



PURPOSE DRIVEN LIVES. . . and ST. MARK'S

Often the question does not come up until later in life. Why am I here? What am I really supposed to do or be on this earth? We can feel so often like a train out of control, rushing to complete tasks, doing the expected (going to school, finding a job, trying to balance our finances, grabbing moments for a party or down time or a special vacation, another task for a child or relative.)

But there are those sobering moments, when we have time to reflect, or maybe it's when we have faced a particular crisis, and we ask, "What am I really supposed to be doing? Is there a higher purpose?"

This fall our church will be reading and learning about The Purpose Driven Life. Our preaching, "Great Groups," and some activities will center on this quest. We'll be using the bestseller book by the same name, The Purpose Driven Life, by The Rev. Rick Warren, as our springboard for learning. More importantly, we'll be praying and opening our hearts and minds to God with this search.

Many people are already far into their God given purposes. They may not even know it. There is no magical project. But God does have a plan and purpose for our individual lives. Let's explore this venture together. Let's make the most of it. Attend worship regularly. Join a "Great Group." Buy the book, which is in the narthex. It is a wonderful 40 day read: That is, it has 40 chapters. Read one a day. There are questions and a bible passage for each day, each chapter.

God reminds us in the book of Jeremiah, chapter 29, verse 11: *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

SEPTEMBER LESSONS

“The Purpose Driven Life”

September, 2010

- Sunday, Sept. 5 (Labor Day) Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 139:1-6; Luke 14:25-33
- Sunday, Sept. 12 Ephesians 5:15; Psalm 95:1-7; Matthew 6:24 - - We cannot serve God & mammon. That is we need to know who is #1, who we belong to, who we are to worship, serve and know
- Sunday, Sept. 19 Romans 5:6-11; Psalm 149:1-5; John 10:11-15
- Sunday, Sept. 26 I John 3:1-3; Colossians 3:12-17; John 15:1-5 - - I am the vine you are the branches.

(underlined lessons are for Contemporary Service)

PRAYER VIGIL

Saturday, Sept. 11, 9:00 – 11:00am

Open Sanctuary for Prayer

Pray Daily is part of our church’s vision statement. Come to St. Mark’s when you can sit quietly and share, listen, be quiet with God. Stay for 10 minutes or an hour. Come to seek God’s peace and blessings in your life. Come to pray for the ministries at St. Mark’s. Come to pray for our Sunday School teachers and that parents will be faithful and bring their children for learning about Jesus. Come. . . . receive. . . . open hearts. . . . and filled.

RALLY DAY and BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 12, 2010

Breakfast at 9:30am

God invites YOU and your friends to start this fall in church. Our

new theme, “The Purpose Driven Life” will draw us into new insights for our lives as Christians and people of God. Come and worship at 8:30 or 11:00am, and enjoy a multi-menu breakfast from 9:30 to 11:00. Bring everyone – family, friends – for food, fellowship and worship on this day. There will be a free-will offering with a suggested donation. SEE YOU THERE!!

Sign Up & Join the BHAG at St. Mark’s
A BHAG . . . is a Big Hairy Audacious Goal.

A BHAG is simply a fun way to lift up a special ministry goal for a church! The BHAG for St. Marks for three months, September - November this fall is: **To involve 200 St. Mark’s members and friends in “serving (*and bringing others to serve*) in September, October, and November, 2010, in any of the following service ministries:**

- 1) Participate in The LCS Walk/Run – Sat, Sept. 18
- 2) Attend the Grace Brame concert fundraiser for “Tanzanian water wells,” Sept. 26
- 3) Serve breakfast at Sojourner’s on Sept. 26 or Oct. 24 or Nov. 28.
- 4) Serve one day at Luther Towers
- 5) Donate food for the Nov. “Hilltop Thanksgiving Baskets”
- 6) Participate in a Confirmation Class / Senior High Youth Project.
- 7) Attend the Women’s Retreat, Nov. 13, and make Global Mid-Wife Health Kits
- 8) Help plan, make a “home cooked meal” for Lutheran Students at the U. of Del.
- 9) Add your own service project. . . Sign up in the narthex, help us meet our BHAG!

Purpose Driven Life “Great Groups”

This fall St. Mark’s will provide once again opportunities for grow more deeply in their faith through a small group. We call them ”Great Groups.” This fall the study materials will come from our “Purpose Driven Life” materials. There will two types of groups, both working from the Purpose Driven Life book:

1. **“The 40 Day Journey – Purpose Driven Life”** – This is for people who intend to read the full book, The Purpose Driven Life, and want to do the daily readings and devotions. (There are 40 chapters) It will run for 7 weeks and will be led by Rebecca Shindel.
2. **“What On Earth Am I Here For?”** This experience will have two options:
 - a) Adult Sunday School, (1 Hour), 9:45am – 10:45am)
 - b) Mid-week Great Groups (1½ hours . . . various days and times)Participants in these groups will receive a condensed version of the book, which has seven sections for study and discussion.

