



The Saint Mark Navigator

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

Volume 10, Issue 6

June, 2011

Saint Mark Web Site

www.saintmarkumcseneca.org

Saint Mark Weekly Devotion Line

882 - U R Calling Devotions (882-8723)

Telephone: 864-882-2603

Congratulations Graduates!

Thank you for letting us know of your High School and College graduates. We are proud of their accomplishments:



High School

Jake Anderson
Casey Baldwin
Chrissy Cain
Drew Garland
Courtney Johnson
Savanna Keese
Graysen Morrison
Harrison Pew
John Pulliam
Eric Rushe
Caitlin Sauer

College Graduate

Brian Cain
Carrie Cottingham
Kyle Cutler
Anna Dubose
Elizabeth Gay
Emily Grubbe
Megan Matthews
Chase Pate
Alicia Soler
Savannah Wigington

Welcome New Members

We extend a special Saint Mark welcome to our newest members, the 2010-11 Confirmation Class. Five of our youth were confirmed in a special service during the Celebration Service on Sunday, May 8.



Top row: *Carter Anderson and Andy Stein*
Bottom row: *Loren Wales, Emily Bibb and Berti Jungnick*

Book Pre-Release Celebration and Covered-Dish Supper



Saint Mark is blessed to have among its members several published authors, the latest of whom is **Betty Rogers**. Saint Mark will host her pre-release celebration for her new children's book, *Change Can Be Good*, on Sunday evening, June 5 at 6:00 pm.

The evening will begin with a covered-dish supper, followed at 6:45 pm by the reading of the book by the author. There will be a dedication and blessing of the book. Betty and Dean will present a copy of the book to Saint Mark during this celebration. For more information about Betty and the book, go online to her website, www.skookumbooks.com. Come and enjoy the evening with Betty!

Welcome Home Dinner Set for Missionary Family



Our Missionary Family, the **Dalenburgs**, will soon be home on leave. We look forward to hosting them as follows:

Saturday, June 25 – 5:30 p.m.

Covered-dish meal with program

Sunday, June 26

Celebrating worship together

You may read about Adam and Jennifer and their three sons, Joseph, Samuel, and James, and their work in Senegal, Africa on our web site under "Sail Into Service," then "International Missions."



Children's Ministries with Laura Boggs

Children's Church is a changing!!!!

Now instead of having children's neighborhood in the service the little ones will go out to their very own worship service in the NEW Children's Worship Center next to the nursery! This service is geared for little ones age 2 to 5k. If your children are older than that age please keep them in the Sanctuary to worship with you! For the older kids look for the new children's bulletins that the greeters will have!



Happy Father's Day!

We will have a Father's Day Celebration, Sunday morning before the 9:15 Service, dads come with your little ones for Donuts and Drinks before the service, please contact me to let me know if you are planning on attending so that I can make sure to have enough donuts.



Summer camps; if you are interested in giving money to help our children attend Asbury Hills please contact me to offer your support! We have several families planning on attending this year! This camp is expensive and I don't want that to be a reason that the children can't attend! Thanks so much for the people who have already offered support!



Have a Great Summer!

Contact Laura at boggs@saintmarkumcseneca.org or 882-2603

Youth and Young Adult Ministries with Donna Poston



Summer Months

Without the stresses of school, summer is a great time for our youth to concentrate on missions, being with Christian friends and reflecting on God's love. We look forward to our choir tour, Salkehatchie camps and times together.

Our young adult group (college and up) will continue to meet during the summer as we grow toward finding our purposes for God's kingdom.

Sunday, May 29 — Graduation Sunday

- 9:15 am — Graduates honored
- 12:00 pm — High School Graduate luncheon
- 4:00 pm — Wings choir rehearsal
- 5:30 pm — Parent meeting for tour



Tuesday, May 31 — Young Adult Cookout

- 6:00 pm — Young adult group will meet at the Dobsons

Sunday, June 5 — Briarwood Youth Choir

- The Briarwood youth choir from Alabama will sing at the 9:15 and 11:15 services. We are hosting them in our homes and providing lunch.
- 4:00 pm — Wings Choir rehearsal



Tuesday, June 7 — Young Adult Movie night

- 7:00 pm — Young Adults will meet at Saint Mark.

