonderful Men's Fellowship. We could not pull off this event without the help of all the committees of the church.

Children's ministries continue to coordinate the Supper Club and Mom's Night Out activities at church. The group coordinates fellowship activities for those with elementary age children and others who are interested in participating. Its activities have included several pot luck dinners, an Ugly Sweater party, and a mom's night event to prepare Advent activity kits for kids. Attendance at these events has consistently increased and varies between 10 and 20 people. Activities being considered for next year include another bowling night, a sporting event, and several dinners.

Our sincere thanks go to all of our Sunday school teachers who help our children learn about God and his bountiful love. This year we have been using the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum published by PC USA. I also want to thank everyone who has served on this committee: Diana Johanning, Lauren Arnet, Jim Arnet, Lynn Laux, Heather Neal, Shelley Lester, Julie Prine, Julie Northrup, Jennifer Melter, Tricia Rouff, and Ellen Hynes, Director of Children's Ministries. It has been a pleasure working with such talented, enthusiastic, cheerful and dedicated people. We also want to thank the other committees of the church; many of our activities would not happen without them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Oglesby, Elder

### **CHURCH SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

The Church Support Committee, acting on behalf of the Session, administers St. Mark's financial activities, including: (1) the development of the annual church budget for Session approval, (2) coordination of the annual Fall Stewardship Campaign and other Financial campaigns, (3) planning and overseeing all offerings (including the special offerings), (4) performing financial review and overseeing reports, (5) managing St. Mark's insurance, (6) providing general oversight of the Church Treasurer and (7) coordinating miscellaneous other corporate matters.

St. Mark ended 2018 with a substantial budget surplus due to several staff positions being unoccupied for all or part of the year, including the Associate Pastor, Youth Director, Pastoral Associate and Children's Music Director. This improves our cash reserve status for unexpected contingencies.

2018 also had its share of unexpected, though not entirely unanticipated expenses. To wit, the AC unit for the sanctuary is being replaced this winter with 2018 funds, at a total cost of roughly \$65,000.00. The Endowment Fund provided just over \$41,000.00 with the remaining balance coming from the Major Repair Fund and the 2018 budget surplus.

In March 2018, SMPC retained the services of CLA to take over the bookkeeping duties that Doreen Manhal handled prior to her retirement. CLA and Church Support have striven this past year to sharpen our business processes and accounting procedures by streamlining some functions and moving to online bill paying to further reduce business costs to the church. Outsourcing this function also realized a significant savings (roughly \$8,000) when compared to the cost of a full-time employee. This will allow the time and talents of the new Office Manager to be utilized for other functions. We know that this transition is a major adjustment for the committees and lay organizations of SMPC and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we transition to new personnel and new ways of conducting the "business" of the church.

For 2019, Session has again approved a balanced budget. Selected staff received wage increases based on competitive salary reviews by the Personnel Committee. Expenses for staff pensions, life insurance and medical insurance for non-ordained staff did not appreciably increase for 2019. With

the cost of medical insurance increasing only by single digits in 2019, SMPC will continue to cover 90% of the premium cost for employees and 50% for dependents.

The Church Support Committee appreciates the faithful work of St. Mark staff, and especially the important work of 2018 retirees Doreen Manhal, who coordinated much of St. Mark's financial matters, as well as Carol Pfeil who provided major assistance with our annual Stewardship campaign. Special recognition and appreciation are also extended to Mark Caplinger, who is serving currently as Church Treasurer, and to Ron Ridgway, who again provided the annual St. Mark financial review and report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Collier (Chair), Cay Noble, Brian Sprague, Hugh Smith, Bob Snyder, Carl Tenpas

### **CLAYMONT PRESCHOOL AT ST. MARK COMMITTEE**

Claymont Preschool at St. Mark completed its 56<sup>th</sup> successful year. There were 77 children enrolled at the end of 2018, compared with 79 at the end of 2017. Children were enrolled in six classes; two classes each for each of the three age levels. The classes met from 9:00 to 12:00 one to five half days a week, depending on age, late August through mid-May, with extended day (lunch bunch) offered on Monday through Friday until 1:30 for older children. Yoga, Spanish and gymnastics classes were offered after school to give parents an additional way to extend the preschool day. Three weeks of Summer Session were held in June with 27 children attending, compared to 23 children the previous year. Families continue to enjoy the additional week we added several years ago to extend the school calendar and the flexibility we offer in class selections.

