



The Saint Mark Navigator

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

Volume 10, Issue 3

March, 2011

Saint Mark Web Site

www.saintmarkumcseeca.org

Saint Mark Weekly Devotion Line

882 - U R Calling Devotions (882-8723)

Telephone: 864-882-2603

Living Into the Purposes of God During Lent

The Christian season of Lent has traditionally been a time for self-examination and recommitment to the way of Christ. This year, the holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. It is becoming a tradition at Saint Mark to make much of Lent, and we invite you, as an individual, to join other members of the Saint Mark family who want to be intentional about living into the purposes of God during Lent. There are a number of opportunities available to you.

- † Lenten Fast
- † Walking With God Pedometer Program
- † Lenten Book Study
- † Coin Folders Offering



You will find information about all of these practices/disciplines in this issue of the *Navigator*. Open yourself to the possibility that God will use your commitment to one or more of these practices for His good and holy purposes.

Church Photo Directory



Plans Underway for New Pictorial Directory!

Pictures for a new Saint Mark pictorial directory will be taken on April 5-9 and April 12-16. Sign-ups to schedule photography sessions will be available in the Atrium

beginning on Sunday, March 6, and continue through March 20. Please sign-up for your appointment. Everyone photographed will receive a free directory and a free 8 X10 portrait of their family. Those interested in purchasing additional portraits may do so at the time of photography. We hope everyone will want to be a part of this project in order to make the new directory as complete as possible. Thank you!

Walking With God in 2011 Pedometer Program



We are going to continue our popular *Walking With God* pedometer program that we started over a year ago, with a few changes – more options for you. We will continue to challenge you to walk a minimum of 7000 steps each day. We will launch the *Walking With God* program during Lent, which begins on March 9. Our goal is to repeat our community challenge of 40 million steps during Lent. Please find enclosed in this issue of the *Navigator* a commitment form to fill out and return. *(continued inside)*

***Wings for the Lord* Youth Choir Yard Sale**



Wings thank you for donating items to our March 5 yard sale. You may bring your items beginning Wednesday, March 2, to the Saint Mark Center. All proceeds go toward reducing the cost for our youth to pay for summer choir tour.



Preschool Ministries and
Children's Education
with Laura Boggs

I am still so excited and thankful to be working with the little children in our church! They are such a blessing. I am also very thankful to the church members who have welcomed and encouraged me since I have taken the job. Thanks for all of your support and prayers!

Laura



Date Night..... March 4 from 6:30-9:00 pm



**Date
NIGHT**

This new program, which is revised from Carrot Ministry, will alternate monthly with a Friday night and a Saturday morning for children nursery to age 12. This is a FREE babysitting service; just have your child bring a drink and snack. Please email or call me if

you plan to bring your child(ren) and/or would like to volunteer to help with this ministry. This month's theme will be *Veggie Tales* for the younger kids and *Narnia* for the older children.

Destination Unknown.....March 13



A new program offered only to sixth graders (for now). We will meet one Sunday a month at 5:30, have a devotion, then leave the church for a destination unknown to the children; this could be an outing to go bowling, a trip to a "Host" home to play games or watch a movie, a trip to serve the community through a service or mission project, etc. Our first one was held on Sunday February 13, at the home of Sally and Billy Boggs. Our theme was Barn Yard fun! After our devotional time, we played board games that were farm animal related. The children had so much fun and are looking forward to the next trip! If you are interested in being a "Host", please email me to get in on the fun!

Son Shine Club (Age 2-K5) Wednesdays 6:00-7:15

Meet outside my office. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact me.

Children's Church - Sunday's during the 9:15 am Service

- Group 1 - Ages 2 - K5
- Group 2 - Grades 1 - 3

Mark Your Calendar...

Spring Carnival - May 7

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



**Youth and Children's Ministries
Sailing Toward the Son**

Grades 1 - 12 with Donna
dposton@saintmarkumcseneca.org



Wonderful Experiences



I was so proud of our *Cross Club, In His Steps* (grades 4-6), as they presented the Creation story through "sticks" in our worship services.

Our youth had an awesome spiritual experience at the Revolution Youth Rally as we worshipped all weekend with 3000 other youth at the Columbia Convention Center. These memories will last a lifetime.

March 5

- 7 am — noon *Wing's* yard sale fundraiser in the Saint Mark Center



March 6

- *Wings* youth choir will sing at Friendship UMC's 11:00 service.
- *Wings* will sing for Saint Mark services on March 27



March 13

- \$5.00 tickets go on sale for the 6:30 pm *Wing's* spring fundraiser called "Acts of Kindness" Theater.



