



# The Saint Mark Navigator

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

Volume 8, Issue 17

December, 2009

*Saint Mark Web Site*

www.saintmarkumcseneca.org

*Saint Mark Weekly Devotion Line*

882 - U R Calling Devotions (882-8723)

*Telephone:* 864-882-2603

**NOTE: This is a Month-Long Issue.**



Holiday  
Worship  
Schedule

## All Choirs' Christmas Concert

**- TWO SERVICES -**

Sunday, December 13  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## Choir's Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 20  
4:00 p.m.

## Christmas Eve at Saint Mark

5:30 p.m. - Service for Children and Families  
9:00 p.m. - Combined Candlelight Service  
with New Harmony  
11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service

## Council of Stewards Setting 2010 Goals



The Council of Stewards has been working for the past six months to develop a navigational plan for Saint Mark for 2010. On November 15, we finalized our plan and are now developing an implementation strategy to involve as many Saint Mark members as possible.

In a nutshell, we adopted three overarching goals as follows:

**Spirituality** -- our church will experience a new longing for and sense of God's presence and purpose in daily life individually and corporately

**Hospitality** -- our church will heighten our ministries of hospitality and evangelism, growing in sensitivity to God's call to reach out in Christ's Spirit

*(continued on page 7)*

## Don't Miss Christmas at Uncle Phil's Diner

November 30 is the last day of the year and the perfect time to enjoy the theater, *Christmas at Uncle Phil's Diner*. We begin at 6 pm on Wednesday, December 9, in the Saint Mark Center. Proceeds and "TIPS" go toward our summer choir tour. Please pay for your meal at the door (Adults - \$10, Children - \$5).

**Sold Out!**



## Can You Help Marvin's Kids? It's That Time of Year!

Our Marvin's Kids visitors (Cora Allard, Cile Cely, Lynn Dobson, Sandy James, Carolyn Keese, Ryan Keese, Jane Powell, Jim Sevic, Phyllis and Wally Storm) have visited approximately 50 families in Oconee county so that **Bob and Lynn Dobson** can compile complete lists of the children and their needs. **Faye Monk** will take care of donated funds and we began assigning helpers on Sunday, November 22.

Every November an important event happens to improve the lives of a group of Oconee County underprivileged children: Marvin's Kids. This ministry has been helping children since 1980 when the late Marvin Cely saw a need, answered that need and then continued year after year to see that, first of all, children in the elementary grades who had inadequate clothing and shoes were taken shopping by volunteers. Because the children were identified in the fall after school was in session, it

*(continued on page 8)*



## First Steps Ministry

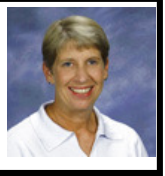
Children Preschool-Kindergarten  
with Lisi Campbell



## Youth and Children's Ministries

### Sailing Toward the Son

Grades 1 - 12 with Donna



### Hello All!

The holiday season is upon us and it is such an exciting, enjoyable time of the year. There are many fun activities planned for your children during this time of Advent and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. I am looking forward to sharing stories, activities, crafts, and songs with your children about the joy of Christmas and how we can give to others during the holidays. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas!!

*Lisi Campbell*



### Carrot Ministry

Carrot Ministry is coming up on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:30pm. This is a free childcare ministry for our children infant-12 years of age. Parents, please RSVP to Lisi Campbell at [lcampbell@saintmarkumcseneca.org](mailto:lcampbell@saintmarkumcseneca.org) as space is limited.

Children will need to bring a snack and lemonade will be provided. We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and enjoy a "Parents Night Out."

