



The Saint Mark Navigator

A Newsletter for the Congregation and Friends of Saint Mark United Methodist Church

Volume 10, Issue 12

December, 2011

Saint Mark Web Site

www.saintmarkumcseneca.org

Saint Mark Weekly Devotion Line

882 - U R Calling Devotions (882-8723)

Telephone: 864-882-2603



WINGS WINTER WONDERLAND DESSERT THEATER

Wings for the Lord Dessert Theater is on Sunday, December 4 with shows at 4:00 and 6:30 pm. You will enjoy fun entertainment as well as delicious homemade desserts. \$5.00 tickets are available in the narthex, atrium or from any youth.

PLEASE HELP MARVIN'S KIDS

Approximately 145 children who are being helped by the Marvin's Kids ministry have been visited in the past few weeks, and now it's time to enlist the help of many volunteers.

The children will need sponsors to go shopping on December 17 at Wal-Mart beginning at 10:00 am. No money is involved, for clothing is purchased with donations to Marvin's Kids, but you are needed to assist a family with selecting the clothing. One or more family members will be with the children. To help with this, see **Carolyn Keese** in the Atrium on Sundays or the Saint Mark Center on Wednesday nights or call her at 882-3909.

Joan Chittenden (882-7596), **Susan Buckalew** (885-1847) and **Cile Cely** (882-8258) will be enlisting help to purchase Santa gifts. You can also sign-up with them at Saint Mark on Sundays and Wednesday nights. A wish list is provided for each child. This involves spending no more than \$50.00 per child.



JOIN US FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

* **Sunday, November 27 • MESSIAH SING-A-LONG**

5:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church

Sunday, December 4 • WINGS WINTER WONDERLAND

4:00 and 6:30 p.m. in Saint Mark Center

Sunday, December 11 • ALL CHOIRS CHRISTMAS

TWO SERVICES - 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 14 • CHURCH FAMILY NIGHT

MUSICAL PROGRAM *Fran Snyder and David Wilcox*
6:15 p.m. in Sanctuary

Sunday, December 18 • FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

4:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 p.m. in Saint Mark Center

A Service for Children - *You Are There in Bethlehem*

9:00 and 11:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

*

Candlelight Communion

Sunday, December 25 • CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

ONE SERVICE - 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary

A Service of Carols and Stories

(No Sunday School for All Ages)

* *Nursery will NOT be provided for these services.*

Children who live in a safe area receive a bicycle. See **Dean Garland** if you wish to donate a bicycle or funds for one. His number is 882-3412.

Other areas of need include serving at the Pizza Party with Santa Claus in the Saint Mark Center on Saturday, December 17, at 11:00 am. You can also donate cookies for the party. Call **Jean Rogers** at (985-0422) or see her in the Atrium on Sundays to volunteer. Gifts will be due at the church no later than **Sunday, December 18**. Packing the gifts takes place on **Thursday, December 22**, at 9:00 am. Delivery of the gifts begins at 9:00 am on **Saturday, December 24!!**





Christmas Eve Service

Children's Ministries

God Bless Laura

We regret to note the resignation of **Laura Boggs** from the part-time position of director of our children's ministries.

May God bless her in her work as realtor, as she goes with our appreciation and affection.

The Staff Parish Committee realizes the critical importance of this area of ministry and will begin a search for a replacement immediately. Please contact Chairperson **Cindy Waterman** (882-7537) if you know of interested persons.

Children's Christmas Eve Service

"You Are There in Bethlehem"

What would it have been like to be there at the first Christmas? 5:30 p.m. Saint Mark Center



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

UMW: MOVING INTO 2012

"Homemade Pies for the Holidays" has been an overwhelming success for the UMW this fall. Thank you to all who bought pies. We

hope you are enjoying them as much as we enjoyed making them. We regret that we had to turn down some requests for pies this year. We sold 107 pies and hope to make more next year. If you have a freezer you no longer need and want to donate for this use, let us know. Proceeds will benefit local missions benefiting women, children and families.

In October, I visited St John's UMC in Aiken, SC for the South Carolina Conference Annual Meeting. I was impressed by the number of groups and the diversity of times, days and places that the ten circles met throughout the month. The common thread was that the women of the church are organized into "circles" or small groups that provide fellowship and focus for projects of interest to the church and community. We at Saint Mark have traditionally held Circle meetings on the first Monday of each month, but there is no reason that groups could not organize on any day, at any time and at any place which best meets the needs of the group to fulfill their purpose and the purpose of United Methodist Women at Saint Mark. As we move into 2012, we will be exploring new avenues for the women of our church to gather in groups around common concerns such as peace, poverty, domestic violence and spiritual growth. If you want to be a part of or form a new group focused on mission, spiritual growth and fellowship please call me (944-5799) or **Bobbi Diussa** (944-9418) to discuss your ideas and needs.



