



THE EPISTLE OF ST. MARK'S

7922 State Road 52, Hudson, FL 34667

(727) 863-5646 – Fax (727) 869-9529

Email: smc@stmarksfl.org

Website: www.stmarksfl.org

Volume XLIII – ISSUE 8



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00AM Contemporary

11:00AM Traditional

Children's Sunday School

9:00AM After

"Adventures with Charlie"

Sunday, August 6, 2017

COMMUNION

Message: Going the Extra Mile

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-42

Preacher: Joe Reggin

Worship Leader: 9:00AM – Charlie Boldt

11:00AM

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Message: Brother, Why Won't You be Successful?

Scripture: Mark 3:19b-35

Preacher: Joe Reggin

Worship Leader: 9:00AM – Charlie Boldt

11:00AM – Lyle Minnick

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Message & Scripture: TBA

Preacher:

Worship Leader: 9:00AM – Henry Elam

11:00AM – Traci Benthussen

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Message: What Kind of Christ

Scripture: Mark 8:22 - 9:1

Preacher: Joe Reggin

Worship Leader: 9:00AM – Jay Lees

11:00AM – Diane Dodge

PANCAKE BREAKFAST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Attention...all pancake breakfast volunteers (new or experienced) plan to attend this important meeting on **Tuesday, August 22nd at 11:00AM** in the fellowship hall. Topics to be discussed include recruiting more volunteers to help with the serving, setting up, cleaning up and any suggestions you would like to make for improving any aspect of the breakfasts. Bring your ideas and suggestions!

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming pancake breakfast season (September through April) on the third Saturday of each month. If you like to have fun and enjoy good company and also help support the Food Fund, Boy Scout Troop #40 and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund then please consider volunteering. For more information contact Al Wehrheim at 352-556-9998.



CASH FOR TRASH – NEWSPAPERS

The Mission Committee is grateful to all the members and friends of St. Mark's for recycling their old newspapers in the blue bins in the back parking lot. **Please Note:** We are accepting magazines, phone books, catalogues, **shredded paper in plastic bags, (no other plastics)** along with the newspapers and **folded up** cardboard boxes. The money we receive is used to fund our Food Pantry. By continuing to donate your recyclables you'll be feeding the hungry and helping to keep our community green!

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The final day for collecting school supplies is August 6th. This allows time for the committee to sort the items and have them delivered to Gulf Highlands Elementary school. If you prefer to make a monetary donation please make the check to St. Mark's and in the memo area indicate "School Supplies."



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday:
9AM – 4PM

Friday: CLOSED

We join in mourning ...

Cathy McKenzie, on June 26, 2017, who united with St. Mark's on October, 20 1991.

Doris Lebell, on June 26, 2017, who united with St. Mark's on October 20, 1983.

Camilla Wagenfohr, on July 4, 2017, who united with St. Mark's on January 30, 2005.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that Carolyn & Lyle Minnick delivered to us for our 60th wedding anniversary. The flowers and visit were a pleasant surprise and we so enjoyed both.

Thanks again,
Don & Joyce Wesner

We wish to thank St. Mark's for the many well wishes from so many members and friends while both of us were in the hospital. It made us feel so wanted and blessed. Also thanks for the flowers that were delivered and the birthday flowers that were presented to Betty recently. Thank you so much St. Mark's.

Blessings,
Betty & Lloyd Erickson

Dearest Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, the calls, hugs and prayers given to me during my illness and also for your support in our VBS. What a loving family. I feel so blessed to be a part of St. Mark's. Your love strengthens me daily.

In His love,
Cherry Morris

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

The August Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, during the Fellowship Hour will be on **Sunday, August 20th**. Join us in honoring all St. Markians who have August birthdays or anniversaries.

GOING INTO THE HOSPITAL

If you are going into the hospital or if you know of any members that are homebound that would like a deacon please call the office, or contact Deacon Traci Benthusen at 727-267-6674 or email Traci at: tmolyneux69@gmail.com.