### VeggieTale/Children's Christmas Party

We will be having a VeggieTales Christmas Party on December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM-12 noon for infant through 6<sup>th</sup> grade children. We will have a great time learning about the true meaning of Christmas from our friends Larry and Bob. There will be cookies, crafts, movies, and other exciting things for children to enjoy. The 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade children will work on their program for the Christmas Eve Service during the party. This will also give parents some free time to shop, wrap, clean, or whatever else they would like to do while the kids enjoy a fun-filled morning. Please RSVP to Lisi at [lcampbell@saintmarkumcseneca.org](mailto:lcampbell@saintmarkumcseneca.org) by Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> to ensure a spot as space may be limited. **Parents-** Please have your child bring a treat of their choice to share with the other children at the party.



### Christmas Musical for Preschoolers

We are still working hard on our musical, "Don't Be Scared" at Sonshine Club. This musical teaches children that no matter where they are, they do not need to be scared because God is with them. It is a very cute and entertaining musical that I am sure that all the children and their parents are really going to enjoy. Please have your child join us at Sonshine Club if they are interested in being in this years Christmas Musical. We hope that everyone will attend the 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service so they can see this wonderful musical along with all the other fun and meaningful programs the children have prepared.



### Save money and cut pollution

LED string lights use much less electricity, reduce pollution from power plants and last longer. And they stay cooler, too. While they cost more than traditional strings of lights up front, the electricity savings easily make up the cost difference within a season or two.



### Youth and Children's Weekly Activities

Sundays – Grades 7 – 12

*In His Eyes* (3:15 pm)

*Wings for the Lord* choir (4:00 pm)

Snack Supper (5:00 pm)

UMYF/Impact (5:30 pm)

Open Gym Fellowship (6:30 pm)

Tuesdays – Grades 7 – 12

*Tasty Tuesday* in Seneca at Chick Fil-A (7:00 am)

Wednesdays – Grades 1 – Grade 12

*CROSS Club for Kids* (5:15 pm)

*PEP for Youth* (6:15 pm)

Thursdays – Grades 7 – 12

*Thirsty Thursday* in Walhalla at McDonalds (7:00 am)

### Children and Youth Looking Ahead

December 6 – *CROSS Club* (grades 1-3) at worship

December 9 – *Christmas at Uncle Phil's Diner* Theater

December 13 – *All Choirs Christmas*

December 19, 22, 24 – *Marvin's Kids* pizza party, packing and delivery

December 24 – *CROSS Club* Children (5:30 service)



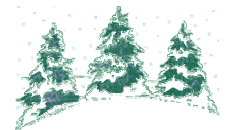
### Christmas at Uncle Phil's Diner

*Wings for the Lord* need to be in the Commons Room at 4:45 pm on Wednesday, December 9, to eat and prepare for our dinner theater. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to make this a joyous and inspiring night of fellowship for others.



### Children's Mime Group

*CROSS Club* children (grades 1 – 3) will present the story of *The Tale of the Three Trees* at the 9:15 service on December 6 and at the 5:30 service on Christmas Eve.



### All Choirs Christmas

*CROSS Club* children and *Wings for the Lord* will sing for all services on Sunday, December 13.

*In His Steps* (grades 4 – 6) and *In His Eyes* youth movement team will also present that morning. *CROSS Club* children will share during the 5:30 pm service on Christmas Eve.



### Canned Food Tree

The youth Sunday School, grades 8 and 9, are sponsoring the food tree under the atrium steps. Please bring cans of food for Marvin's Kids families beginning the first of December.



The deadline for submissions to the next *NewsLetter Navigator* will be Thursday, December 17, 2009 **DEADLINE** at noon! Thank you for your help!



If you would like to receive the *Navigator* by e-mail instead of by mail, please let the office know either by e-mailing us at [churchoffice@saintmarkumcseneca.org](mailto:churchoffice@saintmarkumcseneca.org) or calling us at 882-2603. Thank you!

# Congregational Care Notes *by Jeff Childress*



## We Extend Our Sincere Sympathies to:

Janice Price and her family on the death of her husband, **Jay Price**. Services are being planned for the near future.

