

Saint Mark United Methodist Church

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Markings

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June, 2010

From the Pastor's Desk:

Usually this space is used for a devotional thought, but this month I feel it is important to take time and officially inform everyone of an action taken by the Administrative Council on May 5. The action is to officially not request the appointment of a full-time Associate Pastor as of July 1, but instead create two part-time positions to care for major areas of responsibility in the current Associate Pastor Job Description. (youth ministries/ visitation, preaching).

This recommendation came from the Staff Parish Relations Committee in consultation with the Senior Pastor and the District Superintendent. Upon notification that Pastor Linda Ross would be appointed to Mays Landing as of July 1, the Staff Parish Relations Committee along with the Senior Pastor reviewed the next steps. After much thought, it was felt that in the light of financial difficulties, it was important for Saint Mark to look at ways to care for mission and ministry in a way that decreased financial demands on the congregation.

Many of you are aware that we have been unable to meet all of our missional support to the United Methodist Church over the last number of years. This alone would be enough reason for action. In addition, fixed costs continue to escalate while unemployment and other financial strains on members and friends make it more difficult for the congregation to expand financial support. We believe our efforts in stewardship have been effective and many are giving sacrificially.

In the light of these facts and others, SPRC made, and Administrative Council approved, the motion above. It is our belief that with the hiring of part-time staff, major areas of responsibility in the Associate Pastor's job description will be cared for, and two areas (youth ministry and visitation) will receive more attention than they would as two items among many in a full-time job description. This action will change job responsibilities for existing staff, and increase the need for lay involvement and leadership.

Please be assured that the SPRC and the Administrative Council are committed to providing for ministry and mission here at Saint Mark. Every effort is being made to keep the possibility open that if financial circumstances or needs of the congregation change, consideration of an Associate Pastor position in the future could be considered. Thank you for your continued concern and support of Saint Mark UMC, and we ask that you remain in prayer for the church and its staff as we enter this time of transition. Questions or concerns regarding this action can be shared with Staff Parish through its chairperson, Mike Persichetti, or by speaking to Pastor Bob.

Peace,
Bob

FAREWELL

A buffet dinner is being planned for Saturday, June 26, 6:30PM in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the contributions that Pastor Linda has made to Saint Mark and to wish her well in her appointment to the Mays Landing, NJ UMC. Cost is \$12/adults, \$6 children (12 and under), and free for children under 6 years old. A limited number of tickets will be sold for the buffet and will be available in the church office or in Fellowship Hall between services. To keep costs low, dessert will be "potluck" so please bring something to share. For those not interested in the buffet, but who might like to join us for dessert, please arrive in Fellowship Hall at 7:30PM and bring a dessert to share.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF GREATER NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

Annual Conference will be held June 3-5, 2010 at Valley Forge Convention Center. Please be in prayer for deliberations and actions of this body. Saint Mark UMC is represented by Pastor Bob, Pastor Linda and Shirley Larkins.

Church Staff:	Senior Pastor	Associate Pastor	Children's Ministry Coordinator	Custodians
Robert L. Marks	Linda Ann Ross	Lorraine Wilson	Bob Sharp, Brian Keck	
Bill Wieszczeck	Bill Garrett	Frank Planas	Rob Signora, Gary Fuller, Tim Marks	
Linda D'Errico	Judy Smith	Meg Hansen		
	Office Manager	Secretary	Praise 2000 Director	
			Praise 2000 Pianist	

Come Sail Away!

Set sail on the Norwegian Jewell
7-night Bahama/Florida Cruise
October 17—24, 2010



- Departs New York City
- Port Canaveral & Orlando area
- Nassau
- Great Stirrup Cary

*Sponsored by
Saint Mark
United Methodist
Women*

*All prices include cruise, port charges,
taxes, and motor coach transportation
to the New York pier.*

Rates are per person/dbl occupancy

*(Minimum number of passengers
required for motorcoach transportation)*

Room Options:
Balcony—\$949
Inside Cabin—\$709

*\$250 deposit will hold your room.
Balance will be due August 1, 2010.
Contact Shirley Larkins (587-4843)
or Linda Savadge (586-6954)
for further information.*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The annual LBI Retreat will be held June 12 at the home of Linda D'Errico in Surf City. We'll meet at Saint Mark at 8:00AM to carpool to LBI and return to Saint Mark by approximately 7:00PM. Registration cost of \$20 includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Registration forms are available on the narthex literature rack.

The UMW will hold a Bake/Soup Sale on June 20 to support Bill Garrett's annual ride for Anchor House. Donations of baked goods will be accepted that weekend—drop off in the kitchen, clearly marked UMW. Cash donations will also be accepted. Checks should be payable to Anchor House and noted in the memo "Bill Garrett."

