



St. Mark's Messenger

June 2015

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

601 Washington Avenue ~ Hagerstown, MD

301-733-7550 ~ Website: lutheranchurchhagerstown.co

The Reverend G. Stanley Steele, Senior Pastor

Pastoral Report - St. Mark's Church Council and Congregation

Inspire...Serve...Grow are in our mission statement. **Building Faith, Finding Friendships** is our tagline. Do we express this as individuals and Disciples of Christ here at St. Mark's? In Sunday's sermon we heard Paul state, "we are adopted children of God, instilled with the Holy Spirit to say Abba Father and co-inheritor's of the kingdom of God with Christ" yet do we just hear the words or do we live the words? Do they change how we live, make decisions and relate to each other? It is becoming more oblivious to me that we need some Holy Spirit power at St. Mark's. We need to celebrate our victories, cherish our traditions, and move boldly and faithfully into the future with conviction and hope rather than anxiety and doubt. Are there challenges, you bet ya! Will there be times of concern - yep! Yet, I know if we let go of the doubt and accept the power of the Spirit of faith as the early disciples did we will accomplish miracles. It is not God who holds us back, it is ourselves and the whispers of the world telling us to be cautious and fearful. I cannot lead this congregation without the help and inspiration of each one of you. Yes, people can give more, attend more, volunteer more, lead more.... yet they do give, they do attend, they do volunteer, and they do lead so let us rejoice for this and build off of this rather than belabor over the more we desire. Let us let go of living with the vision of scarcity and instead accept the richness of our blessings. This congregation will *inspire...serve...grow* with this perspective and with a bold faith or we will wither under the mantle of caution and fear. Will this entail change? Yes. Change led by the Holy Spirit. Let us not forget we stand in the tradition of the reformers who certainly changed not only the church but the world and call us to be a church that is constantly reforming. I invite you, urge you to join me in the path of hope and faith and boldness so as I said Sunday we can soar like the Eagles we are created to be by God with Jesus in the lead and the Holy Spirit lifting us up.

Now to more mundane matters:

- Synod Assembly met last week and my thanks to Stephen, Petra, Abraham, and Alexandra Elsen for their attendance and restaurant suggestions! There was the passing of the 2016 Spending Plan, elections, adoption of new compensation guidelines and adoption for the Synod to join the ELCA campaign "Always being Made New". It was also good to have a few days with our son Andrew who was co-representing the ELCA at the Assembly.
- VBS is coming along and you will be hearing volunteers tonight decorating the Parish Hall for our week long "Camp Kilimanjaro" event. We have 20 children register at this point and are hoping for a total of at least 50 so invite your neighbors, children and grandchildren.
- ASP is approaching as well and I know Doug Fiery is busy with final planning. The group will be travelling to Harlan, Kentucky (the poorest county ASP serves) on June 14th.
- Adult Sunday school is planned and will begin on the June 14th as well.
- We had two funerals this past month, Rodney Miller and Sarah Young. Both services were held in the church followed by a reception.
- Multiple hospital visits have been made to Baltimore and Meritus as well as several home bound visits with communion. I admit I am behind in these visits and have several planned for this week and the following.
- Thanks to Kathy Barr, Mike Mogenson and Rich Mogenson as well as the Altar Guild for the music and flowers for Pentecost Sunday. We plan on having four Sundays a year with special music on Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Christ the King.
- The Lunch Bunch is going very well with anywhere from 15 to 18 folks coming out each month.
- I am working on several baptisms and new members as well as one wedding this month of Paulina Danner and James Mills.
- The small group youth experience is going well. Thanks to Elaine Rose, Gladys Spessard and Tiffany Shaw for their leadership.

●The Learning Parties were a great success again. We had over 60 folks attend with the leadership of HARC and St. Mark's. I am afraid to mention names as I know I will leave someone out so please know I am very thankful to each of you. We will have another round in the fall.

I pray we all feel the power of God's Spirit to lead this congregation into the future God desires. Together with the help of the Holy Spirit and the confidence of the grace of Jesus I know we can and will.

Pastor Stan

My Cup Overflows

I usually think that "I'm a glass half full kinda girl". However, these days my cup overflows. As I write this, we are preparing to travel to North Carolina for Mandy's graduation and temporary move back home and within two weeks, we will be celebrating Andrew's graduation as well as all the typical year-end celebratory events that go along with senior year. The fact is, my life has always been filled to the brim; it's just that I didn't always appreciate all the things that fill it.