Youth and Children's Weekly Activities

Sundays - Grades 7 - 12

- Wings for the Lord* choir (4:00 pm)
- Snack Supper / Chill Time* (5:00 pm)
- UMYF/Impact* (5:30 pm)
- In His Eyes* (6:30 pm)

Monday - Grades 7 - 12

McMonday in Walhalla at Hardees (7:00 am)

Tuesdays - Grades 7 - 12

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

Wednesdays - Grades 1 - 12

- CROSS Club for Kids* (5:15 pm)
- PEP for Youth* (6:15 pm)

Children

While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about. ~Angela Schwindt

We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today. ~Stacia Tauscher



The deadline for submissions to the next *Navigator* will be **TUESDAY, March 22, 2011 at noon!**
Thank you for your help!



Congregational Care Notes

by Jeff Childress



We Extend Our Sincere Sympathies to:

- **Pat Garretson** and her family on the death of her husband, **Jim Garretson**. A celebration of his life was held February 19 at Saint Mark. Jim's daughter, Anne Ewing, and granddaughter, Emily Ewing, are also members at Saint Mark.
- **Robin McMahan and Sandie Woodworth** and their families on the death of their mother, **Trudie Sutter**.
- **Martha Steele** and her family on the death of her sister, **Joanna Buchner**. Her funeral was held February 22 in Richmond, Virginia.
- **Jeanette Martin** and her family on the death of her brother, **W.C. "Bill" Meeks**. His funeral was held February 21 in Cornelia, Georgia.
- **Joyce Thompson** and her family on the death of her brother, **John Harrison**, in Surfside Beach, South Carolina.

Congratulations to:

- **Bill and Jan Jerome** on the birth of their new granddaughter, **Hailey Michelle Jerome**, born February 22 to parents Bob and Lauren Jerome in Savannah, Georgia.
- **Mike and Judy Hopp** on the birth of their new granddaughter, **Amelia Lee Hopp**, born January 25 to parents Thomas and Brianne Hopp in Amesbury, Massachusetts.

Personal Prayer Notes

Harold Alley – Recovering at home from pneumonia

Jeff Cain – Continuing under doctor's care for cancer

Dottie Carbee – Recovering at home from broken femur and recent hip replacement surgery

Bill Darling – With recent good report from doctors that he is cancer free!

Lynn Dobson – Continuing recovery at home following recent surgeries

Maryellen Grimshaw – Continuing recovery at home following back surgery

Melody Holley - Under doctor's care for continuing health concerns

Marc Holmes – Son of Gene and Eleanor Holmes, in rapidly declining health

Carolyn Keese – Undergoing series of radiation treatments for breast cancer, and with recent good pathology report!

Anne Lee – Half way through her series of treatments for breast cancer

Bea Moore – Recovering at home following recent shoulder replacement surgery

Suzanne Pruitt – Former St. Mark staff member, undergoing chemotherapy treatments for metastatic breast cancer

Bobbie Rebell – Recovering from recent carotid artery surgery

Howard Rich – Brother of Lee Rich, finishing radiation and chemotherapy treatments for cancer

Jeff Ritts – Son of Paul and Dorothy Ritts, recovering from recent surgery in Greenville

Paul Ritts – Undergoing rehabilitation therapy at Seneca Health and Rehab following hospitalization for pneumonia

Phyllis Storm – Undergoing rehabilitation therapy at Lila Doyle following hospitalization for stroke

Gene Strickler – Receiving rehabilitation therapy at AnMed Rehab Hospital following hospitalization for pneumonia and flu

Gail Taylor – Continuing rehabilitation therapy and under doctor's care at Lila Doyle

Howard VanDenburgh – Brother of Bea Moore, receiving treatments for neuroendocrine carcinoma in Ocala, Florida

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

Worship Writings

As Saint Mark moves through the liturgical year, many symbols are present to remind us of the importance of each church season. Understanding the meaning of color, one of the most significant symbols, can enhance the worship experience. You may have already noticed the colors around the church change from time to time. They change to reflect the meaning and mood of the season which they represent. Throughout the year, the Worship Ministry Team would like to present a series of articles to explain what the colors mean when they change.

The most prominent colors are probably those you notice in the paraments, which are the liturgical hangings on and around the altar, as well as the cloths hanging from the pulpit and lectern and in the Saint Mark Center. Clergy stoles also have the symbolic color.

The next change will occur when the colors of Lent are displayed beginning Ash Wednesday, March 9. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use **purple** which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Purple is not a festive color!