The annual UMW picnic will be held Friday, June 25, 6:30PM, at the home of Nancy Bainbridge (297 Meadowbrook Rd, Robbinsville). Bring a covered dish, beverages will be provided. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

UMW ZUMBA CIRCLE

Join your friends for fun and fitness! Workout to salsa, groove, and hip-hop music with a professional Zumba instructor on Wednesday, June 9, 7:00-8:00PM. The class (\$10 each) will be a fundraiser with proceeds applied to snow removal costs. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

TASK TEAM SERVES LUNCH WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

A wonderful team of volunteers from Saint Mark preps and serves lunch at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen every first Wednesday of the month. We always are pleased to welcome new and returning volunteers to help out "on the line." We'll meet at 9:30AM in the narthex of the church to carpool to Trenton, returning 1:15PM. Call Bill Wieszczyk (587-1286) if you have any questions.

REHOBOTH BUILDING PROJECT

The Building Committee would like to thank the congregation for your support and patience. The Rehoboth Capital Funds Campaign will end shortly but our building has not progressed as well as we had planned. Your committee still works hard to make progress and still feel enthusiastic about success. The delays are not of our actions nor do we have control of solutions. We are seeking alternatives to the storm water control problem. Thank you again, Howard Nielsen, Chairperson

CONFIRMATION GUIDES NEEDED!

Confirmation 2010-11 is now being planned! This two-year program brings 6th and 7th grade youth on a journey of relationship with God, the church, and each other. Most often it is the parents who act as Confirmation Guides and journey with the youth. However, there may be some of you who would welcome the opportunity to join us on this journey ... and "mentor" a small group of youth. If you feel called to help in this program, please call Pastor Linda before June 21! When we give of ourselves we often get much more in return.

www.KidsChat@SaintMark.God

Fifteen kids and several adults spent a wonderful time at the Pinelands center at Mt. Misery. This year's program was the TRINITY. Several hands on "workshops" gave the children a great understanding of this theme. There was also plenty of time for a hayride, campfire, and a small discussion between the boys cabin and the girls cabin. This was settled with water balloons and silly string. Thanks to all that helped with the program and worked with the children.

As we come to the end of another school year, we all look forward to the lazy days of summer. This year Summer Sunday School will be anything but lazy. Plans are under way for a Shepards (John 10:14) and Stewards (Psalm 24:1) Summer Program. We will learn to take care of God's earth through activities and projects. The summer mission will be to work with Heifer International to purchase a sheep for a family in need. Get ready for a summer of fun, reading, and mission.



The Music Corner

OPEN MIC SEASON FINALE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 4 AT 7:30PM

We've had a great 8th season of Open Mic performances at Saint Mark. Many thanks to all who come out to perform, listen and support this creative arts ministry. All talents, ages and abilities are welcome to share their gifts with a very appreciative and friendly audience. Each performer gets up to 3 pieces/12 minutes on the stage. Please bring a snack to share - hot and cold beverages provided. We will resume Open Mic after the summer break on Friday, September 10. Sign-up list starts at 7:15PM.

ALL CHOIR CONCERT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 6 AT 7:00PM

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;

Praise Him in his mighty firmament!

Praise Him for his mighty deeds;

Praise God according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise God with the Saint Mark Winds;

Praise God with the Sacred Strings and Frets!

Praise God with Silent Witness and Dancing Gospels!

Praise God with Youth Praise and Chamber Singers!

Praise God with the Praise Choir and Band,

and Saint Mark Singers;

Praise God with clanging Bells of Joy,

Loud Silver Bells and clashing bells

of the Saint Mark Handbell Choir!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

HYMN/PRAISE SING WEEKEND, JUNE 12-13

Join with us in worship during the weekend of June 12-13 as we celebrate our faith and praise God in song at each of our worship services. Please fill out the hymn/praise song survey that is on the literature rack in the narthex or on the rack in the pews, either leaving it in the offering plate or in the church office. We hope to have a wide variety of those favorites included in worship and plan to use some of those we can't get to during the summer worship hours.

SAINT MARK WOMEN SING ON FATHER'S DAY

We are pleased to feature our women's sections from the Saint Mark Singers as they will provide the special music on Father's Day, June 20 at the 8:00 and 11:00AM worship services in honor of all of our fathers.

CHOIR CAMP REGISTRATIONS ARE HERE!

The cost is \$40 for an individual camper, \$55 for immediate family, per session.

June 21-25, Choir Camp I for kids and youth in grades 1-8; 9:00AM-1:00PM. We will perform the musical, *A Technicolor Promise*, the story of Noah's ark. Concert on Friday, June 25, at 7:00PM

August 9-13, Choir Camp II for kids and youth in grades 1-8; 9:00AM-1:00PM We will perform *The Ultimate Question*. Concert on Friday, August 13, 7:00PM

August 23-27, **NEW!** Guitar & Bass Camp for youth, grades 6 and up; 9:00AM-Noon. Concert on August 17, 7:00PM

VBS - HIGH SEAS IS STEAMING AHEAD!

VBS for kids age 4 through grades 5, is slated for the week of July 26-30, 9:00AM-12:00NOON. Registration forms (\$20 per child) are on the narthex literature rack - all kids are welcome! Many adults and youth helpers (grade 6 and up) are needed to join our crew as we set sail - take note of these upcoming dates and full steam ahead...