In addition to the Parent Orientation meeting with teachers offered the week before the children start school, we hosted a Parent Welcome the first week of school. This gave parents an opportunity to meet one another, Preschool Committee Members and Pastor Dave. We sponsored this to make the transition to preschool easier for the parents and grandparents while their children were making a similar transition to preschool in their classrooms. This is the second year we did this, and attendance improved compared to the first year.

In May and December, the children celebrated with music performances for their families and friends in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The 3-year-old classes held their Date with Dad on a Saturday in February. The annual teacher appreciation lunch was held in April. We participated in the Fall Festival. In November 168 food items were collected to donate to the Circle of Concern. New red Claymont Preschool tee shirts, with artwork designed by our teacher, Kelly Cook, were given to all children, teachers and Preschool Committee Members at Christmas.

We are blessed with an excellent staff of 12 teachers. Two teacher anniversaries were celebrated at our annual Open House in October; Becky Pierce and Judy Underhill, both St Mark church members and retired Parkway and Rockwood teachers who have taught with us for 5 years. St. Mark church members on the teaching staff are Lisa Marsh, Becky Pierce, Sabrina Seidel, Susan Talley and Judy Underhill.

We continue to benefit from our reputation as a preschool that does an excellent job of preparing children for kindergarten as well as offering what parents value most--- dedicated teachers who daily provide a warm, caring, learning environment for young children's cognitive, social and emotional development. Daily music and movement classes with a dedicated music teacher at all age levels, as well as daily physical education with two outside and two inside areas, science

programs twice a month in the Threes and Pre-K classes and enrichment programs from community resources, are all part of our regular curriculum.

Many thanks to the Committee for their dedication and support: Christy Brewer, Peggy Carson, Lynne Dauve (Director), Kathy Emge, Pat Feagan, Brad Grogan (Session Rep), Lynn Laux (Parent Rep), Mary Beth Powell, Jane Staniforth and Nancy Sutch.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynne Dauve

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Communications Committee oversees the tools used by St. Mark to broadcast the mission and life of the congregation St. Mark Presbyterian Church. These tools are:

- the official website of our local church [www.discoverstmark.org](http://www.discoverstmark.org)
- the St. Mark church blog [www.discoverstmark.blogspot.com](http://www.discoverstmark.blogspot.com)
- the public Facebook page Discover St. Mark
- the Facebook closed groups, identified as St. Mark Congregational Bulletin Board, St. Mark Ministry of Motion and St Mark Presbyterian Youth (Ballwin)
- The Messenger – a monthly newsletter published both digitally and printed

Cooperation with the Technology Committee and Pastor Dave allowed weekly sermons and Midweek presentations to be regularly online. Pastor Dave's expertise in marketing and social media has enhanced the work of this committee.

Cathy Schindler has been maintaining and updating with consistent regularity all the information on our church's website. Jaclyn Morgan has used her gifts to add photos, prayers, articles, and inspirational sources to our church's daily blog. They have done this work faithfully for years, often on a daily/weekly basis. Their commitment to serving God at St. Mark is deeply appreciated, and we have all been blessed by it.

Also faithfully serving on this committee are John Northrip, Sue Snyder and Kathryn Deters.

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Sherman, Chair

### **CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The purpose of the congregational nominating committee is to identify and nominate a slate of enthusiastic church leaders to be approved by the congregation. As a standing committee, we report directly to you, the congregation. However, we did keep Session informed of our progress.

With numerous slots to fill, we began meeting weekly in the summer of 2018. To better understand our role, we viewed a video from the Presbyterian Church (USA) consulted the *Book of Order*, and the church by-laws. We then began soliciting recommendations from the congregation, in addition to brainstorming names among ourselves. Information was posted in the church bulletin and Pastor Dave provided a PSA.