FOOD OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST IS:

CANNED VEGETABLES

You may also make a donation to the Food Pantry at any time. Make your checks out to **St. Mark's** and indicate **Food Pantry** in the memo section.

The cost of our bag of groceries is currently around **\$15.00**. The Mission Committee would like to thank St. Mark's members and friends for their donations.

THE ST. MARK'S STAFF CONTINUES TO PRAY FOR YOU

Once a week when the staff of St. Mark's meets they begin with prayer. During that time the Staff offers up prayers for specific members of our church family. Don't be surprised if sometime during the year you receive a card signed by the church staff that says, "The Staff of St. Mark's prayed for you today." The staff is grateful for the many thank you notes that are received for the prayers that are offered and the prayer cards that have been sent.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING ST. MARKIANS IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER

August

8/2 Carol Sbani
8/3 Jeff Kleist
8/4 Ginny Lees
8/5 Jim Morgan
8/8 Calvin Young
8/13 Helen G. Davis
8/15 Laura Myers
8/15 Harold Hetz
8/16 Mike Pontecorvo
8/18 Meghan Hurley
8/19 Bill Spangenberg
8/23 Jean Hinneburg
8/24 Lyn Christensen
8/25 Jack Hillan
8/26 Lowell Lanke
8/29 Al Wehrheim

Early September

9/1 Joy Hetz
9/3 Mary Genga
9/4 Lorraine Frank
9/6 Ed Kromis
9/7 Justine Vega

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE FOLLOWING ST. MARKIANS IN THE AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER

August

8/7/65 Russell & Jane Rogers
8/7/10 Philip & Dolores McCarthy
8/22/14 Rich & Margaret Goodrich
8/28/64 Bill & Lois Visch
8/29/69 Fred & Nancy Dunlop

Early September

9/1/55 Paul & Marilyn Myers
9/6/58 Ed & Suzanne Kromis
9/6/58 Don & Jeri Woods

“DINE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

Mark your calendar for the next **Bob Evan’s Fundraiser on Tuesday, August 22nd from 7AM to 9PM.** Invite



your family and friends and enjoy a delicious meal, (breakfast, lunch or dinner). Vouchers will be available in the office, church bulletin and also on the tables in the narthex and fellowship hall.

UPDATING NAME TAGS

If you do not have a nametag, we encourage you to ask for one on the signup sheet in the Sunday bulletins. We ask for your hometown as a conversation starter. It is amazing how many people find they come from the same state and even an area close to each other. We will be renumbering and alphabetizing the tags later this month and it is a good time to include as many new ones as we can. More information will be in the bulletins later in the month.

HIDDEN TREASURES THRIFT SHOP

St. Mark’s thrift shop will be opened in August beginning the **1st and 3rd week of the month.** The dates and times are listed here:

Thursday, August 3rd, 10AM – 2PM

Friday, August 4th, 12Noon – 4PM

Saturday, August 5th, 8AM – 2PM

Thursday, August 17th, 10AM – 2PM

Friday, August 18th, 12Noon – 4PM

Saturday, August 19th, 8AM – 2PM

Andy was busy during the month of July with reorganizing some shelves and accepting donations by appointment. Make sure you stop in and see the new merchandise for sale. The special for the month of August is: **Buy two and get one free in clothing.**



If you would like to volunteer for a few hours once a week or every other week please contact Andy DeLaney at 727-236-1400.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you wish to donate flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the signup sheet in the bulletin or you may call the church office at 727-863-5646. We have a few weeks available in August and September. The requested donation is \$25.00. Thank you.

HELP WANTED!

VOLUNTEER OF COURSE!

Only payment is a good feeling because of serving God. The Finance Committee is looking for people willing to review finances and meet once a month, do some investigating on many different fronts as needed and share creative thoughts on how to improve the church’s financial picture. Or maybe you are just plain interested in what the church’s financial picture is and would like to understand it a little better. Please contact Mary Ellen Heighton - 727-534-1570 or Al Wehrheim 352-688-9998, your finance team co-leaders, they will be happy to talk with you. Snowbirds are always welcome! Being available part time is better than not being available at all.

FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION – Peggy Rickard

Planning an event at St. Mark’s? Do you have something for the Session to consider? If so, send your item to Peggy Rickard: dinosaurdavenomore@yahoo.com or by phone 727-856-8748 **by the 3rd Wednesday of the month.** This will assure that your request is on the agenda for the Session meeting the 4th Thursday of the month. Please include all the important details and the best way to contact you should we need more information. Thank you.

UPDATING OUR CONTACT MAILING LIST

Do you have an email address? Do you use your email address? Does St. Mark’s have your email address? Almost everyone has an email address these days and, if you have one, we’d like to add it to our list of addresses. If we can create an accurate email list for our congregation, we could use it to:

- Send notices of upcoming events
- Send notices of special services
- Send the Epistle right to your mail box
- Send prayer requests
- Remind members of time changes & meeting dates

Please print your email address on the Ritual of Friendship pad the next time you attend a worship service. Thanks for helping us with this project!

Mary Ellen Heighton & Al Wehrheim
Finance Committee Elders

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS submitted by Elder Al Wehrheim

TITHING IS A LIFE CHOICE

*“Test me in this and see if I don’t open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.”
– Malachi 3:10, the Message*

The practice of tithing provides a concrete way for us to take the words we speak, “God is Lord of my life,” and put them into practice. Our commitment becomes tangible; our giving becomes a way of putting God first, and outward sign of an inner spiritual alignment.

Tithing provides a consistent and universal baseline, a theologically and biblically faithful standard, that is nominal enough to allow people of nearly any income to meet without imposing great hardship and yet large enough to stretch us and to cause us to do the necessary reordering of our priorities that spiritually reconfigures our values.

Tithing challenges us to ask ourselves, Is my giving generous? Or merely expedient? Do I give for practical reasons to help the church, or for spiritual reasons to nourish my spirit?

The practice of tithing is not merely about what God wants us to do, but about the kind of person God wants us to become. Does the giving help me develop a Christ-like heart?

Tithing alone is not sufficient to fully meet what the gift and demand of God’s grace requires of Jesus’ followers. The voices of the prophets ring the warning that people cannot expect material sacrifices alone to please God but that God’s reign requires justice, righteousness, and faithfulness (Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:8). People of God are to practice justice and compassion without neglecting the tithe (Matthew 23:23-24).

Tithing requires honest prayer. What would God have me do? Are there things God would want me to give up in order to tithe? The practice causes us to adapt our behaviors to someone else’s will: God’s. No one tithes accidentally. Extravagant Generosity requires focused soul work, deep conviction, a mature spirit, learning, practice, and extraordinary intentionality. Tithing is not merely a financial decision; it is a life choice that rearranges all the furniture of our interior lives. That’s why we do it. Tithing blesses us.

- Have you practiced the tithe, regularly offering ten percent of income to God? If not, what keeps you from doing so? Do you desire to do so? How do you think it would affect your spiritual life?

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers members of our congregation who are homebound or in a long-term facility.

Bear Creek

June Layson

Ken Hubbard

Jan Berube

Eileen Rickard

Home

Suzanne Kromis

Grand Villa of Dunedin

Jacqualyne Forbes

Consulate - Hudson

Marion Dahl

Grand Villa of New Port Richey

LaVaughn Kellogg

Lakeside Oaks Care Center

Mary Genga

Oakview Terrace

Jerilyn Costello

Lynne Davis

Solaris Rehab

Nettie Hopper

Windsor Woods

Barbara Fox

Dorothy Johnson

Atria – Bayonet Point

Jim Maurer

Flo Peart

Marie MacKenzie

THOSE SERVING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Fellowship Hosts