## Congratulations to:

- The following college students that will be graduating in December:  
**Dana Bosse** – College of Charleston  
**Mandy Duty** – Clemson University  
We wish them all the very best in their new journey.
- Katie Davis** (daughter of Don and Lynn Davis) and **Tyler Miers** who will be married on December 19 in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Personal Prayer Notes

- Hazel Boyer** – Sister of Dick Thompson, under doctor's care for pancreatic cancer in California  
**Juanita Carter** – Under doctor's care and receiving treatment for cancer  
**Jeanne Coleman** – Sister-in-law of Deanna Bench, under doctor's care for pancreatic cancer in Arkansas  
**Carolyn Crowe** – Mother of Sandi Garland, scheduled for heart by-pass surgery on December 1 in Spartanburg.  
**Joe Dalton** – Brother-in-law of Gaynell Evatt, continuing chemotherapy treatments for cancer  
**Ruth Kirk** – Receiving care at Lila Doyle  
**Richard Lowe** – Continuing good recovery following recent knee replacement surgery  
**Carol Metcalf** – With good recovery following recent knee replacement surgery  
**Jim Myers** – Responding well to treatments for microscopic polyangitis  
**Bob Pollock** – Consulting with doctors regarding future treatment plans for cancer  
**Norm Reinking** – Under doctor's care for infection at Oconee Medical Center  
**Kim Rogers** – Scheduled for esophageal surgery on November 24  
**Dean Rhyner** - Friend of Francis and Carol Eubanks, recovering from surgery and soon to begin chemotherapy treatments for cancer  
**Georgia Smith** – Sister of Austin Smith, under Hospice care at Lila Doyle  
**Fay Watson** – Receiving care at Anderson Place in Anderson  
**Betty Wiese** – Hospitalized at Oconee Medical Center for blood clot

## 2010 Pledge Update

Thank you to all who have completed your pledge for the 2010 budget year. We currently have 56 pledges outstanding. Please send in your pledge card no later than 11/30/2009. We want to be sure to include everyone's pledge in our budget – which must be submitted to the Council of Stewards for approval on December 13. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex, Atrium and Church Office, or you may call **Faye Monk** – our Operations Manager. They can be returned in the offering plates or put in Faye's box in the office.



Following are some interesting statistics compiled on our pledge history:

Pledged in 2009	\$825,888.00
Pledges so far for 2010	\$803,695.00
% increased 2010 pledge	24%
% decreased 2010 pledge	11%
% kept pledge same amount	41%
% not yet pledged for 2010 - but did pledge for 2009	15%
% moved, died, left, answered zero	9%

Thank you for being a part of Saint Mark and for supporting it with your time, talent and treasure!

**Mike Wallace**  
Chair of Finance

## At Christmas Remember Our Former Pastors:



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| William "Buddy" Phillips<br>P. O. Box 705<br>Irmo, SC 29063-0705 | Allen Long<br>291 Allen Street<br>Pacolet, SC 29372           |
| Bob Stillwell<br>414 Shannon Way<br>Anderson, SC 29621           | Sinclair Lewis<br>508 Holly Creek Drive<br>Anderson, SC 29621 |
| Eugene Holmes<br>1355 Raintree Drive<br>Columbia, SC 29212       | James Hall<br>337 Sparrow Drive<br>Surfside Beach, SC 29575   |

## "Be an Angel"

The Service Ministry Team will be placing an "Angel" tree in the atrium. Remove an envelope, complete the inserted card, enclose your gift and place it in the wrapped box under the tree. You can make your gift in honor or memory of someone this Christmas holiday season and/or to any specific ministry that Service supports or to the general fund to be used as needed. The Service Ministry team appreciates your support for our final fundraiser for 2009. Please consider making your tax deductible gift and "Be an Angel" for service.



# Steve's Log

Dr. Steven Morgan, Senior Pastor



## A Christmas Message from our Saint Mark Pastor Emeritus

I am grateful to our beloved Pastor Emeritus, **Dr. Sam Sink**, who has done so much for Saint Mark, for agreeing to offer a Christmas message to our church here.