Purple also has a connotation of royal dignity. It was an expensive color in the ancient world, worn almost exclusively by royalty. The dye that was used to make the color was painstakingly acquired by massaging the neck of a Mediterranean shell fish that secreted a special fluid.

Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented him, Mark 15:16-20 records they placed a "purple robe" on him to ridicule and belittle him. Therefore, purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a visual reminder of the contempt and scorn the Lord endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for us. Ecclesiastical purple reminds Christians of the daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.

But truly, Lenten purple symbolizes not only the Savior's suffering and death, but also our anticipation of the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Next month: Eastertide.

- Worship Ministry Team



Steve's Log

Dr. Steven Morgan, Senior Pastor



New Theme Charts New Path for the New Year

Last year – 2010 – was a wonderful year of ministry, surely one of the most meaningful I have known and shared with a congregation.

What gave it its special and additional meaning, I believe, was our focusing on and exploring the year-long theme of *Practicing the Presence of God*.

What we re-discovered and experienced was the great spiritual truth that *when you conscientiously and consistently focus your attention* on a spiritual theme, we grow closer to God and to one another along the lines of that theme.

Our follow-up theme for 2011 is this:

Living Into the Purposes of God

We discovered anew that the result of deliberately practicing God's presence was the desire to serve God. So, the heart asks the question: *What are God's purposes?*

Our Council of Stewards has adopted many exciting goals which will serve as avenues to explore the question.

I hope you will plug into many of them, especially those related to the upcoming holy season of Lent. May this be one of the most meaningful Lenten Seasons and years ever!

Blessings,
Steve

Faith Matters for January 30 - February 20, 2011

Attendance, Sunday, January 30

Sunday School	253
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	101
9:15 am Celebration	197
11:15 am Traditional	196
Total Worship	494

Attendance, Sunday, February 6

Sunday School	272
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	115
9:15 am Celebration	227
11:15 am Traditional	150
Total Worship	492

Attendance, Sunday, February 13

Sunday School	266
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	111
9:15 am Celebration	166
11:15 am Traditional	143
Total Worship	420

Attendance, Sunday, February 20

Sunday School	238
Worship 8:15 am Traditional	102
9:15 am Celebration	169
11:15 am Traditional	166
Total Worship	437

Financial Information as of February 13, 2011

2011 Budget to Date (7 weeks)	\$138,264
2011 Budget Income to Date (7 weeks)	\$129,100
<i>2010 Budget Income (7 weeks)</i>	<i>\$155,166</i>
2011 Budget Expenses to Date	\$112,616

Mortgage Balances:

2008 Mortgage	\$1,595,497
1995 Mortgage	\$64,394

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



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EDUCATION UPDATE

Attendance and Offering Collection Procedure

Several months ago we tried a new procedure for collecting Sunday School Class attendance records and offerings. It has worked moderately well to have class representatives bring the information to Faye Monk's office door. However, the Education Ministry Team wants to make sure that our records are as accurate as possible and simpler for you.



Sometime in March, we will switch to a system where each class will have its own folder that will include the following:

- An annual Attendance Sheet for your class that someone in your class will fill out and place back into the folder
- An envelope for your offering that you will put back in the folder once the offering is collected.
- Announcements/Memos
- Class Mail

The folder will be located in your classroom on Sunday mornings. There will be a wall pocket just outside your classroom door. When you take attendance and collect your offering, you will simply place the folder outside your classroom door in the wall pocket. Someone will come by to pick it up after Sunday School. We hope you will find this procedure more manageable. Marla will let you know of the exact date this system will begin.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION UPDATE

Growing YOU Spring Quarter Classes/Studies

Watch for information about upcoming classes, studies and groups that will be offered during our Spring Quarter that begins on March 13 and continues through May. You will be able to register for these classes during the first week in March. Look in the literature rack in the atrium, and watch for information on our Grapevine (you will receive an email).



You Are Invited to Fast During Lent



Fasting during Lent is a recognized Lenten tradition in the Christian faith. For our Catholic brothers and sisters, it is a requirement. For Protestants, it is an opportunity for us to participate in this time honored practice, in solidarity with the many Christians around the world who will be sacrificially giving up something of value to remember what Christ gave up for us – His very life. During Lent, you may decide to give up a favorite food or drink (e.g. chocolate, alcohol) or preferred activity (e.g., going to the movies, playing video games, etc.), and during that time you would have taken to engage in the thing you give up, you may choose to take on a Lenten discipline such as prayer, study, devotions, volunteering for charity work, and so on.