(9:00) Jane Sperry and Joyce Wesner

8/6 Joy Hetz, Janet Boggs & Laura Hausen

8/13 Carolyn & Lyle Minnick, Bill Spangenberg

8/20 Barbara Brown, Jim Morgan, Jennie Burger

8/27 Marleen Ruchotzke, Barbara Brown & Jim Morgan

Flower Deliverers

8/6 Carolyn Minnick

8/13 Traci Benthussen

8/20 Barbara Brown

8/27 Jim Morgan

Greeters – 9:00AM

8/6 Gloria Schule & Jen Hurley

8/13 Jennie Burger & Gladys Sliter

8/20 Jane & Russell Rogers

8/27 Louise Meserve & Carol Lanke

Greeters – 11:00AM

8/6 Joy Hetz & Reggie Greenlaw

8/16 Joy Hetz & Reggie Greenlaw

8/20 Joy Hetz & Ed Matthews

8/27 Joy Hetz & Ed Matthews

Ushers – 9:00AM

Jen Hurley & Don Wesner

Ushers – 11:00AM

Ann Adcock, Evelyn Dunlop, Bill Spangenberg &

Betty & Lowell Hopler

From the Pastor's Study...

As I write this, I have been a resident of Hudson, Florida for 28 days. Much of this time has been spent getting settled from my move from Virginia; a process, which is still not complete. (I have yet to obtain a Florida license plate for my car.) As you may already know, I have lived a rather transient life-style, as an Interim Pastor, for well over a decade. Since I plan to remain in Hudson – assuming you don't get tired of me – my move here has been unlike anything I have experienced in some time. One of the biggest differences is that I have had the luxury of unpacking all the boxes I have been carrying around the country for some time; many of these have not been opened since about 2006! I have found some treasures, which I had forgotten, like my diplomas, which now hang on the wall of the Pastor's Study. It has also been a great joy for me to become reintegrated with the environment of Florida once more, especially in the context of the kindness with which the Elders and Church Family of St. Mark's Presbyterian greeted and welcomed me. This has been a wonderful gift to me in the past few weeks and I am grateful to you all. I have gotten the Pastor's Study arranged and my books are almost set in an orderly manner in the study. Please come by anytime you would like to visit, or just check out the study.

As I continue to get settled, I would like you to know about a few important dates, for me at least, that will be coming up in the next few weeks. The last weekend of July I will be meeting with most of the members of your Session for a weekend Planning and Training Retreat. I would like you to know that your Elders have made a commitment of approximately 14 hours each, in giving a Friday evening, most of a Saturday and a Sunday in service to you and the ministry you share at St. Mark's. This is no small gift, so I would like to commend your Elders to you and personally thank them for the time and effort they have agreed to give in service to Christ's Church. If you see one of your Elders in the next few weeks, please give her, or him, a "thank you," they all will indeed earn it the weekend of 28 July.

I also want you to know that I will be gone for approximately one week in August, which will include Sunday, 20 August. This arrangement was made before I arrived here and I think it is important for you to know why I will be away.

On Saturday, 7 March 1970, there was a total eclipse of the sun, which was observable in the United States. The town of Madison, Florida was declared to be the "Eclipse Capital" at that time. Although I was a Junior in high school, I was there with my Astronomy professor, from the community college in Cocoa, Florida. (I had been a student in a few of his classes a few years prior to this.) To make a long story, brief; early that Saturday morning in 1970, the sky become completely overcast and remained so for the duration of that day in Madison. (So much for being the "Eclipse Capital!") Approximately 20 minutes after the eclipse, one of our famous Florida rain storms began and there was an abundance of rain. To say the least, I was disappointed that I was not able to see the eclipse. So, the next day I began to plan for the next Solar Eclipse that would be visible and discovered that it would not take place until Monday, 21 August 2017! I calculated that I would be 64 years old, I was 17 at that time. I also looked up the average age of mortality for males in the United States and discovered that there was a relatively high probability that I would still be alive. So, I began planning to ensure I would be able to see this eclipse. (This will be the first non-annular, total eclipse visible in the US since, 1970.) So, on Monday, 21 August, I will be approximately 40 miles north of Nashville, TN watching a natural, total solar eclipse in a (hopefully!) clear sky for the first time in my 64 plus years of life.

