

THE EPISTLE OF ST. MARK'S

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2017



SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME

9:00AM Contemporary

11:00AM Traditional

Children's Sunday School

9:00AM After

“Adventures with Children”

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

Joe Reggin will begin a Study of the Gospel of Matthew on Tuesday, December 5th at 1:00pm. There are no books needed other than the Bible. Please speak to Joe if you have questions, or need additional information. We hope you will join us!

SPAGHETTI DINNER AND FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT The Polar Express

Please support our **ReVive Youth Group** and join us with your friends and family for a spaghetti dinner, which includes lemonade, coffee or tea and dessert, and the Polar Express Movie on Saturday, **December 16th at 5:00pm** in the fellowship hall.

There will be games, crafts and coloring prior to the movie. Dinner is \$5.00 for adults and children 2 and under are free. The movie and crafts are **FREE and all ages are welcome**. There also could be a surprise from some jolly fellow. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Barbara Kelshaw at bkelshaw2@gmail.com or Deneen Kerrigan at deneenk1122@gmail.com.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Come and enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast on **Saturday, December 16th from 8:00 - 10AM** in the fellowship hall. Invite your neighbors, friends and relatives to join you! The cost is \$4.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children and includes all the pancakes that you can eat, in addition to fresh scrambled eggs, sausage or ham, juice, tea and coffee, and of course, syrup.



CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE & COMMUNION

Join us for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service and communion in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm on Sunday, December 24, 2017.

OFFICE CLOSED

Due to the fact that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, the office staff will be off on Tuesday, December 26, 2017. Joe will be in the office that day until 12:00 noon.

ST. MARK'S FAMILY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Your Session invites you to join them on Thursday, January 11, 2018 for the first St. Mark's Family Fellowship Dinner for the New Year! Following dinner we will initiate a new concept relating to the work of our Committees at St. Mark's.

You may be aware of the number of members working within our Committees at St. Mark's is much lower these days than ten, five or even two years ago. As a result, we have only a small number of members working within the committee structure, many serving on more than one committee. This situation tends to sow the seeds of “burn-out” and lowers the overall health of the church family. For this reason your Session has acted to hold all Committee meetings on one evening after our Fellowship Dinner. This way our members can select one committee they feel called by God to serve. We are also hopeful that even those who are not committed at this time may find some way to take part in St. Mark's family. We believe this will be an essential component of working together if we truly want to re-develop St. Mark's Presbyterian Church and strengthen the organization component of our church family.

PLEASE save this date and join us on **Thursday, January 11th at 5:30pm for dinner**. You are not obligated to stay for the meetings to follow. Our primary concern for this dinner and others to follow is to build and strengthen the Fellowship of our church family. If we can also strengthen our committee structure and the programs of ministry and missions they support, then that is all the more blessings and we will gratefully receive such a blessing from you, as God provides to us all. Please watch for more detail as the date draws closer!

We join in mourning ...

Michael A. Pontecorvo, on November 1, 2017, who united with St. Mark's on October 18, 1992.

SPECIAL THANKS

Our many thanks to Ed Matthews for the beautiful tile magnets that his late wife, Carol made for St. Mark's. They will be an excellent gift to welcome our visitors on their initial visit to St. Mark's.

Carol Luter, Hospitality
(Formerly Church Growth)

Dear St. Mark's,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers that Deacon Betty Hople delivered to me for my birthday on Sunday. It is the most exquisite bouquet that I've ever seen.

I was also delighted to receive birthday cards from the Deacons, Bill Spangenberg and Betty & Lowell Hople.

It is so wonderful to have my church family remembering me even though I'm no longer able to take the bus to church.

Love,
Jeanette Berube

PER CAPITA OFFERING

You may have noticed that there is a **per capita envelope** in your St. Mark's box of 2018 offering envelopes. The amount to be paid this year is **\$31.00 a person and \$62.00 a couple**. Per Capital is what St. Mark's pays per member each year to underwrite the administrative expenses for belonging to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Your extra mile giving in this area is greatly appreciated.

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!

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

Once a month 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.

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 December and January. The requested donation is \$25.00. Thank you.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

The November Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, during the Fellowship Hour will be on **Sunday, December 17, 2017**. Join us in honoring all St. Markians who have December birthdays or anniversaries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING ST. MARKIANS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December

12/1	Brad Kays
12/2	Barbara Kays
12/2	Mary Jane Sbani
12/3	Fred Dunlop
12/7	Ruth Sigler
12/8	Sara Kelshaw
12/13	Mary Sudnak
12/14	Michael Chauncey
12/20	Shirley Culotta
12/28	Ed Moellmann
12/28	Ken Hubbard
12/31	Donald Wesner

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE FOLLOWING ST. MARKIANS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December

12/23/06	Greg & Teri Michael
12/28/63	Lowell & Carol Lanke
12/29/72	Charlie & Ann Boldt
12/29/67	Bob & Anne Gray

HIDDEN TREASURES THRIFT SHOP

St. Mark's thrift shop will continue to be opened on the **1st and 3rd week of the month**.