### CHALLENGING GOALS

During the Civil War, President Lincoln called a friend to the White House. He needed some one to serve as a secret agent for the Union Army. As the two shared, Lincoln asked his friend, "Jim, how much do you love your country." Immediately Jim replied, Mr. President I love her enough to die for her." The president replied, "Jim I could possibly find 10,000 dedicated soldiers who would be willing to die for our nation, but I'm looking for a person who is willing to live for her. I want you to become an under cover agent and you know very well what the consequences could be.

Some today by word and action have demonstrated they would be willing to die for our country. The World War II enlistee said by action, "If necessary I will give my life for my Country". So did the military personnel going to Viet-nam, North Korea, Pakistan, Iraq and a few other recent wars. We live today by action and deed. Certain things may be worth dying for. Many aspects of life are worth living for. As we read God's word, and follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit we soon discover what is worth living for.

We have learned that as we live a life of integrity, self esteem, controlled spirit, inner peace, coupled with the assurance that we have lived today, that tomorrow may be good, can bring peace that will set troubled hearts at rest and banish fears.

Sam, Pastor Emeritus

Our continued prayers and thanks go to Sam toward his continued re-strengthening.

Blessings,  
Steve

## Faith Matters for November 1-20, 2009

### Attendance, Sunday, November 1

Sunday School.....	274
Worship 8:15 am Traditional.....	123
9:15 am Celebration .....	172
11:15 am Traditional .....	169

**Total Worship..... 464**

### Attendance, Sunday, November 8

Sunday School.....	266
Worship 8:15 am Traditional.....	116
9:15 am Celebration .....	175
11:15 am Traditional .....	220

**Total Worship..... 511**

### Attendance, Sunday, November 15

Sunday School.....	253
Worship 8:15 am Traditional.....	87
9:15 am Celebration .....	232
11:15 am Traditional .....	222

**Total Worship..... 541**

### Attendance, Sunday, November 22

Sunday School.....	278
Worship 8:15 am Traditional.....	102
9:15 am Celebration .....	156
11:15 am Traditional .....	188

**Total Worship..... 446**

### Tithes and Offerings

Budget .....	\$79,484.18
Capital Campaign .....	\$13,564.83
Debt Reduction.....	\$620.00
Marvin's Kids.....	\$10,200.00
WWII Veterans .....	\$6,056.00
Debt Reduction Concert .....	\$5,018.00
Alms .....	\$445.00
Wilderness Girls Camp .....	\$220.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$450.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$116,058.01</b>

Budget Needed to Date.....	\$1,041,277.71
Received to Date.....	\$920,501.91
Expenses to Date .....	\$930,063.69

<b>2008 Building Loan Balance.....</b>	<b>\$1,653,442.55</b>
<b>1996 Debt Retirement Balance.....</b>	<b>\$456,924.54</b>
<b>Mortgage Loan Balance .....</b>	<b>\$75,856.24</b>

Saint Mark UMC  
616 Quincy Road  
Seneca, SC 29678



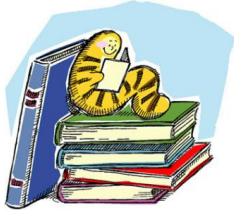
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## EDUCATION UPDATE

### Church Library Notes



We hope that you have noticed the changes in our church library. Our library team has been busy moving, organizing and updating our library. Recently, the library team drafted a mission statement to clarify the purpose of our church library. *"The mission of the Saint Mark Library is to make resources available to Saint Mark members and friends for inspiration, worship, teaching, and Christian living in order to foster Christian growth for the individual, the family and the church body."* Watch for new library furniture in the next month or two. These funds were given to the church specifically to use for both the nursery and the library.