Saturday, June 11 — Oconee Salkehatchie begins

Sunday, June 12

- 4:00 pm — Wings Choir rehearsal

Thursday, June 16 through Wednesday, June 22

- Wings Choir Tour

Tuesday, June 21

- 7:00 pm - Young Adults



Wednesday, June 22

- 7:00 pm — Wings for the Lord Concert

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

Are You Missing a Dish?

There are a variety of dishes (glass, plastic, etc.) mounting up on the counter in the Fellowship Classroom (Room A102). If you have left a dish here at the church, it is probably waiting for you in this room. Please stop by to see if one of these "lost" dishes are yours. Thanks!



The deadline for submissions to the next Navigator will be **THURSDAY, June 23, 2011 at noon!**

Thank you for your help!



Follow Saint Mark on Facebook!

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

Hearing Devices Available In Worship Services

Please ask an usher if you need a hearing device during any of our services.





Congregational Care Notes

by Jeff Childress



We Extend Our Sincere Sympathies to:

- **Patti and Dale Gobel** and their family on the death of Patti's mother, **Lavonia Hickman**. Her memorial service was held May 21 in Mississippi.
- **J. L. Gaillard** on the death of his brother, **Balus Gaillard**. His funeral service was held May 13 in Seneca.
- **Pat and Sam Sink** on the death of Pat's brother, **Don Cale**. His memorial service was recently held in Union Town, Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to:

- **Steven and Nicole Bloedow** on the birth of their new baby boy, **Colson Lee Bloedow**, born May 20.
- **Hayden Wilson** on the honor of being accepted to the Military Academies Leadership program for this summer. He will attend the West Point academy June 4 – 10, then travel down to Annapolis and attend the Navy's program June 11 - 16.
- The following Saint Mark students named as **2011 Rotary Scholars** by the Seneca Rotary club; an honor and recognition of the top five academic achievers in each grade level 6-12: **Rachel Strader, Kylie Wallace, Shelby Rushe, Brittany Pope, Amanda Van Heusen, and Jake Anderson**.

Personal Prayer Notes

Jeff Cain – Undergoing new series of chemotherapy treatments

Carol Christensen – Continuing recovery at home following recent hospitalization for heart attack and coronary stent implant

Travis Curtis – Friend of Curt Evatt, completing treatments for non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in Nashville, TN

Barry Earnhardt – Friend of Debbie DuBose, under doctor's care for lung cancer

Maryellen Grimshaw – Continuing recovery at home following recent hip replacement surgery

Florence Hanzel – Under doctor's care at Oconee Medical Center for heart afibrillation

Sue Hickey – Sister of Jim Hickey, recovering from recent breast cancer surgery in Green Bay, Wisconsin

Melanie Dobson Hughes – Daughter of Bob and Lynn Dobson, with recurring health issues

Matthew Keese – Nephew of Deryl and Carolyn Keese (cousin to Ami Edwards and Ryan Keese), with inoperable brain tumor and expecting to begin treatments in the near future

Ila Kittle – Receiving rehabilitation therapy at Lila Doyle following recent knee replacement surgery

Anne Lee – Continuing series of radiation treatments for breast cancer

Dean Paulson – Son of Bill Paulson, recovering from recent kidney cancer surgery in Texas

Suzanne Pruitt – Former St. Mark staff member, recovering at home following recent mastectomy surgery

Bill Richardson – Under doctor's care at Oconee Medical Center for infection due to injury from a fall

Jeff Ritts – Son of Paul and Dorothy Ritts, continuing rehabilitation therapy in Greenville

Jean Rogers – Back home after recent hospitalization for polymyalgia rheumatica

Sam Sink – Under Hospice care at the Cottingham House in Seneca

Myles Standish – Husband of Jeannine Standish, recovering at home following recent open-heart surgery

Julia Uldrick – Continuing recovery at home following recent carotid artery surgery

Howard VanDenburgh – Brother of Bea Moore, with good news that he is now cancer free, but continuing under doctor's care for back pain and fatigue

Pat Wynne – Hospitalized at Greenville Memorial for aortic aneurysm

David Yonker – Brother of Ron Yonker, with bone cancer in Mexico City

Ron Yonker – Under doctor's care for back pain

Library Corner

We have nine very special books that have just arrived in our church library – books that will be part of our new and expanded Kids' Corner. The author (also the donor) is **Conrad Storad**, writer of science and nature books for children. He is the son-in-law of our own **Gene and Fran Snyder**. He traveled with members of Saint Mark to the Holy Land this winter. Here is a list of the books that he donated:

Rattlesnake Rules

Sonoran Desert A to Z

Flying Colors

Little Lords of the Desert

Desert Night Shift (A Pack Rat Story)

Life in the Slow Lane (A Desert Tortoise Tale)

Don't Call Me Pig! (A Javelina Story)

Lizards for Lunch (A Roadrunner's Tale)

Check out the books and check out Conrad's website (<http://www.conradstorad.com/index.php>)



We are also pleased to announce that the church library will be receiving another children's book authored by our own **Betty Rogers**. The title is *Change Can Be Good*. See the feature article on the front page. Watch for a book signing in August.