Wishing you Peace for the New Year!

Your Sister- in-Faith,

Joanna Donegan, Saint Mark UMW President

Youth and Young Adult Ministries with Donna Poston



Youth Weekly Ministries Grades 7 - 12



Sundays

4:00 — Wings for the Lord Choir
5:00 — Snack Supper
5:30 — UMYF/Impact
6:30 — In His Eyes

Tuesdays

7:00 am — Tasty Tuesday
at Chick-fil-A in Seneca

Wednesdays

5:30 pm — PEP for Youth

Thursdays

7:00 am — Thirsty Thursday
at McDonalds in Walhalla

Young Adult Ministry (Beyond High School age)



Tuesday, December 6
We'll meet at the Clemson Wesley Building at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20
Christmas Party at Bob and Lynn's
Bring a gag gift and a friend!

We hope "out of towners" will be back to join us!

Youth Group FUNDRAISER



Wing's Winter Wonderland Dessert Theater

Sunday, December 4
(4 pm and 6:30 pm)

Wings for the Lord youth should be here by 3:00 pm. Parents, please have desserts here Sunday morning in order to prepare for the shows. Please sign up through Pam Lamson-Scribner's email so we can have all areas of help covered. You are the best!

Youth to go Caroling, Sunday, December 11 6:00—7:30 pm



Youth group will go caroling and end up at a fast food place of your choice. Please bring money if you want food or dessert.

Marvin's Kids



The 8th and 9th grade Sunday school will provide a food drive for Marvin's Kids again this year. Food can be placed on the tree under the steps in the atrium in December.

Youth can help pack for Marvin's Kids on December 22 and deliver on the 24th.

Contact Donna at dposton@saintmarkumcseneca.org or 882-2603



The deadline for submissions to the next *Navigator* will be **WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2011 at noon!** Thank you for your help!



Follow Saint Mark on Facebook!

> <http://www.facebook.com/saintmarkseneca/>



Congregational Care Notes

by Jeff Childress



We Extend Our Sincere Sympathies to:

- **Helen Lundy** and her family on the death of her husband, **Jim Lundy**. A private family service is being planned for the future.
- **Lura Wyatt** and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, **Wallace White**. A celebration of his life was held November 22 in Rutherfordton, North Carolina.
- **Ted and Sheryl Cherry** and their family on the death of Ted's father, **Ted Cherry, Sr.** A family graveside service is being planned for the future in Aiken, South Carolina.

Congratulations to:

- **Bill, Jan, and Kyle Darling** on Kyle's adoption finalization hearing on November 15. We celebrate this most joyous occasion with them and offer our prayers and blessings for much happiness for this new family.
- **Vernon and Antoinette Ragsdale** on the birth of their new great-granddaughter, **Taylor Olivia D'Eramo**, born November 11 to parents Tony and Erica D'Eramo in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.

Our Prayers Go With:

- **Peg Calabria** on her relocation closer to her family. Her contact information is: The Village at Morse Farm, 1050 W. Main St, Apt. 10, Carlinville, IL 62626. Phone 217-854-2731. We wish her well in her new home.
- **Dick and Joyce Thompson** in their relocation closer to their children. Their new contact information is: 11887 Messiner Drive, Huntley, IL 60142. Phone: 244-858-7195. Email: kudzu-SC@mindspring.com. We wish them all the best in their new home.

Personal Prayer Notes

- Mary Ann Albert** – Receiving rehabilitation therapy at Lila Doyle following recent surgery for broken leg
Kam Amir Zafari – Son of Jamie Gerber, recovering from knee replacement surgery in Princeton, New Jersey
Becky Brown – Niece of Carolyn Garland, under doctor's care for small cell lung cancer in Spartanburg
Lynn Dobson – Recovering at home following recent outpatient surgery
Joanne Ernst – Sister of Jean Barger, recovering from pneumonia and under Hospice care in Ohio
Nancy Evatt – Continuing recovery at home following recent back surgery
J.L. Gaillard – Has returned to The Inn at Seneca and will continue his rehabilitation therapy there
Joni Gregg – Recovering at home following additional surgery on November 15
Rose Marie Husfeld – Related to Frank and Margaret Axson, recovering from cardiac surgery in Texas
Brad Keenan – Son-in-law of Joyce Ring, undergoing treatments for colon cancer in Lima, Ohio
Ray Lightfoot – Scheduled for shoulder replacement surgery November 29 at Greenville Memorial-Patewood
Tanner Lowe – Son of Richard and Sandra Lowe, continuing series of medical tests in Boston
Maria McNeill – In declining health and soon to be under Hospice care in Greenville
Gig Nelson – Scheduled for surgery December 6 in Connecticut
Ray Nichols – Under Hospice care at home
Louella Skelton – Receiving rehabilitation therapy at Seneca Health and Rehab