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION UPDATE

### Growing YOU - Fall Quarter Wrap-Up

The last new study of 2009 is an Advent Study entitled, *Joseph, the Forgotten Man of Christmas*. It is a three week study on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 beginning on December 1 and continuing on December 8 and 15. The cost is \$10. If you wish to attend, please contact **Marla Fuller** at the church office (882-2603)



### A Pilgrimage – Exploring Different Expressions of Faith

This group will take a break in December and pick up again in January with trips to a Greek Orthodox church and a mosque. Watch for details.

### Advent Devotion Booklet



If you receive the Saint Mark *Grapevine* and *Fruit of the Spirit* communications on your computer, beginning on November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, you will receive our annual Advent Devotions – one each day through Christmas Day. Limited printed copies will be available in the atrium. Our theme this year is *"Follow Me to the Manger."* The writings and artwork have been submitted by members and friends of our Saint Mark family. You will also receive updated information about the events at Saint Mark that will enhance your experience of this season – a season when we celebrate that God came to earth in the form of a baby – Jesus, the Christ.

### Looking Ahead to 2010

In the next *Navigator* that comes out the end of December, you will receive your list of **Growing YOU** Winter Quarter classes and registration form to sign up. The Wednesday night classes will begin on January 13. If you haven't participated in any of our Wednesday night studies, why don't you give it a try.

### *Come, Follow Me*

*"The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the full hearts of his transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship; not a rolled away stone, but a carried away church."* –Clarence Jordan

*NT scholar and translator of the "Cotton Patch Gospels".*



### Saint Mark WWII Veterans and the Spring Honor Flight - Update

The Acts Class effort to send our wonderful WWII Veterans to Washington D.C. in the spring is moving nicely along! We are so pleased to report that so far over \$5,100 has been give toward our goal of \$8,000! We are very grateful for the generosity of the Saint Mark family. If you have not given, or would like to give more, use the envelopes available at the entrances to our worship areas. Please learn all about this wonderful project at the Saint Mark website [www.saintmarkumcseneca.org/](http://www.saintmarkumcseneca.org/) with two informative videos, including an interview of Saint Mark member and WWII veteran **Dean Rogers**, who went on the last Honor Flight on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Amazing!! Please check it out!

# Focus on Volunteers

## SAINTS IN SERVICE AT SAINT MARK

God has gifted each and every one of us to serve. Where will you use your gifts, talents and passions in service to God and His church? Look below for some upcoming opportunities to serve:



### † Will You Plug In? – Volunteers for the Carrot Ministry

We are looking for individuals and even couples, who love children, to volunteer to provide childcare through our Carrot Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to give our busy parents a night out for a date or to do something that doesn't include the children. This is a free service offered to these parents on the first Friday evening of each month. If you would be interested in participating, please contact **Lynn Dobson** at [bnldobson@alumni.clemson.edu](mailto:bnldobson@alumni.clemson.edu).

**Event and program leaders**, if you need *Saints in Service* and want to place an "ad" like this in the *Navigator*, please contact **Marla Fuller** at the church office – 882-2603.

## Ushers for the 11:15 Traditional Service

All *current ushers* for the 11:15 service are asked to attend a meeting on December 6 at 9:15 AM in room 201. We will discuss our usher schedule for the upcoming year.

*New ushers* are also needed for the 11:15 service. If you would like more information on this rewarding and important service to the ministry of Saint Mark, please plan to attend this meeting.

Questions? Contact **Greg Stephenson** (882-8040) or **Gladys Chastain** (638-5500).