On June 1, we will begin a 3-month campaign to build our Kid's Korner section of the library. Our goal is to acquire 100 children's books/DVD's through your donations. You can donate books, DVD's or money toward the purchase of books. Conrad's and Betty's donations give us our first 10 books! Help us reach 100. We are looking for books (and DVD's) that emphasize faith and values – books that build character and build Christians. Look through your children's (or grandchildren's) books and DVD's to see if you have some that are lightly used. You can purchase books and DVD's as well. Drop your books/DVD's off in the clear plastic container just inside the Library door and to the right. Thanks for your generosity!

Check out new book reviews on the church website. You can find them on the church web site at <http://saintmarkumcsebeca.org/AllHandsMinistries/Library.aspx>.

Steve's Log

Dr. Steven Morgan, Senior Pastor



I commend and thank you for your generosity in our recent alms offerings. As noted we are sending our tsunami and tornado/flood relief offerings to UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF.

UMCOR serves as the humanitarian relief and development agency of our church that responds in our name in times of disaster when we are praying and hoping that "Somebody will do something to help those poor people!"

UMCOR's Christ-like mission is to alleviate human suffering of the most vulnerable survivors of chronic or temporary emergencies due to nature or civil causes. UMCOR's work relates to the five Rs: Relief, Rehabilitation, Root Causes of Hunger, Recovery, and Refugee Resettlement.

Over 65 years old, UMCOR is guided by these values:

- Honoring cultural differences
- Affirming the God-endowed worth of every person
- Providing aid regardless of race, religion or politics
- Seeking cooperation with local partners
- Avoiding tying assistance to any religious or political viewpoint
- Being a good steward of resources

On the critical note of finances, 100% of donations go to the designated cause, administrative costs being covered through the general church structure. UMCOR has received the top four-star rating by *Charity Navigator* and an A+ by *The American Institute of Philanthropy*.

Please visit UMCOR's web site for more information:

<http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umcor/>

Blessings,
Steve

P. S. Thanks for your prayers during our 2011 Annual Conference meeting in Florence June 8 – 12. Our delegates are *Paul Agnew, Gladys Chastain, Marlene Edlund, Carolyn Keese, and Jane Pridgen.*

Faith Matters for May, 2011

Attendance, Sunday, May 1

Sunday School	259
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	102
9:15 am Celebration	198
11:15 am Traditional	123

Total Worship 423

Attendance, Sunday, May 8

Sunday School	257
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	107
9:15 am Celebration	225
11:15 am Traditional	157

Total Worship 489

Attendance, Sunday, May 15

Sunday School	218
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	117
9:15 am Celebration	189
11:15 am Traditional	169

Total Worship 475

Attendance, Sunday, May 22

Sunday School	241
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	103
9:15 am Celebration	187
11:15 am Traditional	160

Total Worship 450

Financial Information as of May 22, 2011

2011 Budget to Date (21 weeks)	\$414,492
2011 Budget Income to Date (21 weeks)	\$426,203
2010 Budget Income (21 weeks)	\$413,669
2011 Budget Expenses to Date	\$356,554

Mortgage Balances:

2008 Mortgage	\$1,583,334
1995 Mortgage	\$59,977

IRA Distribution Rule

Individuals who have reached the age of 70 1/2 who have a traditional IRA are required to take a minimum distribution from that account each year. That distribution, within some dollar amount limits, may be directed to a charitable organization, i.e., Saint Mark Church, and the individual does not have to pay income tax on that distribution. The distribution MUST be made directly to Saint Mark from the IRA manager and not to the individual and then to Saint Mark. As always it is advisable for individuals to consult with a qualified financial adviser to determine if this option fits their interests.