Our initial task was a slate for the designated associate pastor nominating committee (DAPNC). We also needed five elders, eight deacons, one member for the endowment committee, and four at large members for the 2019 nominating committee.

With a list of possible candidates in hand, we started contacting church members. Recognizing that church leadership is a two-way street, we matched the gifts of each nominee to a specific leadership role. At the same time, nominees needed to feel a calling and be willing and able to devote their time to that role.

We were pleased to present the following slate of church leaders to the congregation in October 2018.

*Elders (Class of 2021)*

Jim Arnet, Glenn Knopf, Patty Livesay, Cay Noble, and Zach Neal.

*Deacon (Class of 2020)*

Debbie Hames

*Deacons (Class of 2021)*

Sharon Cardwell, Jan Graves, Jack Martin, Mary Schibler, Linda Smith, Valery Steiner, and Amelia Burgess.

*Endowment Committee (Class of 2022)*

Bob Snyder

*Nominating Committee (2019)*

Laurie Dolson, Doris Martin, Bob Stewart, and Jeff Wilson

One youth will be elected to serve on the nominating committee in 2019.

*DAPNC*

Jan Boehme, Tom Dolson, Clayton Douglas, Bertha Larez, Lisa Marsh, and Loren Polak

We are grateful to the congregation for their support and to those who graciously agreed to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2018 Congregational Nominating Committee

Lexi Brewer, Debbie Hames, Shelly Lester (Co-Chair), Nancy Sutch, Randy Pierce, Missy Reiter, and Sharon Wyman (Co-Chair)

## **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The endowment Fund was created for the preservation of St. Mark Presbyterian Church Assets. The Fund has grown when St. Mark has been the beneficiary of an estate or when individuals have made contributions to the Fund. The capital is invested conservatively and the income is used each year to fund "off budget" items. Decisions regarding the use of the money are made by a committee consisting of four elected members and one appointed elder plus the ex-officio member, the church treasurer. All decisions of the Endowment Committee are reviewed and approved by Session.

In 2018, the Endowment Fund's income was spent for purchasing wireless microphone equipment to replace the existing outmoded equipment and to replace the parking lot lights. Additionally, the Fund paid for the cost of hiring a band for the fall Festival and purchased kitchen equipment in support of the Christmas tea which raises funds for Lydia's House. Also, lighting and new stands were purchased for the bell choir. Finally, money from the Endowment Fund

budget was used as part of the purchase of new air conditioning equipment to replace the existing worn out system.

The current members of the Endowment Fund Committee are: Carl Tenpas, Marti Fruechte, Mark Weber and Robert Snyder. Retiring member, Alice Crippen, has completed a five-year term of service. Scott Collier is the Elder appointed to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Crippen, Chair

### **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Fellowship Committee had a great 2018! The committee is responsible for preparing coffee, donuts and providing warm welcomes at the Welcome Center *every* Sunday.

The committee hosted the following church activities in 2018: Chili Cookoff in February, an All-Church Picnic in May, Dave's 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary Pie-a-Palooza in August, hosted a Fellowship booth for the inaugural Discover St. Mark Sunday in September, in co-operation with the Stewardship Committee we hosted Stewardship "Sundae" with ice cream sundaes for the church in October, Giving Thanks Supper in November, and the Jingle Mingle in December. We also had some milestone celebrations when Doreen Manhal and Carol Pfeil retired this year. Helen Heyde and Millie Miller also celebrated milestone birthdays this year, and we celebrated with them.

This tireless committee also assisted with Third Wednesday Potlucks, Bunny Breakfast, VBS supper, Fall Festival, Santa Brunch, and Confirmation Sunday.

We are grateful for the Property Committee for renovating the Kitchen Annex this year and creating a clean, functional storage area for the church!