## Worship Matters for Sunday, December 6, 2009

**Acolytes:** Brittany Pope (8:15 am); Kelsey Sauer (11:15 am); **Altar:** Lisa Kiser (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Mel Timmons (9:15 am); **Children's Church:** Christa Booker; **Communion Servers:** Marlene Edlund, Janet Kehl (8:15 am); Al and Bobbi Diussa, Bob and Nancy Walker, Bob and Beth Keener (9:15 am); Betty Jane Fourspring, Fran Harper (11:15 am); **Counters:** Debbie Dubose, Pat Barnes; **Greeters:** Dick and Phyllis Christensen (8:15 am); Janna and Chuck Smith (9:15 am); Mike and Barbara McGrey (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Gene Snyder (8:15 am); Ryan Keese (9:15 am); Gruber Sires (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Anna Baldwin (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Mary Ann Albert (9:15 am); **Sound:** Russ Poston (8:15 am); Russ Poston (9:15 am); John Prescott (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Bobbi Diussa; **Ushers:** Clyde McCall (Head), Dean Garland, Carolyn Kohlenhoefer, Jack Peck (8:15 am); Dan Monk (Head), Allen and Jamie Gerber, Dottie Carbee (11:15 am)

## Worship Matters for Sunday, December 13, 2009

**Acolytes:** Evan Cherry (8:45 am); Will Edgerton (11:00 am); **Children's Church:** Pam Powell; **Counters:** Bud Search, Pat Barnes; **Greeters:** Warren and Betty Wiese (8:45 am); Bill and Carol Metcalf (11:00 am); **Lay Readers:** Bud Search (8:45 am); Joyce Ring (11:00 am); **Sound:** Jeff Pearson (8:45 am); Greg Wales (11:00 am); **Stephen Minister:** Sandy Nelson; **Ushers:** Bill and Charlotte Shimel (8:45 am); Dan Monk (Head), Mike and Barbara McGrey, Dottie Carbee (11:00 am)

## Worship Matters for Sunday, December 20, 2009

**Acolytes:** Casey Barker (8:15 am); Mike Walker (11:15 am); **Altar:** Sheryl Cherry, Lilly Blue (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Deryl Keese (9:15 am); **Children's Church:** Linda Skene; **Counters:** Todd Walker, John Wilson; **Greeters:** Joan Chittenden, Cile Cely (8:15 am); Ginny and Ray Lightfoot (9:15 am); Jane Gelsomino, Ann Miller (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Bob Holmes (8:15 am); Mack Cason (9:15 am); Larry Waterman (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Adam Boggs (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Judy Gasnier (9:15 am); **Sound:** Mike Baldwin (8:15 am); Basil Carney (9:15 am); Jack Davis (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Paul Agnew; **Ushers:** David Harshbarger (Head), Polly Harshbarger, Frank and Pam Lamson-Scribner (8:15 am); Dan Monk (Head), Bill Nelson, Frank and Dottie Carbee (11:15 am)

## Worship Matters for Thursday, December 24, 2009 (Christmas Eve)

**Acolytes:** Corinne Stephenson, Rebekah Wales (9:00 pm); Alex Baldwin (11:00 pm); **Communion Servers:** New Harmony, Janet Kehl-sub (9:00 pm); Gladys Chastain, Phyllis Morgan (11:00 pm)

## Worship Matters for Sunday, December 27, 2009

**Acolytes:** Leslie Lamson-Scribner (8:15 am); Graysen Morrison (11:15 am); **Altar:** Beth Keener (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Deryl Keese (9:15 am); **Children's Church:** Ami Edwards; **Counter:** C.J. Smith; **Greeters:** Jack and Joanna Donegan (8:15 am); Dean and Gig Nelson (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Janet Kehl (8:15 am); Larry Waterman (9:15 am); Janet Kehl (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Bob Dobson (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Connie Pond (9:15 am); **Sound:** Basil Carney (8:15 am); Russ Poston (9:15 am); Russ Poston (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Hallie Mappus; **Ushers:** Scott Wylie (Head), Beverly Wylie, Jim and Jackie Hamilton (8:15 am); Dan Monk (Head), Greg Stephenson, Art and Diane Hirt (11:15 am)

# Spotlight on Members and Group Events



The Music Ministry will present several events for Advent and Christmas.

