



July, 2010



YOUTH MISSION TRIP

The urban mission trip to Mobile, Alabama, was truly a time of service to those in need, personal growth, and worship of God. Pastor Susan Hayes and I led our group of eight high school youth. Sam Reed assisted as our college student leader. We were joined by youth from Trinity Presbyterian Church in University City (led by Dawn Fleishman), and a group of students from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Traveler's Rest, South Carolina.

The trip had the elements of a retreat and intense urban mission all rolled up into one eventful week. The picture above was our group on the dock of Baytreat Retreat Center where we all stayed on the shore of Mobile Bay. We were able to swim and relax in the gulf waters; this might very well be the last time we see the gulf in this beautiful condition due to the oil spill disaster. In the background you can see the containment boom set up in the hopes of keeping the oil from reaching the pristine shoreline. The people of Mobile are very upset and ask us to keep them in mind, as well as all impacted by this tragedy, as they endure the heart-ache of having their home and life assaulted.

The majority of our time was spent serving at an inner-city mission site and community center working with children, youth and seniors, Government Street Presbyterian Church providing breakfast to the homeless and needy, serving at a drug and addiction rehabilitation center and at L'Arche, a community of developmentally disabled adults.

The Lord used both the fun as well as challenging times to reveal Godself to us in more profound ways, to call out who we are, and to empower us as servants and ambassadors in the name of Jesus Christ.

Andrew Fleishman

Session Notes

The 2010 St. Mark Session just completed their 6th stated meeting as we have reached the half way point of the calendar year. Along with our moderator, Pastor Steve Ranney, and Associate Pastor Susan Hayes, the members of Session are overseeing the activities of St. Mark as well as setting future direction for our church family. This is the first year that St. Mark has had a full staff under our staffing plan and that will help our church's future growth.

One of the joys of serving on Session is the reception of new members to the St. Mark family. You have noticed a significant number of new members being received by our church. One of the highlights of this year was the reception of the 2010 confirmation class. The session members had a chance to meet and greet the Confirmation Class of 2010. Prior to that, Pastor Ranney explained the confirmation process and responsibility to the session. From the Book of Order W-4 2003 **"The church nurtures those baptized as children and calls them to make public their personal profession of faith and their acceptance of responsibility in the life of the church. When these persons are ready, they shall be examined by the session."**

The Confirmands were separated into three groups and met with three groups of session members. They were given an opportunity to share their statements of faith, as well as answer session member's questions. When the group meetings concluded, the session and the Confirmands met in the Narthex where three individual motions were put forward by each of the three session groups to receive the Confirmands into membership at St. Mark. The motions passed with all session members present and voting in favor. This is an outstanding group of young people that the entire St. Mark family can take pride in.

As everyone is aware, we are living in difficult economic times. Your session is working hard to be sure the resources that you provide to St. Mark are protected and used in very appropriate fashion. We are indeed fortunate for the ongoing support of the mission and purpose of our church.

Members of St. Mark can and should feel comfortable contacting any session member with input, questions, or suggestions. We are representatives of all the St. Mark membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Wedel, Clerk of Session

Nomination Form

The St. Mark Congregational Nominating Committee invites your suggestions of names of persons to serve as Elder, Deacon, member of the Congregational Nominating Committee, and/or member of the Endowment Committee.

We seek names of persons who:

- 1) actively participate in and show commitment to the church and its missions
- 2) exemplify Christian maturity in faith in daily life
- 3) are willing to lead and to express their own ideas and
- 4) show an ability to listen, learn and work cooperatively

Please write your suggestions and comments regarding their qualifications on Page 2 and return it to the Congregational Nominating Committee box at the Welcome Center no later than September 21. Use multiple sheets if you need them.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration,
St. Mark Nominating Committee

NOTES FOR PAGE 3:

*St. Mark by-laws also provide one, one-year term for an active member who is under 25 years of age, for each of the following: Elder, Deacon, and Congregational Nominating Committee.