Who is leading these groups and when will they be available? Not all plans had been finalized, so keep an eye out in church. But to date we have the following options:

<u>Great Groups</u>	<u>Leaders</u>	<u>Sites, Times and Locations</u>
1) To be Determined	Rebecca Shindel	To be determined. This group will study the entire book, 7 weeks.
2) Sunday Mornings Begins Sun, Sept. 19	Rebecca Shindel & Stephanie Bradley Possibly a 3 rd Teacher	9:45am – 10:45am Meets at St. Mark’s Church
3) Sunday Evenings Begins, Sun, Sept. 26	Kitty Dombroski 792-0382	7:00-8:30pm. Meets in her home, 3001 Chelmsford Lane, Wilmington
4) Monday Evenings Begins, Sept. 27	John Rendle 425-4977	7:00-8:3pm; (Men’s Group) Meets at St. Mark’s Church
5) Wed Mornings	Pastor Melton	Group #1 - 10:30am - 12:00

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798-4030 | Group #2 – 10:30am – 12:00
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| 7) Thursday Nights
Begins, Sept. 30 | Roberta Dukes
478-0417 | 7:15pm-8:45pm. Meets at her
home, 4021 Greenmount Rd,
Wilmington |
| 8) To be Determined | Barbara Weeks
529-0890 | MARIS GROVE retirement
community |
| 9) To be Determined | Susan Greenwood
762-5302 | A home setting. |
| 10) To be Determined | Gail Rodger
764-2480 | A home setting. |

Have you ever asked yourself ... What on Earth Am I Here For?

We will be exploring this question for seven weeks this fall, using the book by Rick Warren, "**The Purpose-Driven Life**", beginning September 12, 2010. Maybe you purchased this book in the last few years, but "never got around" to reading it. This is a great opportunity to pick it back up and learn daily. Copies will also be on sale in the Narthex. A great group is forming to do the 40-day journey, reading one chapter a day and meeting once a week. Please contact Rebecca Shindel if you are interested in taking this journey together.

We will also be studying the first seven chapters, titled, **What on Earth Am I Here For?** on Sunday mornings and in great groups to get you started. St. Mark's will be providing free booklets. It is also available for free download at <http://www.purposedrivenlife.com/enUS/AboutUs/AboutTheBook/FirstSevenChapters.htm>.

This book is designed to help us *discover God's purpose for our lives*. It is in contrast to modern "self-help books" which encourage us to focus on ourselves, not on God and others. We each possess a unique combination of gifts designed to enable us to carry out God's plan. You are not an accident! Regardless of where we find ourselves in our family life or careers, God cares and He encourages, equips and enables us to care for others and bring the good news to them. It all starts with God.

The Stewardship team chose this theme and book because it encourages Christians to consider *the stewardship of their whole lives*. Financial stewardship is only one part of this, and ultimately grows out of our desire to further God's kingdom here on earth.

Ways for you to participate:

- Join us for Rally Day breakfast on Sunday, September 12
- Learn through Pastor Fred's sermons during this seven-week series
- Attend the Sunday School class based on the first seven chapters of the book, starting Sept. 19
- Get involved in – or even lead! - a great group
- Join us for on Saturday, October 9 for a special event that will inspire you to put what we learn together into practice
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If you would like to join or lead a small group or help with the special



WHAT
on
Earth
AM I
HERE
for?

event, please contact Rebecca Shindel at 478-2249.

IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER EVERY YEAR!

The annual HUNGER WALK/RUN 5K returns to Rockford Park for its 19th year Saturday, September 18. More than a single event, it is a multiple of happenings. In addition to the traditional 5K Walk/Run, try the new Walk and Talk in the Park, a shady one mile course entirely within Rockford Park. Want more action? Go for the 18 and Under Competitive 5K with free T-shirts, medals and drawings. Free refreshments for all . . . T-shirts . . . Drawings for gift certificates and cool prizes . . . Free T-shirts and registration for youths who raise \$25 or adults who raise \$50.

SPECIAL for St. Mark's and Good Shepherd! Each church will have a "Green Team," with a shared goal of fielding a total of 150 participants. Last year, we had 75, they had 57. **If a combination of Good Shepherd and St. Mark's Lutheran folks totals 150 walkers, then "the green team" gets their hair or heads green. Yes, if the goal is met . . . we go green! Sign up to walk and to go green!!**" Pastor Fred has already committed to greenness. Whatever happens, the two churches will again join for a picnic afterwards.

Remember, the HUNGER WALK/RUN is the largest single source of funding for the LIFE pantries. Pick up your registration form in the narthex today and join us for the picnic.