Welcome to Saint Mark

We extend a warm Saint Mark welcome to our newest members:



- **Gary and Beth Baker**, 1 Breakers Court, Salem, SC 29676, 944-6731, baker478@gmail.com
- **Elizabeth Day**, 23 Commodore Drive, Salem, SC 29676, 944-9478, day3111@bellsouth.net
- **Terry and Debbie Dietz**, 4 Cats Paw, Salem, SC 29676, 944-1604, dietzp@bellsouth.net, kkeydietz@yahoo.com
- **Ray Lockhart**, 5 Breakers Court, Salem, SC 29676, 944-0247
- **Lena Waugh**, 1500 S. Oak Street, Apt. 103, Seneca, SC 29678, 843-902-0718, beachlena@aol.com

Memorials and Honorarium



The following gift was received recently:
 In Memory of **Edna Murph** by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Ragsdale

Library Corner

Usborne Books for Children - Book Sale/Greeting Card Sale to benefit our Saint Mark Library

Christmas is approaching and good quality books are always a great choice for the children on our lists. Stop by the atrium on Sunday, December 4 to take a look and place an order. Here is what is available:

- 1500 titles available to order for ages from birth to high school
- High-quality greeting cards for all ages



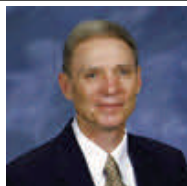
Your options:

1. Complete an order form at church on December 4th, with payment by cash, check (check should be made out to Carol Lund), or credit card. Carol will be available to help you select books.
2. Go to Carol's website to browse/search the catalog: www.Lund4Literacy.com to **order online**. Be sure to click on "Saint Mark United Methodist Church" link before you start shopping. The shipping will be free and the books will be available on December 18.
3. If you choose to order your book(s) separately (whether on site or online) to get your books delivered to the recipients before December 18, there will be a slight charge for shipping.
4. Go directly to www.myubam.com/BF49723. You will have the option of free shipping and for delivery with the rest of the orders at the church on December 18.
5. Order by calling Carol: 864-247-8204 or by e-mail at Lund4Literacy@gmail.com

Order deadline is Sunday, December 4th, for delivery to the church on Sunday, December 18th. Again, if you choose to have your order shipped with the rest of the Book Fair orders, there is no shipping charge!

Steve's Log

Dr. Steven Morgan, Senior Pastor



Incarnation: God's Translation of Love

Recently I overheard a dear older lady telling about a frustrating situation.

A family member had given her a disk with digital photographs on it. She was of the earlier generation (confession time!) when photographs were proper photographs – pictures on paper!

Anyway, knowing only that there were pictures on the disk she wanted to see, she exclaimed, "I don't have one of those computer things! What am I going to do with this disk?"

Obviously, she needed a computer to translate the life on the disk into her world.

It made me think of the meaning of Christmas – that a similar thing is necessary for us spiritually.

There is an incredible world of meaning and fulfillment in our God-imagined human nature. But how can we understand that love. We need for it to be translated into terms we can understand?

How about through a baby, a baby born in divine love, who grows up to put flesh and blood on God's love and show us what a picture of God's love looks like?

Blessings,
Steve

Faith Matters for October 30—November 20, 2011

Attendance, Sunday, October 30

Sunday School.....	265
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	123
9:15 am Celebration	150
11:15 am Traditional	162

Total Worship.....435

Attendance, Sunday, November 6

Sunday School.....	247
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	125
9:15 am Celebration	172
11:15 am Traditional	171

Total Worship.....468

Attendance, Sunday, November 13

Sunday School.....	267
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	115
9:15 am Celebration	138
11:15 am Traditional	168

Total Worship.....421

Attendance, Sunday, November 20

Sunday School.....	294
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	99
9:15 am Celebration	231
11:15 am Traditional	192

Total Worship.....522

Financial Information as of November 20, 2011

2011 Budget to Date (47 weeks).....	\$928,044
2011 Budget Income to Date (47 weeks).....	\$915,443
2010 Budget Income (47 weeks).....	\$864,085
2011 Budget Expenses to Date.....	\$871,247
Mortgage Balances:	
2008 Mortgage.....	\$1,545,118

**Please see important notice inside concerning
Qualified Charitable Distributions.**

Auto Debit Payment Available

If you are interested in making contributions to Saint Mark through an automatic arrangement, authorization cards are available in the atrium, in the side entrance to the sanctuary and in the church office.