*WINGS for the Lord*  
Uncle Phil's Diner  
Wednesday, December 9, 6:00 pm

All Choirs Christmas  
8:45 & 11:00 in the Sanctuary  
Sunday, December 13

Festival Service of Lessons and Carols  
Chancel Choir & Orchestra  
Sunday, December 20, 4:00 pm

Other area ticketed musical programs that I want to call to your attention include:

Messiah, presented by Foothills Chorale,  
Sunday, December 6, 3:00 pm, Brooks Center

Holiday Festival presented by Key Koraliars,  
Monday, December 7, 7:30 pm, Walhalla High School.

GAMAC Christmas Festival,  
Saturday, December 12, 8:00 pm, Anderson University.

I want to extend my appreciation to the Chancel Choir for their participation in the Debt Retirement Concert on November 22. I also want to thank **Gladys Chastain, Lavonne Sloop, Jane Brosnan** and all of their assistants for their contribution to the concert and the reception following. Total offerings to be applied toward debt reduction \$5,018.

- David Wilcox

## Have You Ordered Your Poinsettia?



The deadline to order a poinsettia is quickly approaching...Sunday, December 6. The poinsettias will be used in the worship services over the Christmas Season. Please submit your order in honor or in memory of a loved one soon.

## Nametags Say "Hello"

Thanks for faithfully wearing your Saint Mark nametag. If you don't have one, please see **Jeff** or **Steve** or the counter in the atrium.



## Are You E-Connected?

Our newest means of Saint Mark communications is our *Saint Mark Beacon*, a concise weekly calendar update sent via email.

If you are not connected, please let us know at [Churchoffice@saintmarkumcseneca.org](mailto:Churchoffice@saintmarkumcseneca.org).

## Council of Stewards (continued from front page)

**Evangelism** -- our church will experience a strengthening of our Saint Mark ministries to young adults and young families, with our church becoming more attractive to and attracting of young adults and young families

Under each of these "umbrellas" we identified focus areas, such as.....

### Spirituality

- \* Focus on Prayer
- \* Focus on "Walking with God" -- a pedometer program
- \* Focus on an International Mission Project
- \* Focus on Lenten Discipline

### Hospitality

- \* Focus on earning the Welcoming Certification Award
- \* Focus on increasing outreach to visitors and new members by the laity of the church
- \* Focus on inviting friends and neighbors to special services and events

### Evangelism

- \* Focus on creating a more worshipful environment for the Celebration Service
- \* Focus on developing a Saint Mark Facebook Group
- \* Focus on creating a Young Adult Advisory Council and an Advisory Council for Young Families
- \* Focus on young adult and children's ministries
- \* Focus on connecting with parents of CDC children
- \* Focus on Saint Mark missionaries in Africa.

Be looking for more information on each of these and praying about where God is calling you to get involved.... We are excited about these wonderful opportunities for 2010 and beyond. Feel free to contact **Debbie DuBose** at 882-5115 with any questions.

## METS Meeting

Date: Thursday, December 10

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Where: Oconee County Heritage Center  
123 Brown Square Drive, Walhalla



Lunch to follow at Puerto Nuevo Restaurant in West Union.

We will meet at the Heritage Center at 10:30 a.m. The staff will provide introductory remarks, after which we'll tour on our own. The tour should take about an hour.

We will then go to lunch at Puerto Nuevo in West Union which is in the old Winn Dixie Shopping Center across from Ingles on Highway 11. We'll be able to order from the regular menu and separate checks will be issued.

Directions to the Heritage Center - Enter Walhalla on Main Street and continue until the Court House is in sight on left. Just before the Court House and also on the left, is the Bantam Restaurant. Turn left before the restaurant and park at the Heritage Center.

Please call **Andrea** or **Bill Paulson** at 944-0659 by December 7 to make reservations.