As is our human nature, we separate what we see as good from what we see as bad, and count the "good" and discount the "bad." God, however, has amazing plans for everything, every person, and every situation that comes into our lives.

When we see our glasses, or lives, as half full, it is often because we lack confidence in God to take bad and make it good; we never see beyond sour grapes, while God has planned a fine wine.

Remember: Content (as in things that are held or included) and content (as in satisfaction) are the same word! It's all in where you place the accent.

I recently read the following saying, "May you learn to be con-tent' with your con'-tent!"

So take the time this summer to relax over your "glass", enjoy each and every moment and remember, the con'-tent was supplied by God!

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. — 1 Timothy 6:6-8

*Julie Fiery
Council President*

Endowment Update

Greetings, St. Mark's congregation! 2015 has been another demanding year so far in terms of Endowment expenditures, and we wanted to share with you some of the ways in which the Endowment Fund has been utilized to serve the church.

As a reminder, our mission is *to promote and help fund ministries which advance Christian stewardship within our church, community and world*. Our Bylaws allow us to spend only the annual interest income, dividend income, and up to 75% of capital gain income (from investments) to help fund any of the following seven (7) categories: Property, Benevolence, Outreach, Leadership and Development (within the congregation), Youth Ministry, Miscellaneous/Emergencies, and In-reach (used for the enhancement of fellowship and ministry within the church).

Due to our earnings in 2014, we have been blessed with an accessible amount that can be spent during 2015 of up to \$123,063.74. From this available total, here are the distributions made thus far, as well as those already allocated for later in the year:

\$9,000.00	1 st Quarter budget subsidy for Pastor Salary
\$1,069.00	MSB Architect Fees
\$2,250.00	Yr. 2015 funding for outside supplemental musician contracts
\$1,400.00	Celebration Luncheon Reimbursement
\$1,000.00	Global Teams – Mikahla Stouffer – Contribution for Zimbabwe Trip
\$5,130.00	High Rock – St. Mark's Website Development
\$6,000.00	January 2015 budget subsidy for shortfall in church offerings
\$6,000.00	March 2015 budget subsidy for shortfall in church offerings
\$1,140.00	High Rock – Website Development, Logo Development, Strategic Marketing
\$161.00	MSB Architect Fee for assistance with Bell Tower
\$24,000.00	Four (4) additional budget subsidies to be made for anticipated shortfall in church offerings Yr. 2015 (\$6,000 each)
\$27,000.00	Three (3) additional budget subsidies for Pastor Salary Yr. 2015 (\$9,000 each)
\$2,000	Two (2) budget subsidies for Contemporary Music Dir. Yr. 2015 (\$1,000 each)
\$10,000	Upcoming replacement of West Washington Street sidewalk

\$ 96,150.00 – Total 2015 Allocations to date, *from spendable interest/dividend/gain income*

\$ 304,300.00 – Total amount of *Principal* currently on loan to the church for the Bell Tower Restoration project

It is important to continue to note how the Endowment funds are being apportioned at this point in time, as all money that is used to subsidize the regular church operating budget is money which cannot be used for the true fulfillment of the Endowment mission. While supplementing the church budget is necessary at this time, it is our hope that membership will grow at St. Mark's during the coming years, such that total offerings will be plentiful enough to cover the entire budget, as we feel it should be. In the meantime, we are extremely fortunate to have this Endowment reserve, a resource for which so many other churches throughout the country do not have access. For this blessing, we most certainly give thanks and praise to our Lord!

St. Mark's Endowment Committee

This month I'm not saying "Did you know..." ; This month I am saying **THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU!!!** First, going back to Easter, I want to thank all the choirs and musicians. I was so pleased with all the music that day! I want to thank all the choir members for all the time and effort they put forth, which is certainly evident in their sound on Sunday mornings; and (I thought) was especially glorious on Easter Sunday. I couldn't have asked for the Chancel/Chapel choir piece to go any better; I thought it was great - at both services. THANK YOU Chapel and Chancel choirs. Also thanks to the Praise Team for adding their voices to the service, too - Beautiful! The brass ensemble was *wonderful!!* They are all absolutely excellent musicians and it was a joy and a blessing- and *fun* - to work with them. A special *thank you* to Mike Mogensen for contacting the musicians, finding the music, arranging parts, making sure everyone received their music, and directing the whole bunch of us. THANK YOU, MIKE!!!