Saint Mark UMC

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EDUCATION UPDATE

Combined Adult Classes on June 12



Every summer Saint Mark hosts the Oconee Salkehatchie Summer Service home repair ministry for an entire week. This year, beginning on Saturday, June 11, the Salkehatchie participants will once again use the upstairs classrooms of our atrium as their sleeping quarters. As an act of hospitality to the youth and adults serving in Salkehatchie the adult Sunday School Classes that meet in those upstairs classrooms are invited to come together in the church sanctuary at 10:15 am on Sunday, June 12, for a combined Sunday School class session. The lesson will be taught from the standard Adult Bible Study used by many of our adult classes.

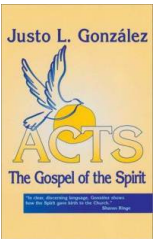
SPIRITUAL FORMATION UPDATE

Special Pentecost Services – Sunday, June 12 WEAR RED THAT SUNDAY!!



Pentecost Sunday is the special day on our Christian calendar, 50 days after Easter, when we recognize and celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the earliest of Jesus' disciples gathered in Jerusalem. It was a monumental event for ALL Christians because it marks the birth of the Christian Church. It meant, and still means today, that ALL Christ-followers would now be able to personally experience the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit. In preparation for our services, we recommend that you read the 2nd chapter of Acts to find an account of the first Pentecost event. Members of the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team plan to help you catch a glimpse of what that first Pentecost may have been like for those early disciples. Join us on Sunday morning, June 12 at all three services for a special Pentecost celebration. And don't forget to wear red!!

Pentecost Study: *Acts, the Gospel of the Spirit*



Acts, The Gospel of the Spirit is a 4 week study of the early church as documented in the book of Acts. The study will cover the actions of the early Apostles. You should plan to attend if you are interested in church history, the position of the Holy Spirit in our faith tradition and the continued ministry of the Holy Spirit today. Plan to read the book of Acts in the Bible, particularly the first four chapters. You may also want to review the book that will be the basis for the study, *Acts The Gospel of the Spirit* by Justo Gonzalez available on Amazon.com. There is no need to sign up, just show up that Sunday.

Day and time: Sunday mornings, June 19, 26, July 3 and 10, the four Sundays after Pentecost Sunday.

The class will be during the regular Sunday School hour – 10:15 am

Facilitators: Bill Farley, assisted by Don Little

Location: Commons Room – Genesis Sunday School Class

Lake Junaluska Summer Spiritual Formation Events

If you haven't had a chance to visit our Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference and Retreat Center at Lake Junaluska, you might be surprised at the many opportunities they offer for you to learn and grow. This summer, there are three events you may want to attend.



SOULfeast, The Upper Room's Annual Spiritual Formation Event, July 10-14. The theme this year is "The Invitations of Jesus." For more information, go to www.UpperRoom.org/soulfeast.

South Carolina Laity Convocation, July 29-31, entitled Dream to Change Your World. For more information, contact **Marla Fuller** at 882-2603

Festival of Wisdom and Grace, a special conference just for seniors, sponsored by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of older adults. For more information go online to www.lakejunaluska.com/olderadult



Circle of Friends Women's Retreat Is on the Calendar

Ladies, mark your calendar now for our annual *Circle of Friends* Women's Retreat at Lake Junaluska. The dates are, Friday, September 30 through Saturday, October 1. Our speaker will be **Rev. Cynthia Taylor**, pastor at Central United Methodist Church in Florence, SC.

Living Into the Purposes of God

"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." - C.S. Lewis (*Mere Christianity*)



Focus on Volunteers

Worship Matters for Sunday, June 5, 2011

Acolytes: Taylor Daum (8:15 am); Leslie Lamson-Scribner (11:15 am); **Altar:** Nancy Walker (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Lonney Ensign (9:15 am); **Counters:** Nancy Walker, Cindy Waterman; **Greeters:** Bob and Carol Holmes (8:15 am); Chuck and Janna Smith (9:15 am); Jan Whitener, Dianne Smith (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Bob Holmes (8:15 am); Gene Snyder (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Anna Baldwin (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Carol Detwiler (9:15 am); **Sound:** Jeff Pearson (8:15 am); Russ Poston (9:15 am); Greg Wales (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Joyce Carney; **Ushers:** Clyde McCall (Head), Dean Garland, Carolyn Kohlenhoefer, Jack Peck (8:15 am); Alan Olson (Head), Lois Olson, Dick and Joyce Thompson (11:15 am)