**Note: Recently approved St. Mark By-Law changes permit Elders, Deacons and members of the Endowment Committee to serve a second 3-year term of office without serving a 1-year out-of-office period. However, after 2 consecutive 3-year terms, a person must serve a 1-year out-of-office period before being eligible to serve another term.

NOTICE

For security purposes the
Matthew Door will be
locked Tuesday thru
Friday starting July 1

Nomination Form

Constitutional Requirements for Elders: Book of Order, G-6.0300

Those persons who will hold this office ought to be sound in their faith...persons of wisdom and discretion... pray with and for the people...oversee the spiritual interest of the church. (Paraphrased)

Responsibilities of St. Mark Session Elders include regular attendance at stated meetings (third Monday of the month) and any specially called meetings, serving as a chairperson of a Session standing committee, and assisting with the Lord's Supper. Three year term*.

**For Elder, I suggest:

Constitutional Requirements for Deacons: Book of Order, G-6.0400

The office of Deacon is one of sympathy, witness, and service...their duties should be to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress. (Paraphrased)

Responsibilities of St. Mark Board of Deacons include regular attendance at stated meetings (first Monday of the month) and any specially called meetings, serving as chairperson or active member of a Deacons committee, visitation and delivery of worship flowers, and assisting with the Lord's Supper. Three year term*.

**For Deacon, I suggest:

Constitutional Requirements for Congregational Nominating Committee: Book of Order, G-14.0201

This committee should be representative of the congregation and include two members from the Session; one from the Board of Deacons; and a majority chosen from the congregation-at-large (in our case five). (Paraphrased)

Responsibilities of St. Mark Congregational Nominating Committee includes regular attendance at called meetings (3-4 per year), appreciation for the demands of the respective offices, and a wide knowledge of the St. Mark membership and a willingness to increase this knowledge. One year term*.

For the Congregational Nominating Committee, I suggest:

Constitutional Requirements for the Endowment Committee

Persons should be active members of the congregation.

Responsibilities of St. Mark Endowment Committee include keeping the congregation apprised of the possibilities for deferred giving and to provide assistance to members with how this may be done. Three year term.

**For the Endowment Committee, I suggest:



Sign up your children and grandchildren for Galactic Blast, July 26-30. Registration forms are located in the Narthex and outside of the Children's Ministries Office. Registration forms are also available on the St. Mark website.

Boy Scout Troop 631 Performs Community Service

The evening of May 20 saw a group of young gentlemen wearing scout I.D. suddenly appear on St. Mark's parking lot. It seemed to be a "mirage". This group of enthusiastic scouts were here to assist in moving yards and yards of mulch to many landscaping areas. A project that would have been overwhelming to our "senior elves". Den mothers and Scout Leaders (fathers) were enthusiastic in supporting the scouts in this service project.

Fathers and "sons" worked and moved more mulch than was ever expected in one evening's effort. The troop worked in good humor, loading, pushing and dumping wheel barrow after wheel barrow. When all the barrows were in use, then 5 gallon buckets became transporters. The youngest boys were the initial work crew, later they were joined by some senior scouts with fresh energy and the opportunity to practice their leadership training.

I must add that the scout leaders and each parent alike had high compliments for St. Mark's church.

100% grateful thanks to Troop 631 and their leaders for helping to enhance our garden areas.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dale Shepherd and 21 teenagers who completed Relay Missouri, running 280 miles from Kansas City to St. Louis in 3 days. This was a charity event called Stand Up For Kids, a homeless children and teen organization nationwide. \$38,000 in donations and cash was raised by these runners. Fourteen of the twenty-one runners were past and present Parkway West Cross Country members coached by Dale.

