

Saint Mark United Methodist Church

465 Paxson Avenue, Hamilton Square, New Jersey 08690
(609) 587-1286 Fax: 609-587-6090 Stmarkum@optonline.net www.saintmarkhamilton.org

Markings

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Who are we? What is our relationship in mission and ministry with other United Methodists around the world? Attending Annual Conference each year reminds me that we are part of a connectional church. In a way that is qualitatively different than our unity with all Christian churches, United Methodists are organizationally and missionally connected, as we seek to do the work of Christ throughout the world. We at Saint Mark are partners in the work of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Our congregation is one of 41,589 United Methodist churches throughout the world. The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of which we are a part is one of 133 Annual Conferences. You are one of 11 million professing members of the United Methodist Church, Pastor Bob is one of 55 thousand clergy members, and your children or grandchildren may be part of 5 and a half million church school participants.

These are just numbers unless this connection leads to effective ministry throughout the world. We are challenged to live out our connection together through four focus areas:

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the Church and the world
- Creating new places (churches) for new people and renew existing congregations
- Engaging in ministry with the poor
- Stamping out the killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

As many of you are aware for the past few years we have been unable to financially meet all of our connectional mission commitments. It is time for us to identify this fact as more than regrettable, but unacceptable. Saint Mark is a dynamic congregation that is part of a worldwide connection. Together, let us commit ourselves to once again becoming a full partner in the global ministry of our church, and in so doing re-discover who we are.

Peace,
Bob

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. Throughout the summer we will be participating in a summer sermon series entitled *Actin' Out* based on the book of Acts. Plan to be with us each week that you are in town.

SUMMER BUILDING HOURS

As summer approaches, and use of the building diminishes, custodial hours and shifts are adjusted for financial savings. Please note the building will not be open every night, and with staff vacations, etc., it would be in your best interest to call prior to dropping in at the church to insure someone will be there to greet you. Please do not schedule meetings in the building unless you have first calendared them with Judy.

NEW DISCIPLE I CLASS IS FORMING

Beginning in September we are forming a new Disciple I class that will meet on Monday from 7:00-9:30PM. Disciple is a 34-week study of the Old and New Testaments that is transformational in nature and a wonderful small group experience. If you are considering joining in this study (about 30 minutes of reading/homework per day), call Bill Wieszczeck (587-1286) to find out more information. About 60 people from Saint Mark have been through Disciple since 2005. Maybe this is your opportunity to take up the challenge and make the study of the Bible a daily blessing!

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	Organist	Praise 2000 Director	
		Secretary	Praise 2000 Pianist	

UMW ZUMBA CIRCLE

Join your friends for fun and fitness! Workout to salsa, groove, and hip-hop music with a professional Zumba instructor. We'll be meeting several times over the summer so please watch for dates on the weekly email updates. The class (\$10 each) will be a fundraiser with proceeds applied to new playground equipment.

SUMMERTIME SERVICE AT TASK

Saint Mark will continue our service to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen during the summer months. Youth ages 14 and up are welcome to join with us (with parental permission) as we prep and serve lunch on Wednesday, July 7 and August 4. We'll meet at 9:30AM in the narthex to carpool to Trenton, returning by about 1:15PM. The Soup Kitchen is air-conditioned, but wear comfortable clothing - no open-toed shoes, please! Call Bill Wieszczyk (587-1286) if you have any questions or to let him know that you'll be joining with the team.

TIME AND TALENT CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Team wishes to thank Joie Barry for leading the execution of our spring Time and Talent Campaign with assistance from Holly Bushnell and Barbara Sedia. Over 125 members submitted pledge cards - representing young and old; veteran and new. About five children and youth took the opportunity to pledge to

share their time and talents. More than 70 members pledged to re-dedicate themselves to the Lord's service by continuing in the ministry and mission efforts with which they are currently involved. About 40 members newly pledged to assist with 50 ministry positions - mainly in the areas of Greeters, Lay Readers, and Sunday School support. Many members took the time to indicate their involvement in a variety of community ministries outside of Saint Mark; for example: scouting, PTA, coaching sports, school board membership, Rotary Club, hospice volunteer, Big Brothers/Sisters, etc. To all those who felt called to renew their commitments to serve and especially those who came forward to newly engage in areas of ministry, the Stewardship Team appreciates your positive response to the call, and your willingness to submit a pledge card. Saint Mark Church is a more vital institution, has a stronger sense of fellowship, and has a greater presence in our community, and the world, because of your active service in the Lord's name. Thank You!