Going to Nashville has been a change in plans for me. In small part, this change has occurred because of my moving to Hudson. The greater reason for this change and more important even than seeing the eclipse, is that I will be going to Nashville to visit my younger brother, Alex. Alex teaches at Vanderbilt University and has been doing cancer research since he received his PhD about 21 years ago. In a great irony of life, Alex received a diagnosis of cancer himself late last year and this will be our first chance to visit since that diagnosis. So, once more I want to thank the Session and all of you for providing me the opportunity to have this time away.

After I return, we will finish the month of August, celebrate Labor Day and begin a new program year at St. Mark's in early September. I am looking forward to being with you in the year to come and to sharing the events of Christ's life with you through the liturgical seasons of: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost in this coming program year. I believe it will be a wonderful experience for me and I hope for you as well, as God walks with us through these coming seasons and celebrations.

Beginning on Sunday, 23 July, we begin a three-part sermon series based on the teaching of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. I hope you find this interesting and also that I will see you in worship on Sunday mornings.

Blessings & peace – Joe

SHARING HIDDEN GIFTS AND TALENTS

By Erin Dunigan

People come to church for many reasons – for Jane, tap dancing brought her to the small Presbyterian church on Portland's southeast side after a friend invited her to join the dance group. Jane quickly found a place among the 'Silver Bells' who practiced once a week and then danced in a variety of venues around the city and regularly for local retirement homes.

Jane was drawn to Sanctuary Presbyterian by the tap dancing, however, she was also a musician – but a musician with a problem. Jane suffered from intense anxiety that had increased over the years of her career so that she was no longer able to play because of it.

But the church also had a problem – they needed a musician – particularly someone to play the organ. When the church learned Jane had been an organist, she was encouraged to play. She was nervous, but said she'd give it a try. She did – and that became the beginning of a long and beautiful relationship.

To help her deal with her anxiety, Jane brought her friend and care-giving life partner Ellen. Over the years, the two became the midwives of a vibrant music ministry at the church. They even contributed to help replace the rickety old organ with a new one that is still used regularly in worship.

"Jane and Ellen have both passed on," explained former pastor Mark Newton, "but we got the gift of Jane's music, she got the gift of playing, we have the continuing gift of the organ, and Jane's family made a financial contribution at her passing."

The family's financial gift was partly in gratitude for the church that had welcomed Jane and had, in helping her to overcome her anxiety, given her a ministry that she then shared with others.

"There was such a beautiful relationship between Jane and the church," continued Newton. Jane had hidden away her musical talent because of her anxiety, but the church helped her unearth it and in so doing shared in its gift. "I think Jane quickly found that the church community was so welcoming and grateful that her anxiety just went away," explained Newton.

The church is filled with people who are doing things that have the possibility of connecting with people – we all have these ways of bringing people into the community and recognizing their gifts and allowing them to be shared.

According to Newton it is a matter of being willing to look beneath what we first see and listen to each other's lives, take notice, and make opportunities for people to share their gifts in ways that might not have been obvious at first.

"Especially in small churches I think there is a feeling that we need to be something else in order to be relevant, to attract people – but we forget that when Christ is among us and we show up as ourselves, something beautiful can happen," he said.

It was in this welcoming of the outsider – through tap dancing – that the church received a gift that it had never expected – the gift of Jane's music, the gift of the organ, the financial gift of her family – but even more, the gift of a child of God who had been lost to her own anxiety, and was found.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Heighton & Al Wehrheim
Finance Committee

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NEW ADDRESS CHANGE

Betty McClusky
7404 Bellows Falls Lane
Beacon Woods
Hudson, FL 34667
727-378-8499