Worship Matters for Sunday, June 12, 2011

Acolytes: Berti Jungnick (8:15 am); Sarah Beth Wilson (11:15 am); **Altar:** Joyce Carney (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Bart Sauer (9:15 am); **Counters:** Joanna Donegan, Greg Skene; **Greeters:** Jack Peck, Joan Chittenden (8:15 am); Jan and Bob Carlson (9:15 am); Lucius and Julia Uldrick (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Frank Lamson-Scribner (8:15 am); Larry Waterman (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Mike Wallace (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Mary Barnette, Sarah Boylston (9:15 am); **Sound:** Mike Baldwin (8:15 am); Bob Walker (9:15 am); Jack Davis (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Jean Rogers; **Ushers:** David Harshbarger (Head), Polly Harshbarger, Bill and Charlotte Shimel (8:15 am); Alan Olson (Head), Lois Olson, Dick and Joyce Thompson (11:15 am)

Worship Matters for Sunday, June 19, 2011 Father's Day

Acolytes: Casey Barker, Kelsey Sauer (8:15 am); Anna Holley, Chaz Henry (11:15 am); **Altar:** Sheryl Cherry, Lilly Blue (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Neil and Lisa Carney (9:15 am); **Communion Servers:** Gene and Fran Snyder, Gladys Chastain (8:15 am); Paul and Kelly Pew, Bob and Debbie Dubose, Pam Powell, Gladys Chastain (9:15 am); Billy and Sally Boggs, Ed McCann (11:15 am) **Counters:** Rick Hamm, Gladys Chastain; **Greeters:** Ron and Jeri Shoel (8:15 am); Ray and Ginny Lightfoot (9:15 am); Joe and Sandy James (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Bud Search (8:15 am); Bill Nelson (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Adam Boggs (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Carol Detwiler (9:15 am); **Sound:** Basil Carney (8:15 am); Basil Carney (9:15 am); Jane Barker (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Wally Storm; **Ushers:** Scott Wylie (Head), Beverly Wylie, Jim and Jackie Hamilton (8:15 am); Alan Olson (Head), Lois Olson, Dick and Joyce Thompson (11:15 am)

Worship Matters for Sunday, June 26, 2011

Acolytes: Gabe Sanders (8:15 am); Evan Cherry (11:15 am); **Altar:** Carolyn Keese (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Deryl and Carolyn Keese (9:15 am); **Counters:** Barbara McGrey, Bill Nelson; **Greeters:** David and Polly Harshbarger (8:15 am); Elaine and Terry Swanson (9:15 am); Dean and Gig Nelson (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Janet Kehl (8:15 am); Joyce Ring (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Bob Dobson (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Randy Collins (9:15 am); **Sound:** John Prescott (8:15 am); Gladys Chastain (9:15 am); Russ Poston (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Dick Thompson; **Ushers:** Steve Figueroa (Head), Marlene Edlund, Bob Rider, Nancy Evatt (8:15 am); Alan Olson (Head), Lois Olson, Dick and Joyce Thompson (11:15 am)

THANK YOU!!!!

Dear Steve, Jeff and the Entire Saint Mark Family,

There is no way to thank you enough for all the love and support you have given us since our loss. At times like this, it is so comforting to know others really care. We have been especially blessed by the outpouring of kindness from the church family. Being surrounded by wonderful friends makes this difficult time much easier to bear. We will always be grateful for the thoughtfulness from the Saint Mark community. We find healing in God's tender love and embrace and in the support and encouragement of others. Thank you for all the expressions of sympathy.

Much love, **Ruth Bond, Mike Bond, Karen Bond Kapp**

We are blessed by the many prayers received recently, and over several months from our church family. My husband Paul and son Jeff entered hospitals by 911 calls the same evening February 12, 2011. Different hospitals, Paul Oconee and Jeff Greenville. Several months have passed and healing has taken place. We received healing prayers from Congregation Care, Stephen Minister's, Wednesday Morning Prayer Group, and other prayer groups. Paul had lost complete control and use of his legs. He can walk again with the help of a walker, some without the walker. His legs are still weak, but getting stronger. Our Son Jeff has come a long way in healing through prayer. He is undergoing rehabilitation therapy and hoping soon to be taken off the food machine. A special Thank You to **Steve** and **Jeff** and others who have given me the Spiritual support and strength I needed these many months.