Welcome to the Family of God little one baptized in June

*Mathilda Minto Gannon
daughter of Robert & Deborah*

www.KidsChat@SaintMark.God

Thanks to everyone who took time to eat their dinner and ice cream at Friendly's, an additional \$120 was raised and now can be used to support our children's programs.

One session of Sunday School will start July 4 at 9:00AM. This will be a combined class from K to 5th grade. Nursery will be provided for the younger children, with volunteers for the summer months. Please look for the volunteer sign up sheet in the Nursery room. The summer classes will focus on ways we can be good Stewards of God's Earth. A full schedule of activities has been planned. There is a sign up board in the narthex if you would like to be part of the summer adventure. Keep in mind, each week must have two teachers in the classroom and two volunteers in the Nursery.

Have you heard of Heifer International? The children of Saint Mark Sunday School have! This summer they will participate in the *Read to Feed* program, sponsored by Project Heifer. Instead of handing out food, Heifer International provides a helping hand by supplying families with farm animals and training. By giving families in need a gift of an animal, Heifer empowers them to turn a life of hunger and poverty into one of self-reliance and independence. Our children are going to help this summer by reading. Children obtain sponsorships from parents, friends and the congregation based on the number of books (or units of time) they read. The goal of the Sunday School Children is to read enough to buy a sheep or two by the end of the summer. The more you sponsor, the more they read, the more sheep we can purchase.

The reading program will run from June 27-September 5, and is available to all kids - middle and high school as well. If you would like to participate, but have not received your material please call Lorraine Wilson (609-291-9102).

Some up coming dates to keep in mind: Third grade Bible Lock-in will be held Friday, September 17. If you have a child going into third grade in the fall, look for information over the summer about the lock-in event. Bibles will be distributed on Christian Education Sunday, September 19.



The Music Corner

CHESTER UMC CHOIR CONCERT

We are pleased to be hosting a sister choir from Chester, VA as they perform a concert at Saint Mark on Friday, July 16, at 7:00PM. We are in need of about 20 host families to house adult choir members (2 per household) after the concert. They will be returning to the church on the next morning to continue their tour. All families are asked to provide breakfast for their guests. In addition, we have been asked to provide a dinner for the choir at 6:00PM on the evening of their performance. Anyone interested in coordinating the dinner (for about 40 adults) and/or willing to house a few choir members, please contact Bill Wieszczyk (587-1286). Your hospitality and attendance are very much appreciated!

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR SUMMER SERVICES

Do you have a gift for music? Would you be willing to share that gift with the congregation in worship at Saint Mark this summer? Call Bill Wieszczyk (587-1286) to see how you can serve God and minister to God's people during July and August at the 10:30AM traditional worship service. Singers, instrumentalists, solos and groups - all are welcome!

CHOIR CAMP REGISTRATIONS STILL BEING TAKEN!

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

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

HANDBELL RINGERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy the sounds of bells ringing? Then come be a part of our handbell ministry. We have a place in our handbell choirs for you. Silver Bells practices Monday mornings. Bells of Joy (beginners, 5th grade and up) and Saint Mark Handbell Choir both meet Monday evenings. It's not necessary to have a musical background (play another instrument). We will show you the basic ringing technique and help you grow in your ringing abilities. First rehearsals will be Monday, September 13. Contact Pam Rooney or Bill Garrett for further information.

SACRED STRINGS

Sacred Strings would like to invite all those who play violin, viola, cello, or bass to come join them. Haven't touched the violin since high school days? No problem! Climb up in the attic and pull it out and come join us. We'll help you get it in tune and get you bowing again in no time. We'll be having an organizational meeting on Thursday September 9 at 6:30PM to talk about the year and when we might want to play. Come join us; you'll be glad you did. Talk with Bill Garrett or Bill Wieszczyk for additional details.

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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 and will be accepted through July 15. All kids are welcome! Many adults and youth guides (grade 6 and up) are needed to join our crew as we set sail. Fill out the blue registration form and come to the training session on Monday, July 19, at 4:30PM. All guides are to attend the last training session on Sunday, July 25, 4:00-6:00PM, decorating, set-up and pizza included! On Friday, Youth Guides stay for lunch and help to break down and clean up until about 1:30PM. Family night is on Thursday, July 29, 7:00PM—all kids, guides and adults welcome for a time of fun, fellowship and singing!

"HIGH SEAS" PROVISIONS LIST

Please help us to keep our VBS costs low this year. Your donation will help us to meet our budget while providing our kids with one of the best VBS experiences in town! We need your help to help feed our hungry sailors at this year's High Seas Vacation Bible School. All non-perishables can be put on the counter in the kitchen,

marked "VBS". Folks wishing to bring the fresh fruit or whipped topping, please call Diane Wance (587-6869) to inform her of your intentions so we can shop accordingly. Please have all items to the kitchen by July 18 so we can be sure of the supplies we have ahead of time. Thanks for your support!