On a different note, I also want to thank the members of St. Mark's for all the care and concern expressed, the cards sent, and especially the prayers offered during my parents' recent health concerns. Many of you may know that Mom was "trapped" upstairs for several weeks, while they waited to get a stair-lift installed. Right before it finally did get installed, which gave Mom back her freedom, Dad ended up in the hospital. Between Meritus and George Washington University, he spent about a month in the hospital, much of which was in ICU. He is *home* now and doing much better. Praise GOD!!! (Because he is better, so am I.) Thanks to Pastor Stan for visiting Dad and being with us at the hospital; and for allowing me to be a little more flexible with my time here. Again, I can't thank our St. Mark's family enough for the concern, the cards, and the prayers. It is obvious to me that St. Mark's truly is a *family*. THANKS TO ALL!!!!

One final thing that I've been wanting to show you for quite some time. Every Easter, as a staff member, I get to choose and take home one of the flowers used to decorate the sanctuary that day. Many times I take a lily; but some years I have taken a tulip or a hyacinth. So, out of the 13 Easters that I have celebrated here at St. Mark's, I have gotten maybe 8 or 9 lilies. Lily bulbs multiply!! All of the lilies in this photo (taken along the side of my house in 2013) have come from the ones I have gotten here at St. Mark's and this isn't even all of them! " I get to have a beautiful garden, thanks to St. Mark's.

Blessings, Kathy





St. Mark's Youth

The St. Mark's youth will embark on their ASP trip to rural Central Appalachia Sunday June 14th. We wish them Godspeed as they begin their week long work. There is still time to make a donation to this worthy cause.

Sunday School

The last Sunday for our regular Sunday school will be June 7th. We will have our summer Sunday school beginning on June 14th with a series of discussions of those close to Jesus – Mary Magdalene, James the brother of Jesus also called the just and even Judas. There will be a special program on June 28th by the Befrienders Mission Team to prepare cards and gifts for our home bound and nursing home members.



Congratulations Graduates

Congratulations!

Let us take time and congratulate all of St. Mark's graduates for 2015.

Lauren Ashely Barrett, daughter of Fred and Lisa Barrett, graduated from Salisbury with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work. Laurant will be pursuing her master's Degree in social work at the University Systems of Maryland through Salisbury in the fall.

Jordan Taylor Carpenter, granddaughter of John and Linda Kauffman, graduated from South Hagerstown High School and will be attending Mount St. Mary's in the fall.

Amanda Lauren Fiery, daughter of Doug and Julie Fiery, graduated from Elon University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology.

Andrew Taylor Fiery, son of Doug and Julie Fiery, graduated from North Hagerstown High School and will be attending Liberty University in the fall.

Benjamin Gilbert, son of Richard Gilbert graduated from North Hagerstown High School.

Sonja Hoover graduated from the University of Maryland University College with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a minor in Business Administration.

Alexander Jakoby, grandson of Sandra Jakoby, graduated from Williamsport High School and will be attending Shippensburg University in the fall.

Ryann Fiery, girlfriend of Nicholas Lewis, graduated from Clear Spring High School and will be attending Hagerstown Community College in the fall.

Savanna Jakoby, granddaughter of Sandra Jakoby, graduated from Martinsburg High School and will be attending Shepherdstown University in the fall. Savanna has received a full 4 year scholarship, way to go Savanna!

Kennedy Shank, granddaughter of Betty and Durbin College, graduated from Northern York County School District and will be attending the University of South Florida in Tampa in the fall.

Kim College Shank, daughter of Betty and Durbin College, graduated from Jacksonville University with a Masters in Nursing Education.

McKenzie Shank, granddaughter of Betty and Durbin College, graduated from Northern York County School District and will be attending Old Dominion University Honors College.

God's Blessings to Drew McCaffery, who was ordained on Thursday and called by Bethany Lutheran Church in Altoona, Pennsylvania to become their Pastor. Amanda will continue her studies at Gettysburg Seminary in the fall.

Bible Study

Bible Study meets Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm we will reading and studying First and Second Corinthians. These are fascinating looks at the issues of faith and practice facing the early church and the way St. Paul dealt with them. We will be discussing Baptism, Holy Communion, how to treat fellow believers, sharing our gifts with God and other areas of faith that still apply today. Please join us for a lively and thoughtful discussion led by Pastor Stan.