Love, **Dorothy Ritts**

Thanks for Your Generous Alms Support

As announced our recent alms offering has been sent for Japan Tsunami relief in the amount of \$764.

Our Service Ministry Team has designated the upcoming June alms to United Methodist Committee on Relief for the Tornado and Flood victims in the South and Mid-West (Advance #3021326). <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umcor/>



Spotlight on Members and Group Events

METS – MEET, EAT, TRAVEL, SERVE

On June 2, the METS will make their annual trip to Flat Rock Playhouse with lunch at Kelsey's. **Bill Paulson** has kindly taken care of all the arrangements. **For those persons riding the Church bus, meet at the Church parking lot NO LATER THAN 9:30 AM.** The cost for riding the bus will be \$5.25 per person. This cost is subject to increase because of higher gas prices.



CDC NEWS

with Carolyn Nix

cdcdirector@saintmarkumcseneca.org or 882-0333



The school year has now come to an end. For us, this means school kids and field trips. The after school/summer program will start with a bang this month and go throughout the third week in August. Check out all the activities they have planned on the Saint Mark website or by clicking [here](#).

Our CDC Steering Committee is spending this year working very hard to update some things for the center. One of the projects was to come up with a mission statement for the center.

The mission of Saint Mark Child Development Center is to assist families in the nurture and growth of their children: physically, intellectually, and socially, in a safe and welcoming Christian environment.

Here is a huge opportunity to help the CDC: Our infant room and crawler room are at full capacity until at least January of next year. What we need is an extra set of hands to help snuggle and comfort a little one while others are being tended to. If this is something that would interest you, please contact **Carolynne** for more information and details on how to become a CDC volunteer.

The CDC will have its second annual yard sale August 13 in the Saint Mark Center. More information available soon.

- Carolyn Nix



Eleuthera Mission Trip Update

We have 25 seats booked on flights from Atlanta - Rock Sound, Eleuthera departing 10/29 and returning 11/5, and it appears we will have 25-30 participants! Some of the crowd is going to Nassau a few days early, so there is still room for you if you want to go, but that may be subject to there being more seats available on the Nassau-Rock Sound flights. If you are interested, please contact **Bob or Lynn Dobson** ASAP at bnldobson@alumni.clemson.edu or 723-1854.

Memorials and Honorariums

The following gifts have been received recently:

- In HONOR of **Florence Hanzel** by Fred and Irene George
- In MEMORY of **Bill Bond** by Madison F. Bond, Jr., Peggy and Jerry Rollins, Berea Friendship Quilters, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sisk, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP, Jeffrey and Brenda Zettle
- In MEMORY of **Jim Garretson** by Frank and Pam Lamson-Scribner and Family
- In MEMORY of **Jack Stephenson** by Frank and Pam Lamson-Scribner and Family
- In MEMORY of **Norma Sires Wofford** by Phillip and Jean Ashley



You're Invited – Golden Corner Food Pantry Opens in New Building

Monday, June 6
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
635 Business Park (off the Wells Highway)

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:



SAINTS IN SERVICE
Saint Mark United Methodist Church

Will You Plug In? – Teachers and Shepherds for Children's Sunday School

We continue to need adults who love children to serve as teachers and shepherds for our children's Sunday School program on Sundays at 10:15 am. The commitment is short and the preparation for teachers is quick and easy. There is no preparation for Shepherds, who assist the teacher. If you would be willing to serve in this way, please contact **Laura Boggs** at lboggs@saintmarkumcseneca.org or call her at the church office (864) 882-2603.

Will You Plug In? – Teacher for the Special Friends Sunday School Class for Special Needs

We are so happy to be able to offer a Sunday School class persons with special needs. We currently serve one young man. We have four dedicated persons who spend time with this young man on Sunday mornings. We need others to join them to spread out the responsibility. If you have a heart for persons with special needs and if you would be willing to meet with this young man on Sunday mornings at 10:15 on a rotation basis, please contact **Pam Lamson-Scribner** at lamsonscribner@bellsouth.net or 654-1551.

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.

Around the Church and Community



MUSIC NOTES with David Wilcox



The *CROSS Club* presentation of the musical *Amazing Grace* on May 18 was a wonderful event. This and other programs can be seen on our web-site under “events spy-glass” – scroll down that page to see recent programs including *Amazing Grace*, *Elijah*, and *Wings for the Lord* Dessert Theatre.