ABC Sale

Save the dates - August 8
through August 14

Sign up in the Welcome Center

St. Mark Most Wanted

The last few weeks I have been telling you a little more detail about a few of the most urgent requests on our Most Wanted list. We all know that this is a difficult time financially for most of us personally and for St. Mark. If there are any items on our list that you would like to help with, remember any amount no matter how small or large will help to reach our goals. Just send your donation to the office or in the collection plate on Sunday and mark "Most Wanted" and to what item you would like to contribute. Just a reminder of the items:

1. Hand Bell refurbishment
2. Van maintenance
3. Steeple lights
4. Media Room
5. Computers in office
6. Meditation Garden maintenance
7. Preschool scholarships
8. Sidewalk replacement outside Mark and Luke doors

All contributions are set aside for the project you designate until we have enough funds to proceed.

Marti Fruechte

St. Mark Roots

LINDA was born in Walseka, IL and graduated from Crescent-Iroquois High School in Crescent City, IL. LINDA attended Illinois State University. She has also lived in Greenville, SC and Atlanta, GA.

Alton, IL is the birthplace of CYNTHIA. She attended Edwardsville High School. Besides IL, CYNTHIA has lived in Madison, CT, Gastonia, NC, Brooklyn, MI, Springdale AR, Reading, PA and High Ridge, MO.

RICHARD was born in W. Frankfort, IL and graduated from Alton High School in Alton, IL. He has lived in Edwardsville, Godfrey and E. Alton, IL and Madison, CT, Gastonia, NC, Brooklyn, MI, Springdale, AR, Reading, PA, and Ballwin, Grover and High Ridge, MO. DICK attended the University of Illinois/Champagne/Urbana and Washington University.

KIRBY was born in Jacksonville, IL and attended high school in Carrollton, IL. His colleges were Shurtleff College in Alton, IL, DePauw University and Washington University. KIRBY has lived in Aberdeen, MD, Kashiien, Japan, Ft. Leonard Wood, Sullivan and Brentwood, MO.

Chicago, IL is the birthplace of LARRY. LARRY graduated from Missouri Military Academy in Mexico, MO. He attended Washington University and Missouri University/Columbia.

JOHN was born in Higby, MO and attended high school in Morton, IL and Wichita, KS. The University of Wichita is his alma mater. JOHN has also lived in San Diego, CA, Jacksonville, FL, Memphis, TN, Alamogordo, NM and Satellite Beach, FL.

Northwest Missouri (Gentry County) is the birth place of NAOMI. NAOMI graduated from Stanberry High School. She attended Missouri University and CMSU. She has lived in Columbia, MO, N. Kansas City, Sevilla, Spain, Baltimore, MD and Sedalia, MO.

ROBERT was born in N. Kansas City, MO. He attended the University of Missouri/Columbia, Washington University, St. Louis Medical School, Johns Hopkins, Kennedy-Krueger Institute, Baltimore, MD.

BOB was born in St. Louis and graduated from McBride High School in St. Louis. He attended the University of Missouri/Columbia. Besides the St. Louis area, St. Joseph and Columbia is MO, BOB has lived in Atchison, KS, Lome Tojo, Africa and Melbourne/Palm Bay, FL.

PAT was born in St. Louis and attended high school at Normandy and DeSoto, MO. She attended St. Luke's Nursing School and Jefferson College.

JACLYN was born in St. Louis and attended Riverview Gardens High School. She has also attended Southeast Missouri State, Southern Illinois University/Edwardsville and University of Missouri/St. Louis. JACLYN has also lived in Memmingen, Bavaria, Germany and Pittsburgh, PA.

CAROL attended Rosati-Kain High School and St. Louis University. St. Louis is her hometown.

MARK attended Normandy High School and Edwardsville High School in IL. MARK also attended St. Louis University and Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. St. Louis is also MARK'S hometown.

WINNIE was born in St. Louis and graduated from Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School. She attended Meramec Community College, Miss Hickey's Business School and Washington University.

Although GWEN was born in St. Louis she graduated from Rolla High School. She attended Southwest Baptist Jr. College in Boliver, MO.