Looking forward to another busy year working with our church family to create events for fellowship within our congregation and with our neighbors in 2019! If you would like to join the Fellowship Committee please contact Nina Collier; [we would love to have you join us!](#)

Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Collier, Chair

### **GO-GETTERS**

The Go Getters are Senior Women who enjoy meeting once monthly, September through June, for lunch, fun and fellowship. Their usual meeting day is the second Tuesday of the month. From December through March, we meet at the church for a luncheon and enjoy activities like Gift Exchange, Heart Bingo, Game Day, a Trivia contest, or sharing information about our pasts. In the warmer months, we travel to local restaurants or historical spots for lunch. When traveling, we utilize the church bus and individual drivers for our transportation. Thanks to David Sutch for usually driving the bus.

All of our events are well attended. The Go Getters is open to any senior women in the church or any woman wanting to be a member of this vibrant group of ladies.

For more information, please contact Jan Graves, Sharon Tharp, or Nancy Sutch. \_\_\_\_\_

Respectively submitted,  
Jan Graves, Nancy Sutch & Sharon Tharp

## LAFAYETTE WORK CENTERS

2018 was a very successful year for us again, as we continue to be very blessed. From our Mission perspective we now employ over 410 individuals at our work centers, including 26 new "hires" last year!! Our 4<sup>th</sup> combined employee picnic for both the Manchester and Berkeley workshops was again a great success with almost 500 people in attendance. We again received great financial support from our sponsors throughout the year which enabled us to employ those new folks and continue to expand our free lunches, outings, flu shots, and other "be well, work well" activities, and expanded our Art and Craft instructional sessions to include even more people. At the end of the year we awarded 2 more gold watches (for 25 years of service), bringing the total to 89 that we have given out in the last 13 years—now those are dedicated employees! The year culminated in our 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Glee Club Concert and Art exhibit in December attended by a record 250 guests. Another wonderful and satisfying year!

On the business side of our operation, we have now reached \$3 million dollars in "sales", which is our packaging and other business that we do for companies, maintaining our reputation as a high quality supplier of valuable business services. Last year I wrote about our new expansion at our North County location, and I am happy to report that we now have 175 individuals working there, working at a place where they have a steady job and their abilities are appreciated.

We are extremely thankful for the wonderful, continuous support and constant prayers of St. Mark. I would like to personally thank those St. Mark private donors who made contributions, as well as the St. Mark Spinnakers, and the St. Mark Presbyterian Women and the Deacons who support us every year.

In 2018, we established the Boots Berry volunteer award, dedicated to Boots who not only was part of that visionary and passionate group who played a critical role in the formation of Lafayette Work Center 42 years ago, but also volunteered every Tuesday for 37 years at the workshop. Our very 1<sup>st</sup> employee, St. Mark's own **Ken McLuen**, is still working every day, and at the end of the year was interviewed on TV by Frank Cusumano of Channel 5! What an inspiration Ken is for us all. The vision of Bob and Ethel McLuen, Board Members, Emeritus, and the founders of Lafayette Work Center, along with several of the faithful of St. Mark's, continues to hold true today as it did in 1976---to provide employment to deserving folks that gives them Dignity through work and the opportunity to use their God-given talents and abilities, just like the rest of us. Lafayette Industries remains the leading *full-time, long-term employer* of adults with developmental disabilities in the State of Missouri. To Bob and Ethel, Boots, and to the St. Mark's community: we are forever indebted to you.

Thank you once again, may God continue to bless you all very much, and here's to a Healthy and Happy 2019!

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Libera, Executive Director

## **MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

The Membership and Evangelism Committee worked to welcome visitors and new members to the church and performed administrative functions to keep an updated membership list in 2018.

In the spring a church directory was published by Guidebook Publishing and sent to members. The directory included updated staff and committee information.

An annual review of the church membership roll was completed, and nineteen people were removed from the active membership list. Committee members also periodically reviewed attendance sheets and contacted people who hadn't been recorded as attending to determine if they would like to continue their membership at St Mark.

First time visitors were sent a St Mark postcard if they provided contact information. New visitor gifts of fair-trade coffee and chocolate were purchased. Members of the committee are now staffing the Welcome Center after the second service to give the gifts and greet visitors.

A membership exploration class was held in November and seven attendees decided to join the church. The M&E committee help to facilitate this class. During the year, others joined the church outside of a class. New member bios were submitted for the newsletter. A spiritual gift assessment form was given to the new member class to assist in their decision in how to become involved in the life of the church.