WINE TASTING IN THE GARDEN

Please plan to join us on Saturday, September 18, 2010 from 4 PM to 6 PM for the 8th Annual "**Wine Tasting in the Garden**". As in the past, we will review 4 different wines (2 whites and 2 reds). It is a time for fun and fellowship and an opportunity to increase your knowledge of wines.

The event will be held again at the home of Bill and Nancy Fuson. Tickets will go on sale in mid August. Please look for us in the Narthex. The ticket price remains at \$15.00 per person.

Grace Brame's Farewell Concert
"Jesus' Journey"
to
Benefit the Mara Diocese Wells Project
Sunday, September 26, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.

Our own Grace Brame, mezzo soprano, is known through opera, symphony and recitals throughout the United States. Her concerts in the former Soviet Union, Estonia, France, Switzerland, and Puerto Rico have elicited rave reviews. Her most treasured concert series occurred in Moscow where her first embassy concert, during the days of the Cold War, broke the cultural embargo between the United States and the former Soviet Union. A review of "The Life of Christ" performed in France, states: *"an artist of first grandeur...of sumptuous voice. Graced by the splendor of her voice's timbre...by her intense, poignant expression and her prodigious musicality... she sang works made profoundly meaningful by variety of nuance."* Henri Dumoulin, Le Progres, Lyon France

We are pleased and excited that Grace has chosen St. Mark's Church to perform her farewell concert, **Jesus' Journey**, told through spirituals and folks songs, beloved old music and new, exciting songs. The concert will benefit the Mara Diocese Well Project. You won't want to miss this warm and moving experience. So mark the date on your calendar now and come show Grace how much we've enjoyed her ministry and contribution to St. Mark's over the past 40 plus years!

The offering received at the concert will benefit the Mara Diocese in Tanzania, the companion Diocese to our Delaware/Maryland Synod. It is in a very poor and under-developed area in western Tanzania. Malaria is commonplace. People spend several hours each day walking for miles to get clean water for drinking, cooking and washing clothes. Just think what they could do if they didn't have to spend all day getting something that we take for granted! Through the "Well Project" the Delaware/Maryland Synod has built 9 wells in the Mara Diocese. Two years ago, St. Mark's, itself, completely financed a well for the evangelists' school at Kiabakari. Our goal this year is to raise \$12,000 to build two more wells. During the month of September there will be a fascinating display in the narthex to teach us more about this life-saving and life-enhancing ministry!

We will be blessed to have three people from Tanzania visiting us for the concert! They will be the chief doctor of the Bunda Hospital in the Mara Diocese and two of his associates. This will be part of their visit to the United States as

guests of the Delaware/Maryland Synod in September. Be sure to join us after the concert for a reception in the Great Room.

If you would like to host one of our Tanzanian guests overnight on September 26 and /or accompany them on Monday when we take them to Longwood Gardens, please contact Selma Tepper at 610-358-1069 for details.

We have a great committee, but we could use a few more people to help with planning for the concert. Please contact Diana Decker at 302-275-2520 or ddecker357@yahoo.com to volunteer.

SOJOURNER'S PLACE BREAKFAST MINISTRY

On the fourth Sunday of the month, St. Mark's members provide breakfast for the residents at Sojourners. We meet at Sojourner's Place about 7:10am on the fourth Sunday of the month. We bring food, prepare the meal and serve breakfast for about 35 people. Interaction with the residents and developing relationships is a key part of the morning. Remaining dates for 2010:

September 26

October 24

November 28

December 26

In addition to the breakfast ministry, St. Mark's members also provide transportation to worship and other functions for the residents. Is God calling you to this special ministry? Pray for God's guidance. We invite you to join us on the fourth Sunday of the month for breakfast – you will find this most rewarding. Or, perhaps you would like to help with transportation. For information, contact Greg Landrey (302-761-9476) or email him at glandrey@winterthur.org.

September is World Hunger Month at St. Mark's

This September St. Mark's will have the opportunity to target our World Hunger Appeal to support a project that will change the lives of families who live in the Mara Diocese in western Tanzania. Instead of ELCA World Hunger envelopes in the pews, we will have envelopes that read: Water Projects Mara Diocese – This is ELCA Work! Make checks payable to St. Mark's Church (earmark checks Wells-TTF). We hope that everyone will be able to come to Grace Brame's Farewell Concert to benefit the Mara Diocese Well's Project on Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 4 p.m. in our sanctuary. Our goal is to raise \$16,000 to build 2 wells. If you are unable to attend, please consider giving a gift and pray for our success with this very important mission project. We take water for granted here in Delaware. It is hard to imagine having to walk hours to obtain one day's supply of water. This is our opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of so many families.

Linda Lange, Christian Service Ministry Committee

INSTALLATION OF NEW BISHOP

The Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane, who was elected Bishop of the Delaware Maryland Synod at the Synod Assembly in June, will be installed as the 4th bishop of the Synod on Saturday, September 18, 2010 at 12:30pm. The installation will take place at New Psalmist Baptist Church, 4501 Old Frederick Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21229. ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will preside and preach at the festival celebration and installation of Bishop-Elect Herz-Lane and his assistants.