DORIS was born in St. Louis and attended Cleveland High School. She graduated from Lindenwood College. She has also lived in Mt. Clemons, MI.

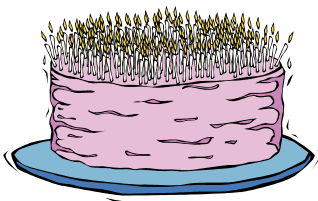
Born in St. Louis, GLENN graduated from Lindbergh High School. He attended Southwest Missouri State and Maryville University.

SHIRLEY was also born in St. Louis and graduated from University City High School and Central Methodist. SHIRLEY has also lived in Clarksville, TN.

Born in St. Louis, ALEX graduated from Alton High School in Illinois. He also attended the University of Florida. He has also lived in Boca Raton, W. Palm Beach and Gainesville, FL.

This concludes our St. Louis Roots. I hope you have enjoyed learning more about your St. Mark friends. I have certainly enjoyed bringing this information to you. Sally Shepherd





Happy Birthday!!

to the following St. Mark members, celebrating "their" day during this month of July. If your name is not listed, please contact the church office.

7/1	Hazel Herman Mark McGavic Michael Wootton	7/10	Karen Gabriel Abby Pfeifer	7/20	Terry Conrad Tyler Gabbert Sean Mathews		Lili Hostetler Bill Strecker Renee Vetter
7/2	Judy Schaefer Randy Wedel	7/11	Sarah Emery	7/21	Eva Lanphere	7/27	Andrew Fleishman
7/3	Jan Thake	7/12	Pat Fuqua Riley Kilgore	7/22	David Boyd Carol Mitchell Terry Sparks	7/28	Katie Gabriel
7/4	Zoe Ellis Dave Shean Linda Smith Robin Smith Judy Vroman	7/13	Patty Livesay Marie Tennill			7/29	Monica Buckley Anna Butler Helen Butler Ed Graves Carol Ruecker
7/5	Rick Ruecker	7/14	Sarah Ryan Susan Talley Sue Trevathan	7/23	Michael Arthur Ruth Kerley Johanna Lumbantobing Mason Seidel		
7/6	Mallory Casperson Grant Hudson Victoria Sherman	7/15	Mary Gade Steve Ranney Carole Sano	7/24	Peggy Carson Pam Davis Kathleen Maas-Stokes William Mohn	7/30	Marianne Adoor Richard Barnard Evan Bild Gary Emge
7/7	Shirley Goff Alec Herr	7/16	Katie Hall Julie Hunt Mark Michel Mary Beth Powell			7/31	Barry Boeker Stacey Caplinger Dick Dedham Jamie Demeter Alex Ke Helen Peters
7/8	Naomi Edmonds Colin Forbes Haley Krachenfels Jayne Strecker	7/17	Cathy Schindler Kyle Cranston Bryan Odo	7/25	Alanah Feagan Phyllis Glenn Karen Meister Hannah Vetter		
7/9	Lesta Truby	7/18	Katie James	7/26	Ed Acheson		
		7/19	Virginia Garber				

Circle of Concern

The Deacons would like to remind you that in a couple of weeks schools will be closed for the summer. That means parents will have to replace those free school lunches their children received.

Again, this summer, Circle will share Kid Bags with families that have school age children. These specially packed bags of "kid friendly" items will be distributed from Memorial Day until schools re-open in mid August. They will share approximately 2,000 bags this summer. That is correct 2,000 Kid Bags!!!!!!!

To fill the bags, Circle is seeking: Cereal, Mac and Cheese, Jelly and Peanut Butter, Canned Pasta, 100% Fruit Juice Boxes and Bottles, Nutritious Snacks. Circle is also looking for activity books, small games, crayons and coloring books, etc. to add in the bags.

Please place your donation on the Deacon's table in the hall outside of Pastor Steve's office.