Pringles Baked Wheat Stix	Square pretzels
M and M's	Honey Nut Cheerios
Miniature marshmallows	Bite size blue corn chips
Blue Jello	Vanilla Wafers
Gummy Worms	Chocolate Graham Crackers
Cherry Pie Filling	9 ounce clear plastic cups
Blue dessert plates	French Onion Dip
Blocks of Cheddar Cheese	Cool Whip (not lite)
Grapes, Watermelon, Cantaloupe, Pineapple Chunks	

VBS Craft Supplies - Please label "VBS" and drop off in the church office.

Poly-fill stuffing-12 oz per child	Pennies-2 per child
Fabric markers-about 48	Scotch tape
Glue dots - 6 boxes	Permanent markers-about 48
Blue cellophane paper-1"/child	Old cardboard file folders
About 70 clean 2-liter Plastic Soda Bottles needed for games.	
Please bag, label "VBS" and drop off in the church office.	

Thanks!

To the Saint Mark Community of Faith, Thank you for remembering my mother, Wiktoria, in prayer. God has blessed her by healing her broken leg but intensive therapy continues. You have all been a blessing in my life many times over.

Tadeusz Zielinski

To my extended family at Saint Mark, I would like to thank everyone for your cards, phone calls and prayers during my recent by-pass surgery. Each card and phone call put a ray of sunshine in my day. It is nice to know that others care. Also, I would like to thank Pastor Bob for his home visit. I am looking forward to coming back to Saint Mark.

Martin VanArsdale

SPONSOR AN ASPER!

Saint Mark is pleased to present an opportunity for you to be a part of our annual mission trip to the Appalachian Mountains - SPONSOR AN ASPER! Your contributions will go directly toward the funding for this year's trip, which is estimated to be in excess of \$17,000 this year. Sponsor forms are available in the Narthex. Our team will be leaving on July 17, traveling to and working in Sullivan County, Tennessee, and returning on July 25. This is a chance to help Saint Mark's mission team spread God's love to some of His children, by providing warmer, safer and drier homes to those less fortunate than us. God bless you!

GROCERY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Did you know that for each \$100 in grocery certificates you buy to do your shopping you are donating \$5 to Saint Mark? We sell certificates in \$50 and \$100 amounts for Shop Rite and Acme. These certificates can be used in any Shop Rite or Acme. Purchases can be made in Fellowship Hall between Sunday services, and Monday thru Friday, between 9:00AM and 3:00PM in the church office. Won't you try using the certificates for your grocery shopping and help Saint Mark?

WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE

Saint Mark has a weekly email update! If you haven't already received an issue, please email the office (stmarkum@optonline.net) to have your name/email address added to our mailing list.

WEBSITE

Ministry team chairs should notify the office (stmarkum@optonline.net) of any additions or changes needed on their ministry pages on our website, (www.saintmarkhamilton.org).

GRADUATES

Kristen Donovan

University of North Carolina/Greensboro

Drew Lahovich

Graduated with honors Northeastern University in Civil Engineering
Will be attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Pursuing his Masters in Structural Engineering

Steve Lahovich

Mercer County Community College
Television and Radio Production Degree

Melissa Keck

Mercer County Community College
Will be attending Kean University as a Sociology Major

Brian C. Coleman

Allentown High School
attending Universal Technical Institute in Exton, Pa.

Robert A. Coleman

Allentown High School
attending Mercer County Community College

Amanda Donoval

Steinert High School

Robert Bleu Funke

Steinert High School

Emily Keck

Steinert High School
Attending Rowan University as an Elementary Ed/Mathematics Major

Brandi Ritz

Burlington Twp. High School
Attending Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire
Majoring in Psychology

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.

SUSAN G. KOMEN 3 DAY WALK

Lida Sharp is participating in the Susan G. Komen 3 day 60 mile walk for Breast Cancer in October this year in Tampa, Florida. If you'd like to donate or join Lida's team "Jersey Girls for Shore walking for a Cure" please contact Lida at Lidasharp@yahoo.com or 609-915-9832

PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer is an important part of your walk and relationship with God. A prayer chain is available for support of any prayer concerns or needs. Requests are confidential. To use the prayer chain, call the church (587-1286) and at anytime during the message, press 50 and follow the procedures as given. If you have any questions, call Janet Gerhardt (587-7820).