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Adult Education

September 2010

9:45 – 10:45am.

We will start the new Sunday School year off with a busy schedule. We will have two main classes plus a few one week sessions throughout the Fall. The main classes are a "Purpose Driven Life" led by Rebecca Shindel. This class will start on September 19. The second class is called "Our Deepest Questions About Jesus, God, and the Cross: To Question Is to Care." This class will be led by Grace Brame and is based on her new book titled The Cross: Payment or Gift? This class starts on October 3.

During the Fall we will have a couple one week classes. On September 26, Rev. Laymon, the Executive Director of the Sunday Breakfast Mission will be here to tell us about the many wonderful ministries that his organization provides. The second class will be on October 24 when Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane, the new bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, will be here to share his vision for the Synod.

Our Deepest Questions About Jesus, God, and the Cross: To Question Is to Care

Taught by Grace Brame

After two years of non-stop praying, thinking, and writing, my book on the Cross is finished! I hope that you will buy a copy and begin to read before our course begins so that you can start tasting the subject. The book is entitled: THE CROSS: PAYMENT OR GIFT?

I will give many answers to that question.. I also will give more questions to consider! But I intend to encourage people to be free in asking what they really want to know. I will *not* tell the group what to think, but I will certainly share what I think after many years of asking questions and looking for answers. Since it is possible for all of us to be "growing up - toward God," all the time, I plan to share where I am now in my own convictions, and hope that others will do the same. We all have both unanswered questions as well as convictions. We know where we stand now, but we want to go further. If we are growing, both convictions and questions will continue to change. It's exciting - like finding buried treasure. In fact, that could be the other name for this course: *Finding Buried Treasure*.

I will be sure to give participants some techniques for asking questions and

finding answers about religion, spiritual experience, the theology of the Cross, the history of sacrifice as considered in the Bible, and the differences throughout history in the perception of what God is like. We will see how people moved from animism to many gods, a high god, to only one God; and finally we will ask who and what God was like to Jesus. I want to discuss what I call God's Great Intention, Jesus' conception of his mission, and our own perception of why we are here on earth.

One-third of every session, will, I hope, deal with people's questions. I would like to see discussion among participants (not just questions to the teacher and answers back to the group).

If the course goes as I envision it, we will all be full of a great deal of new information by the end, and will all have an increasing experience of a Real and Dynamic God - both in history - and in our own lives.

Come! Bring anyone and everyone. Especially invite those who ask questions and care about learning and growing. Reach out to your friends outside of St. Mark's, especially those who have become disenchanted with the universal Church. Invite them to share themselves and their thoughts. Meanwhile, please pray expectantly for what can happen! Let's bulge at the doors!

And don't forget to buy the book so that you have some fodder to chew on before you arrive! I'd love a bunch of great questions just as we begin! - Grace Brame

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study will start up again on September 13, 2010 at 7:00 until 8:30 PM. Keep an eye on the bulletin for the new topic of study. All are welcome (men that is). Call John Rendle with any questions (c) 302-494-5866, (h) 302-425-4977, (w) 302-651-5101

Midweek Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10:30am at the church. Study the upcoming Sunday lessons with the pastor and others. Everyone is welcome, and there are always goodies on hand to help enhance the lessons.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:00- 8:30PM at the home of Sue Beachboard. Contact Margie Dodson (994-5424) for details.

Dombroski's Den - Sunday Night Bible Study

Meets Sunday evening from 6 – 7:30pm at the home of Kitty Dombroski (792-0382). Contact her for details.

UPCOMING ONE TIME EVENTS FOR WOMEN

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 10 & 11 Women of Faith
All day event in Philadelphia—tickets still available
CONTACT: Romie Lutz 427-0333

Saturday, Oct. 2 Woman's Tea
1 pm – 3 pm St. Mark's Great Room
CONTACT: Diana Decker 798-0427

Saturday, Nov. 13 Wonder Full World Retreat
8:30am – 3:15 pm St. Mark's Great Room
CONTACT: Bobbie Dukes 478-0417 or Francine Passerini 475-2539

RECURRING EVENTS FOR WOMEN

Sunday Night Bible Study – Book of Hebrews
6 pm – 7:30 pm Dombroski's Den
CONTACT: Kitty Dombroski 792-0382

Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study
7 pm – approx. 8:30 pm Sue Beachboard's House
CONTACT: Margy Dodson 994-5424

3rd Wednesday of the Month -- Dining Out Club
CONTACT: Bobbie Dukes 478-0417

Faith & Fiction Book Club
7 pm – 8:30 pm St. Mark's Library

PRAYER CONCERNS

As you know, our weekly bulletin lists those we should remember in our prayers. This is very important, but many times we do not know why or for whom we are praying. Hopefully, by sharing additional information, we will feel more connected and our prayers will become more meaningful.