Youth Crew Leader Sessions (youth in grades 6+ must attend one session) Monday, May 17, 4:30-5:30PM; Thursday, June 3, 5:30-6:30PM; Tuesday, June 8, 4:30-5:30PM.

REVIVE

An Ecumenical event will be held on June 10-13 at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. This event centers in on issues of Christian social justice and will feature speakers Dr Cornell West and Bart Campolo. Specific issues to be explored are issues of immigration and incarceration. Brochures are available in the church narthex. Schedule etc. is available at event's website www.Revivejustice.org.

NEEDED!

Person(s) who will chair the Fall Saint Market Faire Flea Market are needed. Person will work with a dedicated group of assistants to plan, solicit vendors, and implement

plans for this important fundraiser in the life of Saint Mark. Contact Bob Marks or Marion Zajac.

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Summer hours begin July 3-4 and continue through September 4-5. Hours are Saturday evening, 5:00PM, Sunday 9:00AM Contemporary, 10:30AM traditional.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

From July 3-4 through Labor Day we will have a Sermon Series on the Book of Acts, entitled *Actin' Out*. Plan to be with us when you are in town this summer and learn more about the early church.

MISSIONS

67 Lenten Soup Cookbooks were sold and \$335 is being donated to feed others at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Thanks to all who supported this mission of Saint Mark. Enjoy the soup you make with your new recipes!

Mairon Zajac for the Missions Team

Welcome to the Family of God little one baptized in May

*Francesca Celia Bottini
daughter of Richard & Theresa*

*James Anthony Alphonse
son of Anthony & Jamie*

Thanks!

Thank you all so much for all the cards, thoughts, and daily prayers during Brad's hospitalization.

The Ryder Family

Thank you to everyone who cleaned out their closets for the Don't Throw it Out fundraiser. We collected 8,554 pounds of clothes for which we received \$1,225.05. This will go directly to the Appalachia Service Project. Great work! Thanks for your donations!

The ASP Team

So many thanks from all the ASPers go out to everyone who contributed to the clothing drive. From those who brought your clothing to be donated (over 4 tons of clothes!) to those who helped load the truck, God bless you. Cindy, you rock!

Also, to those who spent nights at Saint Mark sorting through all of the white elephants and getting them ready for sale at the Saint Market Faire (especially Roberta, Diane, Paul and everyone else), the event would not be nearly as successful without your dedication to serving our Lord. Please know how deeply appreciated you are and how much we hope He blesses you!

The Saint Mark ASP Team

I would like to thank my Saint Mark family for the many cards and calls and the beautiful lily delivered by Peppy Bath, who also stopped by one other day. Thank you also to Rev. Marks for his visit to the hospital. Because of your caring and prayers, I am making really good progress.

Grace Lyons

Thank you for your generous and much needed gift of \$500 to HomeFront. Our staff continues to face the challenge of a waiting room full of families needing help each day. Thanks to people like you we are there with safe, affordable housing, emergency funds to keep families with children from becoming homeless, family counseling and education and food bags for those who can no longer afford to feed their children through the month.

Gifts from people like you who are compassionate and generous even in tough times are what keep our programs going during this time of huge stress on our resources. We can only be there for local families because you are there for us. I hope you know how important you are to our families and the quality of our community. We are so grateful to your congregation.

Connie Mercer, Executive Director, HomeFront

GRADUATES

Katie Lehman

graduating with honors from NYU (New York University)
Katie & her sister, Sadie, will be teaching English in Gangneung, South Korea

Andre Raywood

Richard Stockton College
BS in Computer Science

Molly Fuller

Nottingham High School
attending Western Illinois University
majoring in flute performance & music education

Jenna Latham

Notre Dame High School
attending Elizabethtown College

Danielle M. Leake

Steinert High School
Attending Rutgers University
Art and Science Honors Program

Brittany Anne Mayweather

Robbinsville High School.
admitted as a Benjamin Franklin Scholar and will be attending the University of Pennsylvania

Rachael Wance

Nottingham High School
attending Stockton College
as an Education Major

Rebecca Wance

Nottingham High School
attending William Patterson Honors College
majoring in Special Education

REHOBOTH FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

This month our three-year, Rehoboth Capital Funds Campaign comes to an end. Boy - does time fly! As we approach the end of June, projections would indicate we'll miss our \$920,000 goal by about \$220,000 - likely attributable to the economic downturn. We thank God for the funds we've been able to raise. If you haven't met your pledge amount at this point, and still believe you are in a position to do so, please make your contributions soon. If you don't remember your pledge amount, contact Eric Johannsen to obtain that information. The Follow-Up Committee sincerely appreciates all those who have selflessly given over the past three years in support of our building and ministry expansion efforts. In recognition of the nearly \$700,000 we have collected during the Campaign, the Follow-Up Committee invite all to a small "Thank You" celebration during Coffee Hour on June 20.

If you would still like to make contributions to the capital fund beyond June, you may continue to do so by placing your financial gifts in an envelope noted *Capital Funds*. The more money we are able to accumulate in advance, the less money we'll have to finance in the future.