Special Music Events in June include the Briarwood Presbyterian Church Youth Choir, Birmingham, Alabama singing for worship services June 5. Our *Wings for the Lord* Youth Choir will present their Homecoming concert, Wednesday, June 22 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

- David Wilcox

Oconee Salkehatchie Camp June 11-18



We are looking forward to once again hosting this group of missionaries as they come to work in our community. This will be our sixteenth year. The congregation of Saint Mark helps to make this camp possible through your support of housing and food. **We hope that all of you will attend the covered dish meal on Wednesday, June 15 at 6:30 pm and bring well-filled dishes to feed our campers.** The missionaries will provide the program and share this year's story. You can provide much needed Gatorade. There will be a cart in the Atrium from June 5-12. If you would like to help in other ways or would like information about our camp, please contact **Nancy Evatt** at 882-7504 or at williamevatt@bellsouth.net. Thanks for your continued support of this ministry.

Worship Writings - *The Importance of the Altar Guild*

Who cares for all the things that pertain to worship in the sanctuary? Who changes the candles and the altar cloths, takes care of the flowers, or makes and hangs the banners? Who keeps things the way they should be in the sanctuary? Who is in charge of taking care of what John Wesley referred to as “holy things ... the instruments of ministry?”

Historically, the Levites, the tribe of Moses and Aaron, were responsible for “the service of the work of the Tent of Meeting” (Numbers 4:3). They were formally set apart after the incident with the golden calf idol that the Israelites made while Moses was away receiving The Ten Commandments from The Lord (Exodus 32). The Levites did not take part in the idolatry and actually killed 3,000 of those who were running wild.

After the incident was over, Moses said of the Levites, “Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of The Lord.” Thus, as a result of their taking sides with the Lord, the Levites were selected to care for the Tabernacle and its utensils.

The Levites were responsible for carrying the different parts of the Tabernacle and its vessels as the Israelites moved from one location to another in the wilderness. When the tribes camped, the Levites and the Tabernacle were in the inner perimeter, while the other tribes camped in the outer perimeter.

The book of Numbers tells that the Levites from age 30 to 50 were charged with ministering to the priests and keeping watch over the Tabernacle. They were not counted for military service in the armies of Israel, but were consecrated to the Lord's service. The Hebrew word translated “service” also means “warfare.” Therefore, their service in the Tabernacle was spiritual warfare, and as at the golden calf incident, the Levites were on the Lord's side.

(Interestingly, the Levites also served as the choir and orchestra of the Holy Temple. After the destruction of the Temple, the Levites cut off their thumbs rather than allow the fingers which played instruments for God to play for their pagan captors!)

Traditionally, in the United Methodist Church, the job of caring for the worship utensils has fallen to a group called the Altar Guild. Those who have served in this capacity in our congregation have considered it a special responsibility and a privilege of the highest order. In *United Methodist Altars* by Hoyt L Hickman, one of the guiding principles that applies to the members of the Altar Guild is to “give reverent care to the things that have been set apart and consecrated to sacred uses, as a way of practicing reverence for all God's creation. Yours is a very special service to God, an act of worship in itself, through which God can change your life and the lives of other people.”

A personal note:

It is early morning, and the church is empty. As I enter the sanctuary, it is awash with the light through the stained glass windows. I am momentarily stopped in my tracks! I proceed to the sacristy to perform my tasks. As I fill the candles with oil and polish the sacred articles, I find myself humming hymns, “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.” I notice engravings on some of the articles, signifying gifts given in honor or memory of church members. I am moved. I feel a connection to all who have performed these tasks before me. There is history in this room, in the gifts given, cloths sewn, and services rendered. It is a privilege to carry on the ancient tradition of the Altar Guild.

In the United Methodist tradition, the mission of the Altar Guild is to prepare the Sanctuary to glorify God through worship and to return gifts of serving and faith. It is a fulfilling service. I never want to do it in frustration instead of joy. Therefore, I need help, and I feel the experience needs to be shared in Christian fellowship, making it even more meaningful. It is a monthly service, can be done sitting down, and some tasks can even be taken home to do. **If this sounds like a ministry experience you'd like to explore, I would love to hear from you.** The church cannot function at its best to the glory of God without a loyal, loving Altar Guild. Where are you, future Altar Guild members?

For information and to express interest: Call **Barbara Stephenson** @ 882-8040