The committee ordered name badges for all new members and also processed any requests for replacement badges. The Care Notes in the lobby were restocked by the committee. Committee members: Doris Martin, Candyce Cranston, Jan Loudon, Jan Horner, Linda Larimer, Chair.

Respectively submitted,  
Linda Larimer, Chair

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The personnel committee acting with authority delegated to it by the Session, is responsible for serving the needs of both the congregation and the staff in all matters relating to personnel, and for overall administration and coordination of the Church Staff and the Claymont Preschool – St Mark Staff.

This year St Mark witnessed the retirement of two of its long-time staff members, Doreen Manhal and Carol Pfeil. They both served St Mark Presbyterian Church with unquestionable faithful dedication for a total 66 plus years.

Staff healthcare benefits for 2018 were approved by Session and presented to staff. Health benefits are now shared by the employer and employee; with St Mark contributing 90% of the employee cost and 50% of any family or plus 1 cost. Cost sharing will continue to be reviewed each year going forward.

Annual evaluation on Pastor Dave was accomplished along with gathering feedback on his direct reports in preparation of their performance evaluations.

Personnel reviewed paid staffing positions going forward. Three positions are currently advertised for hire: Associate Pastor, Office/Facilities Manager, and Youth Associate. All are full-time except the Youth Associate position, which is part-time.

In October, Sarah Vloddek was hired as the new Children's Choir Director.

The Personnel Committee would like to thank all St Mark employees for their professionalism, caring and dedication exhibited throughout the year. We are indeed blessed to have such a fine staff.

In closing we would like to thank the members of our committee for their service: Brad Grogan, Melody Wintz-Hostetler, Don Marshall, Loren Polak, Roger Stoll, and with Pastor Dave Burgess – ex officio.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Lienemann, Chair/Elder

### **PRAYER FELLOWSHIP**

Prayer Fellowship meets Monday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 in the church library. Our list of those we pray for are requests from members and friends, and the list is updated each week. The lists are available in the Narthex.

We welcome others to join us in our "small group" and unite with is in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Boots Berry

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

St. Mark Presbyterian Women is an organization for women within our church. We enjoy fellowship, Bible study and supporting local, national and international missions. Our challenge is to accept the gifts God has given us and to use those gifts to assist in the life and work of the Church. The Board of Presbyterian Women meets the first Wednesday of each month and is made up of women who serve as officers, Circle leaders, and project chairs.

Presbyterian Women had 6 Circles with a total membership of approximately 80 active Women. September to May most Circles meet on the third Wednesday or Thursday of the month; 3 in the morning, 1 in the afternoon and 2 in the evening (One of which meets on dates determined by its members.) Ruth Circle is the only one that meets year round. Most Circles are using Horizon's Bible Study.

The mission work of PW is funded through individual gifts, the annual Christmas Boutique and Angel Street Café, an Easter candy sale, the Schnucks e-Scrip program, and circle pledges and offerings. In 2018 distributions were made to: Mound Ridge, Children's Foundation, Children's Ministries, Circle of Concern, Fellowship Committee of St. Mark and Youth Ministries of St. Mark. On the national and international levels, PW contributed to the work of the Presbyterian Church USA through our annual pledge, which supports the following offerings: Least Coin, Thank, Birthday, and Blanket+.

In January PW invited St. Mark women to our Annual Tea "Off the Wall." Guests brought artwork from the walls of them home and shared their stories while they enjoyed tasty treats.

St. Mark Women returned to Toddhall, Columbia, Illinois, for our Annual Women's Retreat in the spring. The retreat was a time to energize our spirits and bodies as we shared God's word,

worshipped, ate very well, met the challenge of game night and enjoyed the company of good friends.

PW started the new program year with our annual brunch. The fall outing took several members to tour various churches in the St. Louis area to view their beautiful stain glass windows. Presbyterian women continue to participate in the monthly book club. Members meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am for discussion of a book selected by the group, with no meetings in July or November.