This is one of St. Mark's Christmas Alternative programs that we have supported for many years, and the Mission Committee members want you to know what your donations have accomplished during this time. Your donations have helped provide more than 10,000 WELLS, providing fresh, clean, safe drinking water for countless persons who have never had this before. These wells have reduced water borne illnesses in countless children and adults.

Marion Medical Mission also provides many other medical and educational services in addition to the wells, many of which you have also donated to. Marion Medical Mission thanks you and so does the St. Mark Mission Committee!!!

Nina Fish, Mission Committee Member

YOGA Join us for Yoga practice in
Rooms 17/18, Tuesday, July 6 at
9:30am-10:30 am. (bring your mat)

Library Corner

The libraries are in need of two donations:

1. The Children's Library needs a new rocking chair for story time.
2. The libraries need a new computer to keep track of the collection.

Finding God in literature and cartoons is sometimes difficult. The library has the following books available:

Is there any value in Harry Potter stories?

Looking for God in Harry Potter by John Granger concludes that "Rowling's books - like the works of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis- have become phenomenally popular precisely because they tap into our wired-by-God longing for a particular kind of story because they reflect Christian answers to the big questions about life."

In The Gospel according to Harry Potter by Connie Neal enumerates more than fifty themes that can be seen as glimmers of the Christian gospel.

In The Gospel According to The Simpsons, Mark I Pinsky explores the individual characters and concludes that the show is supportive of faith. Forward of this book is by Tony Campolo.

Short Meditations on the Bible and Peanuts by Robert L. Short in a beautifully woven tapestry of Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts cartoon characters and biblical references bring the love of God squarely into focus. Each page also has a Peanuts cartoon.

These books are available on the book cart.

COME IN AND CHECK US OUT!

Thank You Notes

To My St. Mark family,
I cannot begin to tell you how much your generosity means to me. The gifts you made to Circle of Concern in honor of my 90th birthday totaled more than \$550 (that I know of) and filled more than a grocery cart with food, personal care and birthday items for needy families. Thank you for honoring me by supporting this wonderful organization. God has blessed us all beyond belief!



Lydia

* * * * *

To My Many St. Mark Friends,
I love this church and all my wonderful friends and was reminded again Sunday, May 30 how much I am blessed when the "Knight in Shining Armour" came to me rescue to help me with my car.

I want to thank all of them, especially Doug Reed for taking care of me.

Gratefully, Helen

SAVE THE DATE
MIDWEEK POTLUCK
JULY 14
and
August 4
5 pm

St. Mark Financial Information

	May Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Offerings	\$67,118	*\$368,040	\$340,863
		(*includes \$15,235 prepaid 2010 pledges)	



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

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

Transforming Lives in Jesus Christ

DATED MATERIAL Return Service Requested

KNOWING GOD – Psalm 91:1-2 (NRSV)

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

Jesus said, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

ALL my life I have heard about God, but it is one thing to know about God and another to live in relationship with God. Through the years, I have grown in my faith slowly. Two-and-a-half years ago, I faced a challenge that required me to act on my faith.

When my husband of over 50 years passed away, I was devastated. I didn't know what to do. Our children had grown up, and it had been just the two of us for over 30 years. Suddenly I was all alone.

In my loneliness and grief, God led me to look back over my life. I saw that many times God had been there, supporting and strengthening me, though I had not recognized God's presence at the time. I recalled Jesus' words, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Josh. 1:5).

I can truly say that God is the only one on whom we can depend. When everyone leaves, God is with us. Though we go through hard times, we can rest assured that God is with us. Even our Lord Jesus felt abandoned on the cross; he knows how we feel and he is our great comforter. Thanks be to God!

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your loving care that will never end. Thank you for the promise that you will never leave us.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

In our loneliest moments, God reaches out to us.--
Janet White (Victoria, Australia)

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

August Issue

July 23

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August 20

E-mail Newsletter & Bulletin materials to:

cpfeil@discoverstmark.org

E-mail Items for the **website** to:

cschindler@discoverstmark.org