- All Members of our Armed Services serving in the Middle East and Afghanistan
- Evelyn Pierson, *member*; dealing with health concerns
- Alex Smith, *son of Kim & Devie Smith*; has mental health issues
- Kim, Devie & Lara Smith, *members*: dealing with family concerns
- Patricia Mallon, *friend of Linda Lange*; seriously ill with cancer
- Dana King, *member*; multiple health issues
- Suzi Garber, *friend of Shirley Jelinek*; undergoing cancer treatment
- Grace Brame, *member & family* on death of her brother, John Adolphsen
- Rick Vastine, *brother-in-law of Diana Decker & Melissa Patro*; recovering from serious illness.
- Judy Paulina, *friend of Rick & Karen Johnson*; recovering from surgery for pancreatic cancer
- Beachboard family, *members*; on death of Mandy Beachboard
- Logan Burns, *great-nephew of Frank & Judy Burns*, newborn, recovering from cardiac surgery
- Mark Wekander, *brother of Faith Patterson*; seriously ill
- Margaret Slocomb, *friend of Bobbie Dukes*; vision loss from cataract surgery
- Ria Singer, *friend of Bobbie Dukes*; lung disease
- John Campanile, *brother-in-law of Jane Poirier*, suffering from rare infection
- Pickett Stone, *friend of Jean Leonard, visitor*; recuperating from illness in nursing home
- Margaret Swietek, *friend of Francine Passerini*; relationship issues
- Alex Blythe, *13 year old friend of Bobbie Dukes*; suffering from cancer
- Mara Ezerins, *friend of Liz Lauber*, facing surgery and treatment for cancer
- Almira Ruoff, *member*; recuperating from broken hip
- Breanna Jackson, *friend of Steve Mills*; on the death of her mother, Yumeko Jackson, in an accident. Breeanna, who is 13 years old, is also recovering from the accident.
- Arthur Jelinek, *father of Jeff Jelinek*; serious illness

Dear Lord, we know you hear our prayers....Amen.

Please contact the church office if you have any additions or deletions.

MILESTONES, ETC.

DEATH

Peg Belak June 28, 2010

THANKS

Dear Penny Leigh and The Prayer Quilt Ministry,

A note of thanks for all the wonderful prayers and the beautiful quilt that was made for me. I was especially blessed to be there to receive the quilt and to visit your beautiful and Spirit filled church. I felt so very welcomed and I really enjoyed the service and loved the music. The presentation of the Quilt to me was very touching to my heart as the children gathered around and presented it to me - just beautiful! I will be hanging the beautiful prayer quilt in my home as a reminder of your prayers and support and know that God's Hand is in all of this, to remind me of His love, His strength and His everlasting love.

Thank you once again for being an extension of God's love and support, which I hold dear to my heart.

In Blessed Gratitude,
Peter Mangini

***COME JOIN US FOR THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO
CELEBRATE WOMEN***

WHAT: Afternoon Tea
WHERE: St. Mark's Great Room
WHEN: Saturday, October 2, 2010
TIME: 1:00 to 3:00 pm
SPEAKER: Ellen Rendle, "Good and Plenty: 60 Miles of Blessings and Smiles"
WHO: Ladies of the church, female friends and young ladies ten & up
COST: \$15.00/person

Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and fun!

Our own Ellen Rendle will be our guest speaker. She'll tell us about her experiences while participating in the Susan Komen 3 Day Walk for the Cure. You won't want to miss her inspiring message.

Contact Diana Decker at 302-275-2520 (ddecker357@yahoo.com) or Francine Passerini at 302-475-2539 (Rlfith13@comcast.net) for tickets.

Consider reserving a table for 4 or 6 for your family and friends! Tickets will go on sale Sunday, September 12. Please order or buy your tickets early so we know how many place settings we should set. This is a wonderful opportunity to ***BRING OTHERS!***



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

MANY THANKS go out to our Sunday School Teachers who faithfully served this past year. I wanted to acknowledge them again and let them know how important they have been to our ministry at St. Mark's.

Pre-Kindergarten	Lois Jones, Stephanie Lyons, Betty Platt, Jerry Schrack
K-2nd Grade	Romie Lutz, Lucy Mills, Cecilia Schrack
3rd-5th Grade	Barb Gilbert, Beverly Lewis-Carpenter
6th-8th Grade	Morgan Seward, Selma Tepper
High School	Kris McMahan, Katie and Michael Pollock, John Rendle

Teachers, Substitute Teachers, and Classroom Helpers are needed for next year.

We are fortunate that most of our experienced teachers will be returning next year. However, our goal is to have 3 teachers or 2 teachers and one helper work together in each grade. This makes it easier to plan and cover the classroom if one of the teachers is absent. We also have on the job training to help volunteers feel more comfortable in the classroom.