St. Mark Presbyterian Women wishes to thank Pastor Dave and the St. Mark office staff for their continuing support, assistance and guidance through the year. Our thanks also, to all St. Mark members and friends – women and men – who have baked, cooked, cleaned up, served, studied, purchased (soup, chicken salad, cookbooks, etc.), climbed ladders, moved furniture, washed dishes, attended meetings, enjoyed good food and fellowship, and cared for one another.

It was a very good year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Tharp, Moderator

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Property Committee is responsible for the maintaining or replacement, if necessary, on all items relating to the physical buildings of St Mark Presbyterian Church. The following was accomplished by Property Committee in this past year.

- Replaced HVAC System for Sanctuary area
- Spring clean-up of all church property areas
- Replaced roof over kitchen area
- Worked with Fire Marshall on safety of buildings
- Replaced 1200 light bulbs or tubes with LED lights
  - Entire cost, approximately, \$6,000, was paid by Ameren
  - Earned from Ameren approximately \$3000 for installation of LED's
  - Ameren estimates, by changing to LED's, the church will reduce its annual electric costs by \$8,000
- Cleaned all roof top areas of dirt, leaves and debris
- Cleaned all carpet and tiled flooring of the church
- Property Committee members attended and helped on all major events to set-up or break down this year.

Numerous other jobs were accomplished through the dedication of the Property Committee members as there is no paid maintenance person (other than custodial). Many thanks to the efforts of Glen Corlett, Jerry Dressel, Larry Fruechte, Wray Johanning, Mike Ketring, Jim Kinder, Mickey Morrison, Jean Steward, Mike Vroman, Mark Weber, Phil Laux, and Scott Philips.

Respectfully submitted  
David Sutch, Chair

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

The goal of Stephen Ministry is to provide one-to-one confidential care to anyone who wishes to receive it. We offer training and on-going support to those who wish to serve as Christian

caregivers. Stephen Ministers help meet the needs of hospital patients and nursing home residents, new mothers, the divorced or bereaved, and other persons facing various stresses and transitions of life. While the majority of this Christian caregiving is to St. Mark members, we also minister to persons throughout the community based on referrals from St. Mark members and other community resources.

Our ministry during 2018 included:

Providing approximately 500 hours of one-on-one service.

Offering support to several church members through, pastoral visits, phone contacts and cards.

Distributing 38 sets (4 books each) of Journeying through Grief booklets to persons after the loss of a family member.

Delivering 30 handmade prayer shawls to church members and friends during hospitalization or other crises.

Providing Greeters four times a year.

Providing a cancer support group for those in need.

Providing Grief Share, a 13-week support group for people experiencing loss of a loved one, twice in the calendar year.

Continuing to guide and support each other through small group peer supervision.

We conducted a new Stephen Minister class in the fall consisting of 50 hours of training in preparation for being commissioned as a Stephen Minister. Four St. Mark members completed the training as well as three from Trinity Lutheran.

Active members of Stephen Ministry include: Helen Berger, Marti Fruechte, Debbie Hames, Marie Holt, Bob Lienemann, Bette Nuzum, Gail Wagner, Jean Steward, Missy Reiter, Kay Merz, Janet Dusch, Jan Boehme, Jaclyn Morgan, Doug Anderson and Robyn Mikes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Steward, Stephen Leader

## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

The purpose of the Technology Committee is to operate and maintain video and sound systems used in services, provide and maintain the phone system, multi-media systems, and information technology systems. We provide technical support and manage the hosting for the church website. The committee retains IT contractors for the higher level technical support of the church's IT systems and the church website. The committee also sets policy for use of all of these systems.

In 2018, the Technology Committee managed light and sound for all services. We provide the video and audio recordings of the Pastor's sermons for posting on the website. The committee also supported the church PCs, telephone system, server and networks. We also purchased wireless microphone systems need to upgrade our current systems throughout the church to meet new federal regulations.

Our major project for 2018 is the replacement of the Church Relationship Management software. We have purchased a cloud based replacement system which will position St. Mark for the future.