# Around the Church and Community

## Marvin's Kids *(continued from front page)*

was decided that Marvin's Kids would also help "Santa" with gifts for the children. Then it seemed hospitable that these children and their families should sit down and have a meal with their sponsors so a pizza party with cookies began. A time of learning of the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, also began in the Saint Mark Sanctuary. Then everyone went to the church social hall to talk with Santa Claus and play games.



- ☼ **If you wish to make cookies or help with the pizza party** at 11:30 am on December 19, you can contact **Jean Rogers** or **Florence Hanzel**.
- ☼ The tradition continues to need much help from an army of volunteers! In fact **we need people to sponsor families for shopping at Wal-Mart** on December 19, the same day of the pizza party in the Saint Mark gym. The families will be divided into three groups to shop at 10:00 am, 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. A sponsor simply assists the children in selecting an outfit of clothing: shoes, coat, pants, top, underwear and socks. Members of the Marvin's Kids Steering Committee will also assist and be present to handle payment of goods. See or call **Carolyn Keese** (882-3909).
- ☼ **We also need approximately 160 volunteers to be Santa's helpers.** Each child has made a "wish list" and the helper is to purchase as much of the list as possible, not to exceed \$50. Gifts are then wrapped, addressed to the child from Santa and brought to the church. This is a critical need because our funds are designated for the clothing. See **Joan Chittenden, Jan Darling or Cile Cely** to sign-up!
- ☼ When possible children who live in a safe area are given bicycles and helmets. **Dean Garland** is in charge if you wish to donate money for a bicycle.
- ☼ Gifts are to be packed on December 22 and volunteers are needed. See **Ami Edwards or Sybil Sevic**.
- ☼ Santa's gifts and bicycles are delivered on Christmas Eve morning at 9:00 am. Contact **Kent Wigington, Bill Darling or Ryan Keese** for additional information.
- ☼ Many people this year are asking for money to be donated to a charity in their honor rather than receive a Christmas gift. This is admirable and if one wishes to donate to Marvin's Kids, a festive card will be sent to the person informing him or her of the gift and the giver. Approximately \$140 to \$150 is spent on clothing for the children and with 151 children monetary gifts are welcomed.

Your wonderful support of this worthwhile ministry these 29 years is deeply appreciated.

This is much to ask of our church and the community but the needs, especially this year, are great.

In Christian Love,  
**Cile Cely**

## Church Family Night

*Saint Mark Center*

*Wednesday, December 2 at  
5:30 pm -*



- **Adult and Children's Menu:** Vegetable Beef Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Dessert
- **Large Group Program**
- **Hospitality Group C serving**

*Wednesday, December 9 at 5:30 pm -*

- **Adult and Children's Menu:** Baked Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Side Salad, Green Beans, Rolls and Dessert
- **Wings presents Christmas at Uncle Phil's Diner**
- **Hospitality Group D serving**

*Wednesdays, December 16, 23 or 30 - No CFN  
CFN will resume on January 6, 2010  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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

# THANKS!!!!

The family of **Brad & Carolyn Kohlenhoefer** would like to express appreciation for the prayers, care, & support of the members of Saint Mark during the illness and passing of **James W. Moore**, Carolyn's father.

## Benefit Concert

A special thanks to **David Wilcox**, the chancel choir and the special guest musicians **Bruce Whisler, Timothy Hurlburt, Joey Lee and David Stern**, who put on a fantastic concert Sunday, November 22nd. They all performed beautifully! The program consisted of organ solos by David, selections featuring the organ and brass quartet, and several pieces showcasing the talents of the choir. The performance was followed by a reception in the Commons Room.

Proceeds from the concert will be used to pay down the 1995 mortgage acquired to build the Saint Mark Center and Atrium. Over \$5000 was raised from the concert. If you would like to make a contribution to help reduce the loan, please mark your check as "1995 Debt Reduction".

**Mike Wallace** - Finance Chair