Needed for next year:

K-2nd Grade	1 teacher/helper to work with Romie Lutz and Cecilia Schrack
3rd-5th Grade	1 teacher/helper to work with Beverly Lewis-Carpenter and Barb Gilbert
6th-8th Grade	2 teachers/helpers to work with Selma Tepper

We invite **parents and/or any interested adults** who like to work with children to become more involved and help enrich our teaching ministry. Please pray about this opportunity to share your faith and love. Open your hearts to help serve our youngest members. ***We need you!***

We look forward to hearing from you and welcome you to serve with us. Again, we ask for your support and continued prayers. We give thanks for the opportunity and privilege to share God's love with you, your children, and with those in our community.

Blessings and peace,

Barb Gilbert, Sunday School Coordinator
(302) 479-9289
email:barbgilbertde@verizon.net

HELP WANTED – SENIOR CHOIR

- Job Description: Lead worship on Sunday mornings at Traditional Service and special services such as Hymn Festivals – Christmas Cantata – Lent and Easter Services
- Qualifications: A love for being a disciple through music – able to have a joyful heart and spirit at 8:30 in the morning – enjoys fellowship and service with 23 other Christian musicians – enjoys parties with members and spouses. A solo voice is not needed, only an ability to match pitches with others on our part. Laughter a must!
- Pay: There is no limit to benefits that will be yours when you open your heart and voice to the Lord. The heavens are limitless!
- Hours: Sunday mornings – warm-up at 8:00 and worship at 8:30. Thursday evenings – 7:15 to 9 rehearsal (flexible to allow for other important things that enter your life).
- Contact: Liz Lauber – Director of Music – 998-7206 (h), 753-1613 (cell) or just see me at the organ bench! (basses desperately needed...)

“FAITH GIVING” and our Budget and Ministry

In the book of Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 1, we read this simple explanation of faith: *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* Wow. At the January, 2010 Annual Meeting, St. Mark’s did something that I do not think has been done before at our church. We put “Faith” as a source of income for our 2010 ministry budget. And someone might ask, “Faith who?” Is that the first name of someone? Not really. Rather, we felt that God was in approval of our complete budget, but we were \$5,000 short of our anticipated income from the budget we wanted to approve. So, we stepped on our “faith.”

Normally budgets are carefully determined by estimating clear, anticipated income from identifiable sources. But we were short \$5,000.00 from the ministry we believed God wanted us to do. So we added faith.

What does that mean? We don’t know for sure. Pray for St. Mark’s, that God will provide through members, through friends, through an “unforeseen” source that we will meet our budget needs. Indeed, it is the conviction of things not seen.

WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

The sound of laughter could be heard in the Great Room on July 21 as the Women of St. Mark's got together for fun, food and fellowship. The sixteen women in attendance got to know each other a little better when they were given the opportunity to ask each other five questions. Every 2 minutes a "bell" would sound and the women would move to the next friend and the questioning would begin again.

Nicole Bishop presented a devotion titled A Recipe for Friendship. Prayer and a discussion of future events and activities followed it. Margie Dodson closed the meeting in prayer.

Of course the food was fabulous, starting with the five pounds of chocolate that decorated the tables! Francine Passerini and Bobbie Dukes set up the dessert table that overflowed with fruit, brownies, strawberry shortcake, cookies, pudding and many more scrumptious delights.

The Women of St. Mark's will meet again in January for hot chocolate and cookies. Keep an eye out for the date and come join them!



WINTER?? REALLY???

Who wants to think about coats, hats and scarves when it's 90+ degrees in the shade!! I know you're far from thinking about cold weather, but there are people right now who may need a winter coat come January, and we can start getting ready now.

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study Group will be coordinating the Coat Ministry during the month of January 2011 (our 5th year)!! If you are going through any closets or doing any summer clean up projects, please keep this ministry in mind and set those things aside, they will be needed!!

You can also serve with your prayers and offers of help. This ministry is a response to Jesus' call for us to be involved in caring for others. "I was naked and you gave me clothing." Matthew 25:36

Contact any of these ladies for more information: Margie Dodson (994-5424), Sue Beachboard (478-6303), Barb Gilbert (479-9289), Faith Patterson (477-0664), Rebecca Shindel (478-2249) or Barb Hafner (559-0888).



STEPHEN MINISTRY

OPEN INVITATION

Stephen Ministry is an active program of sharing Christ's love and caring for individuals who are experiencing life's difficulties. The program helps to fulfill St. Mark's mission statement of prayer, learning, service, and bringing others to Christ.

Stephen Ministers meet on the second Tuesday of each month 7:00 to 8:00 PM for Continuing Education. We would like to invite anyone who is interested to attend these education sessions. This first part of each meeting is "open to the public". The second part, Supervision, 8:00 to 9:00, is confidential, and so is for Stephen Ministers only.