It will allow church members to have access to an on-line directory via their home computer or their smartphone via an App. Church members will also be able to update their information such as name, telephone number and address via the web access. It also supports multiple email addresses and phone numbers per member. The new system has the ability to send out mass emails, text and phone calls. We have begun the transition from the old system to the new and this transition will carry over into 2019.

Additionally, we added another sound tech to our committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Schindler, Elder & Chair

## **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

In 2018 Middle and High school groups were combined for weekly bible study and monthly fellowship activities. Bible study was held every Wednesday evening from 6:30 - 7:30. During bible study, we had an opportunity to study scripture and discuss how it relates to our daily lives. A fellowship activity was scheduled each month through the school year and included a fast food progressive dinner, working at Isaiah 58, a pool and pizza party, an afternoon for messy games, an outing to Mound Ridge, and our annual Christmas Party. The Youth also participated in a number of special events at St Mark such as Fall Festival, the Christmas Tea, Souped Bowl of Caring, Trivia Night, Jerusalem Festival, Bunny Breakfast, Vacation Bible School and the afternoon youth helper activities, and the ABC sale

In June this past year, several youth and adults from the youth committee traveled to Montreat in North Carolina to participate in a week long Presbyterian youth conference. This conference gave them an opportunity to explore and strengthen their faith while also having fun with others from across the country.

The confirmation class this past year was a combined class of 6th - 10th grade students. The students met regularly on Sunday mornings at 9:30. The class met with Session in May to discuss their Statements of Faith and to be accepted as members of the church by Session. The students were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.

We would like to thank St. Mark for its support and involvement with the youth program. In the coming year, we will continue to work on expanding and increasing involvement of the St. Mark youth in the church and community as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacey Caplinger

## **SCOUTING**

It has a been wonderful year for Scouting at St. Mark. The Cub Scout Pack continues to grow with 10 new Kindergarten-age Lion Cubs. Great fun was had at the Pinewood Derby and Spring BBQ. Numerous boys participated in Webelos' Camp and the Fall Campout.

For many years, the BSA has welcomed girls into their programs for older (14+) youth. These programs include Venture, Explorer and Sea Scouts. The BSA has recently mandated a timeline for welcoming girls into the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs. Our Cub Pack welcomed the first girl into their program this year!

The Boy Scouts continue to have camping outings every month. Their 2018 Summer Camp was at S Bar F Scout ranch (aka The Ranch), near Farmington. 2019 Summer Camp will also be at The Ranch. At that time a new Scoutmaster, Chris Kallaos, will be installed.

Troop 631 has a long history of offering 14+ year old scouts the opportunity to participate in once-in-a-lifetime High Adventure trips every year. These include: 50+ mile backpacking treks through Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico; sailing, snorkeling and scuba diving at Florida SeaBase; Northern Tier High Adventure where scouts enjoy canoeing, camping and fishing in the Boundary Waters Recreation Area, Minnesota & Canada; The Summit High Adventure, in West Virginia, where scouts enjoy camping, backpacking, kayaking, BMX biking, climbing, etc. 2018 saw crews go to Florida SeaBase. Plans and training hikes are already underway for this year's trip to Philmont.

Service to St. Mark continues to be a high priority. The scouts are an integral part of the annual spring cleanup/mulching and the breakdown of the ABC Sale.

Service to the community is also greatly important. Every Wednesday a scout patrol collects numerous boxes of donated food from Whole Foods and takes it to a food bank in St. Charles. The national Scouting for Food program is always a huge success. Our Cubs and Scouts both deliver bags and collect food. Our scout troop also manages a collection/drop off station. The Greater St. Louis Area Council collected just short of 2 million food items!

It was a very successful year of fund raising. 600+ meals served at Spaghetti Supper and increasing sales of popcorn and Christmas wreaths. In the spring, the scouts had their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Lawn Mower Tune-Up. This program continues to grow.

Troop 631 has reached the incredible milestone of having awarded 250 Eagle Scouts! This is a rare and wonderful accomplishment!

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Livesay, St. Mark Chartered Organization Representative

*Due to the confidential nature of budget information, hard copies of the 2018 and 2019 budgets will be provided before the Congregational Meeting.*