Saint Mark UMC
616 Quincy Road
Seneca, SC 29678



Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
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EDUCATION UPDATE



No Sunday School on Christmas Day

Please take special note that on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, there will be only one worship service at 10:30 am, and Sunday School Classes will NOT meet (children, youth and adults). The Education Ministry Team wishes you a holy and blessed Christmas Day with family and loved ones.

New Adult Class - Good News Class

A new adult Sunday School Class is scheduled to begin after the first of the year. It will be called the Good News Class and will meet at 10:15 am. All ages are invited, married or single. The studies will emphasize spiritual growth through in depth study of the Bible, either books or topics. Participants will gain the most from these studies by reading designated short passages of Scripture during the week, and answering a few questions in the Study Guide. During the class, a facilitator will guide the group in discussion of these questions. Rather than learning what others say about Scripture, the goal of these studies is for participants to flesh out how God is speaking to them through it, and to think about how to apply principles learned to their lives. Prior Bible study experience is not necessary. Watch for details in January.



Sunday Morning Adult Study

SPIRITUAL FORMATION UPDATE

Saints in Service Volunteer Ministry



Saints in Service
Saint Mark United Methodist Church

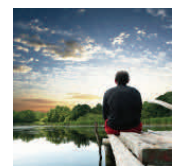
One of the joys of Christian discipleship is to discover how God has gifted us to serve, and then using our gifts and talents to serve in the church and community. Our faith development is incomplete if we neglect this very important commitment. It is estimated that there are roughly 750 ways to serve in and through Saint Mark. There is a place for you in the ministry of Saint Mark. Help us help you to find a place to plug in.

In this *Navigator*, you will find a **Saints in Service Commitment Card**. (Over the next month, you will receive a copy of this card through the Grapevine for a spouse or other family members to fill out) Please prayerfully review all of the areas of service on the card, and where God may be nudging you to serve. The opportunities are almost endless. Do what you love to do – do it at Saint Mark. If you are already involved in one or more areas of ministry or service, please check them, and in the yellow section below, be specific about where you are currently serving so that we can make sure we have your information correct in our data base. If you have filled out a commitment card in the past, please fill it out again since we are recreating our data base and want to make sure the information is accurate.

On Sunday, January 8, you will have the opportunity to bring your Commitment Card to worship for a special service of dedication. Or you may send or hand deliver your card to **Marla Fuller** at the church office. Where will you plug in?

Living Into the Purposes of God

Each of us is born with a life purpose. Identifying, acknowledging and honoring this purpose is perhaps the most important action successful people take. ~ Jack Canfield



METS – “MEET, EAT, TRAVEL, SERVE”

The METS will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 26, 2012. METS is open to everyone and hope the new members of Saint Mark will join us in January for a delightful program presented by **Billy Boggs** and **Matthew Phillips**.



At our October meeting, Officers for 2012 were presented and elected, and they are as follows:

- President: **Claudia & Tom Smith**
- Vice President: **Anne & Rick Bender**
- Secretary: **Sonia Phillips**
- Treasurer: **Ginny Murdock**

We are in the planning stages for 2012, and hope to have informative and interesting programs for you, so please join us on the 4th Thursday of each month. Again, everyone is welcome and we encourage you to attend our activities.

Thank You!!!!

Dear Saint Mark Friends,

A special thanks for your concern for me over the past few months. Your caring support of me through prayers, cards, calls, and visits have meant so much to me. The beautiful prayer quilt is a constant reminder of the power of prayer and friendship.

Thanks for everything,
Nancy Evatt

Around the Church and Community



MUSIC NOTES
with David Wilcox
dwilcox@saintmarkumcseneca.org



It is a busy time of year for our music ministry. We celebrate Advent with great excitement. There are several special programs to be presented at Saint Mark. Information is on the front of the *Navigator*. Please use these services and programs as an opportunity to invite your friends and other folks to Saint Mark. I'm pleased to be celebrating my seventh Christmas with the Saint Mark family. Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year. There has been a flurry of blogging about (mostly) mega-churches that have opted not to have a Sunday service in light of their attention to Christmas Eve services. We will celebrate one service together Christmas Day in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am. It will be a wonderful morning of carols, sharing and celebration of Christ's birth with the family of Saint Mark.