The dates and times are listed here:

Thursday, November 30th 10AM – 2PM
Friday, December 1st, 12Noon – 4PM
Saturday, December 2nd, 8AM – 2PM

Thursday, December 14th, 10AM – 2PM
Friday, December 15th, 12Noon – 4PM
Saturday, December 16th, 8AM – 2PM

Stop buy the store and find some bargains. Clothing and Christmas items for the month of December are **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE** of equal or lesser value! If you would like to make donations to our Thrift Store, Andy will be accepting donations by appointment, please call him at 727-236-1400. Volunteers are always needed, if you would like to volunteer for a few hours once a week or every other week please contact Andy.

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
Eileen Rickard

Grand Villa of Dunedin

Jacquelyne Forbes

Solaris Health Care

Nettie Hopper

Grand Villa of New Port Richey

LaVaughn Kellogg

Lakeside Oaks Care Center

Mary Genga

Oakview Terrace

Jerilyn Costello
Lynne Davis

Consulate of Safety Harbor

Suzanne Kromis

Windsor Woods

Barbara Fox
Dorothy Johnson

Atria – Bayonet Point

Jim Maurer
Flo Peart
Marie MacKenzie
Jan Berube

THOSE SERVING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Fellowship Hosts

(9:00) Jane Sperry and Joyce Wesner
12/3 Joy Hetz, Laura Hausen & Janet Boggs
12/10 Carolyn & Lyle Minnick, Bill Spangenberg
12/17 Dave & Peggy Rickard, Marleen Ruchotzke
12/24 Barbara Brown, Jim Morgan, Jennie Burger
12/31 Jane Sperry and Joyce Wesner

Greeters – 9:00AM

12/3 Gladys Sliter & Carol Lanke
12/10 Jennie Burger & Gloria Schule
12/17 Jane & Russell Rogers
12/24 Carol & Ron Sbani
12/31 Lee & Beverly Haste

Flower Deliverers

12/3 Barbara Brown
12/10 Betty Hopler
12/17 Linda Howery
12/24 All Deacons
12/31 Sally Wagner

Greeters – 11:00AM

Dave Leighton & Ed Matthews

Communion Prep & Cleanup

9am - Dave Rickard & Sally Wagner
11am - Shirley Dunn & Barbara Brown

Ushers – 9:00AM

Jenny Hurley & Don Wesner

Ushers – 11:00AM

Ann Adcock, Evelyn Dunlop, Bill Spangenberg & Betty & Lowell Hopler

Christmas Eve Greeters

Barbara Brown & Jim Morgan

SUNCOAST BRONZE RINGERS PRESENT “CHRISTMAS DELIGHT”

Suncoast Bronze Ringers will have a performance on Monday, December 11th at 7:00pm in the Emmanuel Baptist Church located at 7831 Gulf Highlands Drive. A free will offering will be accepted! Bring your friends and neighbors to experience this wonderful music and get the Christmas season off to a rousing start. Call 727-878-6365 or 352-232-1622 for more information. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of IRS rules.

DONATIONS TO DISASTER RELIEF 2017

The family of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church contributed a total of \$4,040 to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund to be used for those persons affected by Harvey, Irma and Maria.

\$3,240 individual donations from the congregation
\$300 from the Mission Endowment Fund
\$500 tithe from a special donation received in October

Thank you for your generosity.

FOOD OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER IS GRAPE JELLY

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 **\$17.00**. The Mission Committee would like to thank St. Mark's members and friends for their donations.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Gold Rush: ReVive Youth Group will be having a fundraiser of gold! If you have some gold jewelry laying around and not sure what to do with it, ReVive will take it off your hands. Look for details coming soon.

This committee is continuing to plan future events and is always looking for volunteers to help. Please contact Elder Deneen Kerrigan at deneenk1122@gmail.com for more information.

Blessings to all,
Deneen Kerrigan

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Mission Committee welcomed two new members, both of whom attend the 9 o'clock service. Virginia Jackson and Mike Makowsky have already begun handing out food bags for the Food Pantry. Barbara Brown has been helping Elder Jim Morgan with the food shopping and preparing the food bags. We also welcomed back our members from Ontario, Canada; Anne & Bob Gray, who are both active members, as are Alice Burke and Shirley Dunn.

The Food Pantry also has the help of non member volunteers who hand out food bags each week. The committee is very appreciative of these volunteers who keep the food pantry flowing: Barbara Bingeman, Jennie Burger, Betty McClusky, Mary Jane Sbani, Jane Sperry and Joyce & Don Wesner.

The committee is thankful for those in the congregation who answered the call for more grocery bags, and of course those who continue to support the food pantry by bringing the "**Food of the Month**" to the church regularly.

Recycled paper brought \$156.45 to St. Mark's for three months (July, August and September.)

Thanks to the generous donations in memory of Elsie Clough, your Mission Committee at St. Mark's helped finance Metropolitan Ministries and The Rope Center (in Hudson) serving hundreds of meals for Thanksgiving.

Each year the Mission Committee has an "Angel Faces" program to help deserving children at Gulf Highlands Elementary School have presents for Christmas. Because of the generosity of our congregation, over twenty children will be smiling on Christmas Day.

If you are traveling in Africa in the near future and see a handsome water buffalo, it could have been purchased by the \$250 donation made by St. Mark's to the International Heifer Program in 2017.

Blessings,
Jim Morgan & Lyle Minnick

ADDRESS CHANGES

Mrs. Suzanne Kromis
Consulate of Safety Harbor
1410 MLK Jr. St. Rm. 110
Safety Harbor, FL 34695
727-514-8912 her cell

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Faughnan
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