Our next class for Stephen Ministry training will begin in January. You are welcome to join these classes even if you cannot commit to becoming a Stephen Minister. The first sessions include skills like active listening, setting boundaries, dealing with loss, grief, and depression. Most of us have friends or coworkers who have lost loved ones, gone through a divorce, lost a job, or have other personal problems. Discussion of these topics can improve your ability to help people you contact on a daily basis.

There is a lot of information available on the St. Mark's website, www.saintmarksLC.com. If you have any questions, contact Barbara Sheridan at 655-8948 or Bobbie Dukes at 478-0417.

See you at Stephen Ministry!

Barbara Sheridan
Stephen Leader

SUMMER COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 1, 2010

We met at the home of our Vice President, Ray Hansell, and his gracious wife Karen where, following the meeting, we enjoyed Ray's Barbequed Chicken and other yummys brought by members. The pool was available for those who wanted to swim.

The meeting focused on two of our council goals for 2009/10. Goal 4 – To educate the council about our ongoing ministries, and to provide suggestions to appropriate committees or ministry teams. Linda Lange joined us to report on the activities of the Christian Service Committee, their meeting times and a brief history of the committee. Many of the activities have been initiated by members of the congregation who have had a passion for a ministry, and have brought it to the committee for approval. Tim Bishop is council's representative to this committee. Contact either him or Linda for further information.

Goal 6 – To assess and then install a new sound system. Frank Burns of the property committee presented a very comprehensive assessment of the sound system in the following areas: mixer system, microphones, speakers, wires, racks, and camera. Bids from three vendors were presented and the council voted to accept the recommended proposal of the bid for \$30,620.00 presented by Naaman's Creek AV systems, Inc. of Avondale who installed the system at Good Shepherd. The finance committee will meet to review the proposal and make recommendations to council, who will then call a congregational meeting. The decision to proceed with the installation is subject to the congregation's approval. Direct questions to Frank Burns.

We continue to open our meetings with devotions and conclude with the Lord's Prayer. We also continue to share the way in which we individually implement the four vision areas – prayer, learning, serving and bringing others - in our personal lives, as well as reviewing ways to continue to implement the Vision Statement at St. Mark's. Get ready for our fall BHAG!

Roberta Dukes, President



LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

WELCOME seven new volunteers and two returning volunteers who will begin work in Wilmington agencies beginning Aug. 24.

Agencies being served: NCC Habitat for Humanity (3); Ministry of Caring (3); Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center; Lutheran Community Services; and, Connections.

Brief articles about each of these volunteers and their work experiences will be shared with you in the coming months.

If you are interested in being involved with LVC or the local support committee please contact Heidi Beck at 731-8034 or by email at:

www.heidilynnette@hotmail.com.

LVC: Building Community, Working for Justice, Living Simply and Sustainably



Get Ready for the Hunger Walk Run

September is Hunger Action Month and our annual Hunger Walk Run on **September 18** in Rockford Park is one way you can get involved. LCS food programs helped over 55,000 people in 2009 and the demand for help is even stronger this year. The Hunger Walk Run is the single largest piece of funding for our emergency food programs and therefore critically important to keeping our pantries open. Here are some exciting things about this year's event:

- 18 & Under Competitive Run – Anyone age 18 or less can enter the competitive 5k race portion of the Hunger Walk Run. They'll get a free t-shirt (for the \$15 registration fee), special prizes, and medals for the top finishers.
- 1 Mile Walk and Talk – For anyone not up to the full 5K event. Eligible for all prizes.
- Food Drive – Remember the Walk Run is a food drive too! Bring cans and boxes.

Get a registration form from your church, at www.lcsde.org, or via email: info@lcsde.org.

Bank of America and Gilliam Grants

To help meet the expenses for the food and all the other help for low income families that we provide, two local foundations have provided us with generous grants. Bank of America Foundation awarded us \$15,000 for operating expenses. The Gilliam Foundation awarded us \$5,000 to help with food distributions at Shiloh Baptist and New Cavalry Baptist. Thank you!

St. Marks and Good Shepherd Contest

For the second year in a row, Good Shepherd and St. Marks have challenged each other and teamed up to attain a joint goal of a total of 150 run/walkers! They are also recruiting a Green Team – people who are willing to have their hair/heads green if they reach their goal of 150. Other churches might want to consider similar challenges. If the St. Mark's-Good Shepherd experience is a fair indicator, competition works to increase participation.

Mo' Money

There's good news and bad news from the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center. As summer winds down, we are happy to report that both the United Way and the State Legislative Grant in Aide Committee saw fit to continue their financial support of the Center in fiscal 2011.



United Way of Delaware will grant \$19,000 for Youth Services and \$18,000 for Child Care. Meanwhile, the State Legislature will contribute \$98,000 to the Hilltop Center. We greatly appreciate the support from both United Way and the State Legislature. That's where the good news ends.