- David Wilcox



Important Notice Concerning Qualified Charitable Distributions

Congress restored a provision that allows you to make up to \$100,000 in charitable cash donations directly out of your IRA for 2011 if you'll be age 70 or older by year end. Such direct gifts from IRA donations are called Qualified Charitable Distributions, or QCDs. Donations made in this fashion don't directly affect your tax bill, because Qualified Charitable Distributions are tax-free and no deductions are allowed for them. However,

QCDs count as withdrawals for purposes of meeting the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) rules that apply to traditional IRAs. Therefore, taxes can be avoided by arranging for tax-free Qualified Charitable Distributions in place of taxable Required Minimum Distributions, and this advantage is available whether you itemize deductions or not. If your spouse owns IRAs and is over age 70, he or she is entitled to a separate Qualified Charitable Distribution for up to \$100,000 for 2011.

CDC NEWS

withCarolynn Nix

cdcdirector@saintmarkumcseneca.org or 882-0333



The CDC will have its Christmas Program and Open House on Wednesday, December 7th. The children will perform and then everyone is welcome to take a tour of the center. The program begins with the Wednesday night dinner at 5:30.

The center is participating in the Angel Tree project this year. We hope to make Christmas better for ten little angels in our community. If you would like to help with this in any way, please contact the CDC office for more information.

The staff of the CDC would like to wish each and every one a blessed and safe holiday season.

- Carolynn Nix

Church Family Night Saint Mark Center



Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30 pm

- **Adult and Children's Menu:** Baked Chicken, Green Beans, Scalloped Potatoes, Side Salad, Rolls and Dessert
- **Hospitality Group C serving**

Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30 pm -

- **Adult and Children's Menu:** Baked Ham, Squash Casserole, Lima Beans, Salad, Rolls and Dessert
- **Hospitality Group D serving**

Wednesdays, December 21 and 28—NO CFN
Merry Christmas!

Nursery available from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.
(Menus are subject to change)

Worship Matters for Sunday, December 4, 2011

Acolytes: Taylor Daum (8:15 am); Leesev Chastain (11:15 am); **Altar:** Nancy Walker (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Lonney Ensign (9:15 am); **Counters:** Pete Butenhoff, Nancy Cottingham; **Greeters:** David and Polly Harshbarger (8:15 am); Chuck and Janna Smith (9:15 am); Jan Whitener, Dianne Smith (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Gene Snyder (8:15 am); Bill Nelson (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Anna Baldwin (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Ginny Bench (9:15 am); **Sound:** Basil Carney (8:15 am); Russ Poston (9:15 am); Jane Barker (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Bobbi Diussa; **Ushers:** Scott Wylie (Head), Beverly Wylie, Jim and Jackie Hamilton (8:15 am); Dan Monk (Head), Van Fair, Alan and Jamie Gerber (11:15 am)

Worship Matters for Sunday, December 11, 2011 (Two Services—8:45 and 11:00 am)

Acolytes: Skyler Evatt (8:45 am); Anna Holley (11:00 am); **Counters:** John Wilson, Marlene Edlund; **Greeters:** Dick and Phyllis Christensen (8:45 am); Lucius and Julia Uldrick (11:00 am); **Lay Readers:** Martha Steele (8:45 am); Joyce Ring (11:00 am); **Sound:** John Prescott (8:45 am); Russ Poston (11:00 am); **Stephen Minister:** Bobbi Diussa; **Ushers:** Steve Figueroa (Head), Marlene Edlund, Bob Rider, Nancy Evatt (8:45 am); Dan Monk (Head), Van Fair, Alan and Jamie Gerber (11:00 am)

Worship Matters for Sunday, December 18, 2011

Acolytes: Jack Long (8:15 am); Berti Jungnick (11:15 am); **Altar:** Sheryl Cherry, Lilly Blue; **Chairs:** Neil and Lisa Carney; **Counters:** John Wilson, Marlene Edlund; **Greeters:** Jim and Susan Matthews (8:15 am); Joe and Sandy James (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Janet Kehl (8:15 am); Jane Johnson (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Adam Boggs (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Carol Detwiler (9:15 am); **Sound:** Greg Wales (8:15 am); Gladys Chastain (9:15 am); Jeff Pearson (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Sandy Nelson; **Ushers:** Al Diussa (Head), Bob Holmes, Anne Bender, Janice Price (8:15 am); Dan Monk (Head), Van Fair, Art and Diane Hirt (11:15 am)

Worship Matters for Sunday, December 25, 2011 (One Service at 10:30 am)

Workers to be determined and then notified.