Tuesday night Bible study will not be held for the next two weeks. It will resume on Tuesday, June 23rd. Hope to see you then.



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Tuesday, June 16th at CiCi's Pizza located in the Sam's/Martins shopping mall located on Wesel Boulevard at 1:00 pm. Please join us for good fun, food, and fellowship. All are welcomed.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will be held on June 14th after the 10:45 am service.



Come Safari with Us to Camp Kilimanjaro

Sunday, June 14 – Thursday, June 18

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Children ages 4- Grade 5

Join us on this Vacation Bible School Journey as we climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Discover big game animals, rainforest bugs, and an enormous volcano. Lace up your hiking boots, grab your gear, and let's get started. We will begin each evening with a delicious meal followed by lots of fun! Each night we will learn valuable lessons about being wise:

- Have ears that hear and do God's word!
- Have a heart that trusts in the Lord!
- Have a tongue that speaks in a God-honoring way!
- Have hands that get to work!
- Have feet that walk with the wise!

We are always looking for more volunteers as we share God's word with both children and adults. Please contact Kim Gandee or Julie Stouffer if you feel that God is calling you to share your spiritual gifts with others.

Sharing God's Word and His Blessings

We are very excited this year to be climbing to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro during our VBS adventure. The VBS team met recently to discuss our program and we were all in agreement that we would like to provide a warm meal each evening to the families that are attending and we need your help. Each Sunday, from May 24 through June 14, we will collect a special offering that will be used for these meals. Would you please consider sharing God's blessings by making a small donation each week?

St. Mark's Quilts

Much goes into the making of the quilts which are sent throughout the world. This ministry is a blessing to those who receive the quilts, those who make them, and to us all at St. Marks. God's Blessing to our quilters and out sincere thanks!



More Brass Music?

We are glad to know that so many in the congregation enjoyed the special brass music on Easter Sunday, as well as on Anniversary Sunday this past October. Quite a few of you have encouraged us to bring back the brass quintet more often. This can be arranged if we are able to secure supplementary funding for the musicians and for the purchase of new music.



As many of you know, our Endowment Committee has been very gracious in providing annual financial support to hire the wonderful outside musicians who play for us at Easter and on many other occasions with the choirs and praise team. This funding also permits us to hire a few musicians over the summer to serve as soloists while the choirs are on break. Any additional full brass event, however, would not be covered by the Endowment stipend.

So if you appreciate the special music ministry provided by the brass quintet and would like to contribute specifically for this purpose, please see Kathy Barr, Mike Mogensen or Rick Mogensen. If we receive enough complimentary funding during the coming months, we will plan to schedule the brass again for the fall of 2015. Thank you in advance for your support!



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone at St. Marks for the get well cards, inquires about my health, and all the love sent my way during and after my knee replacement surgery. It helped a great deal knowing all my brothers and sisters at St. Marks was praying for me for a speedy recovery and all the love I received. Thank you again. Susan Hawbaker

A heartfelt thank you to the members of St. Mark's for your overwhelming support, thoughts and prayers, calls, cards, visitations, abundance of food, and your generosity to our family during the sudden and unexpected death of our beloved son, Todd Curtis Doub. It is comforting to know that we have loving and caring friends. God's Blessings, Gary and Sue Doub, Todd's wife Sharon and children, Cameron and Skylar.

Todd is still with us, he has only switched locations!

May Attendance and Income/Expenses

	<u>Worship</u>
May 3:	120
May 10:	118
May 17:	135
May 24:	124
May 31:	126
Income for the month of May	\$18,640.01
Expenses for the month of May	\$24,077.60
Net Income	(\$5,434.59)

Happy June Birthday to...

5	Lois Rodeffer	17	John Kauffman, Jr.
7	Noah Stouffer	20	Bobby Jones
	Carl Taylor	21	Charles Beckley
9	Holly Fisher		Jaime Henson Schwab
12	David Stouffer	23	Lewis Bryan III
14	Mark Miner	25	Mary Stouffer
15	Priscilla Matheny	28	Emma Stonestreet
	Warren Wolfe	29	Patricia Hovermale
16	Donna Hornbecker	30	John Lewis

*If you would like to become a sponsor for the newsletter, the cost is \$50. Please contact the church office
301-733-7550.*