United Way's grant was a "modest reduction from last year", according to Hilltop Executive Director, Jea Street. "In 2000, we received \$85,000 for Youth Services and \$35,000 for Child Care. While I am not happy about this," Jea said, "I am pleased that we have obtained funding from other services to continue our programs and services."



Jea said the Legislative grant was a reduction from last year too, but not unexpected. "It was a ten percent reduction, consistent with most others. We asked for \$165,000 and I was frankly hoping it would just be cut and not eliminated," Jea said.

Hilltop Board of Directors President, Tom Krapf agreed, saying the Center can weather this economic storm. "I believe that we can survive this cut without drastic action. I think that with the additional income from the property we rent to the LVCers (Lutheran Volunteer Corp), and a few other small grants, we should be okay for this coming year," Tom concluded.

As your congregation begins its budget writing process, please consider increasing your contribution to the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center in 2011. The children of Wilmington need your support more than ever.

Thank you.

*The Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center
Board of Directors*

LITURGISTS & COM. WORKERS

Coordinator - Fred Meckley (traditional)

Bobbie Dukes & Diana Longhenry (contemporary)

Sept. 5

8:30 Chuck Walter CA George Foulk

11:00 WL Margie Dodson R Lori Weniger

CA Faith & Michael Patterson

Setup: Lori Weniger

Sept. 12

8:30 Jane Poirier

11:00 WL Lois Broeker R Demeter Picciotti

CA: Lisa & Amanda Rosenblatt

Setup: S. Dembowczyk

Sept. 19

8:30 Judith Stadler CA Bryan Longhenry

11:00 WL Rob Shindel R Rebecca Shindel

CA Lois Broeker & Patti Nizinski

Setup: J. Sullivan

Sept. 26

8:30 Charles Bartlett

11:00 WL Chuck Walter R Roberta Dukes

CA Joe & Linda Lange Setup: Linda Lange

ACOLYTES

Coordinator – Susan Shustack

Sept. 5

8:30 HC Kristina Johnson, Shannon Morken

11:00 HC Andrew Watsoni

Sept. 12

8:30 Katie Scanlan

11:00 HC Tim Watson

Sept. 19

8:30 HC Paige Burkert, Jessica Lepre

11:00 HC Amanda Rosenblatt

Sept. 26

8:30 John Augustine

11:00 HC Bill Cropper

Coordinators: Openers – Rick Siple; Closers – Rick Johnson

OPENERS CLOSERS

1st Sunday	Elise Mitchell	Robert Fitch
2nd Sunday	Rick Siple	Rick Johnson
3rd Sunday	Arloe Olsen	Lori & John Weniger
4th Sunday	Rick Siple	Bob Fehrman
5th Sunday	Barbara Breisch	Bob Fehrman

USHERS

Coordinators - Bob Pierson (traditional)
Lori Weniger (contemporary)

Sept. 5

8:30 Bryan Longhenry, Rob Shindel
Charles Bartlett, Richard Johnson
11:00 Francine Passerini, Robert Fitch

Sept. 12

8:30 George Foulk, Ron Pierson
Tom Leist, Kristen Leist
11:00 Susan Dembowczyk, Joseph Dordell

Sept. 19

8:30 Ken & Betty Pfeil
Charles Stabley, Roger Hoyt
11:00 John & Lori Weniger

Sept. 26

8:30 Richard Johnson, Don Bowlby
Mike Johnson, Andrew Johnson
11:00 Bryan Longhenry, Volunteer

NURSERY

Coordinator –

Sept. 5

8:30 Elise Mitchell, Tina & Paige Burkert
11:00 Jennifer Melvin, Katie Scanlan

Sept. 12

8:30 John Swift, Maddie Helmick
11:00 Romie Lutz, Kitty Dombroski

Sept. 19

8:30 Barbara Breisch, Jessica Lepre
11:00 Kelley Simmons, Emily McAllister

Sept. 26

8:30 Scott & Sue Greenwood
11:00 Barbara Cymbala, Nicki Marroni

GREETERS

Coordinators: Gladys Kleiss-8:30
Harold Heitmann – 11:00

Sept. 5

8:30 Arloe & Terry Olsen

11:00 Roy & Jan Sullivan

Sept. 12

8:30 Ray & Karen Hansell

11:00 Dave & Katie King

Sept. 19

8:30 Gladys Kleiss, Jackie Hathaway

11:00 George & Betsy Pyle

Sept. 26

8:30 Barbara Breisch

11:00 Tim & Nichole Bishop

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

1st Sunday – Puppet Ministry (both)

2nd Sunday – Katie Pollock (both)

3rd Sunday – Barbara Melvin (8:30)

Tim Kadtke (11:00)

4th Sunday – Sarah Swift (8:30)

Selma Tepper (11:00)

5th Sunday – Ellen Rendle (both)