Before Ash Wednesday, (March 9), you will have the opportunity to make a public commitment to fast from something during the season of Lent, choosing instead a Lenten discipline. Commitment forms will be available during worship two Sundays before Lent, or you can find a commitment form in the literature rack in the atrium.

Lenten Study

One of our Growing YOU offerings for spring is a Lenten book study. We will be reflecting on our 2011 theme of *Living Into the Purposes of God*, considering God's Purposes both for us in community - using Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* - and God's Purposes for us as individuals - drawing from the book *The Four Agreements*. In keeping with the Season of Lent, the purpose will be to provide the opportunity for sincere introspection and self-examination, a traditional Lenten practice or discipline, so we may become the persons God created us to be. For questions or to participate, please contact **Marla** at 882-2603 or email her at mfuller@saintmarkumcseneca.org.



Lenten Devotions

Your Lenten Devotional, will be available beginning on Sunday, March 6. If you are on the Grapevine distribution List you will receive your daily devotion by email. If you are not on the distribution list, please contact **Marla Fuller** at the church office 882-2603. A limited number of printed copies will be available in the atrium and in the Narthex for those who do not have internet service.

Living Into the Purposes of God

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, He had His eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone.

—Eph 1:11-12 (The Message)



Focus on Volunteers

Worship Matters for Sunday, March 6, 2011

Acolytes: Leslie Lamson-Scribner (8:15 am); Courtney Johnson (11:15 am); **Altar:** Nancy Walker (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Neil and Lisa Carney (9:15 am); **Children's Church:** Jill Seitz; **Counters:** Vic Holley, Pat Barnes; **Greeters:** Emily Sluder, Dianne Smith (8:15 am); Chuck and Janna Smith (9:15 am); Bill and Andrea Paulson (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Martha Steele (8:15 am); Gruber Sires (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Adam Boggs (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Lori Lucia; **Sound:** John Prescott (8:15 am); Russ Poston (9:15 am); Russ Poston (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Fred Rollison; **Ushers:** Steve Figueroa (Head), Marlene Edlund, Gene Strickler, Nancy Evatt (8:15 am); Jim Morrison (Head), Art and Diane Hirt, Bonnie Holmes (11:15 am)

Worship Matters for Sunday, March 13, 2011

Acolytes: Kelsey Sauer, Gabe Sanders (8:15 am); Hayley Pearson, Evan Cherry (11:15 am); **Altar:** Joyce Carney (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Bart Sauer (9:15 am); **Children's Church:** Linda Skene; **Communion Servers:** Joan Chittenden, Gladys Chastain, Janet Kehl (8:15 am); Doug and Charlotte Hirt, Deryl and Carolyn Keese, Keith and Meg Anderson (9:15 am); Ed McCann, Bobbie Rebell, Jens Holley (11:15 am); **Counters:** John Wilson, Pat Barnes; **Greeters:** Tom and Carol Christensen (8:15 am); Terry and Elaine Swanson (9:15 am); Florence Hanzel, Jim Morrison (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Janet Kehl (8:15 am); David Schultz (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Mike Wallace (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Mary Barnette, Sarah Boylston (9:15 am); **Sound:** Greg Wales (8:15 am); Gladys Chastain (9:15 am); Jeff Pearson (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Jane Hughey; **Ushers:** Al Diussa (Head), Bob Holmes, Skip and Joyce Soderdahl (8:15 am); Jim Morrison (Head), Art and Diane Hirt, Bonnie Holmes (11:15 am)

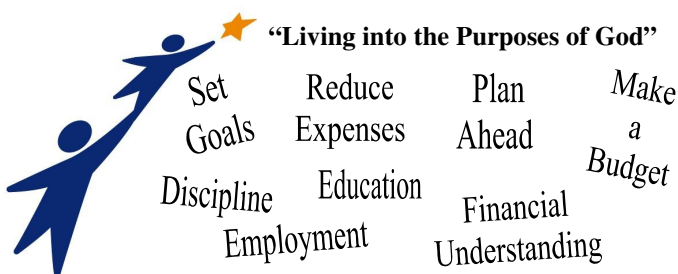
Worship Matters for Sunday, March 20, 2011

Acolytes: Casey Baldwin (8:15 am); Sara Beth Wilson (11:15 am); **Altar:** Sheryl Cherry, Lilly Blue (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Neil and Lisa Carney (9:15 am); **Children's Church:** Debbie Wallace; **Counters:** John Wilson, Bill Nelson; **Greeters:** David and Polly Harshbarger (8:15 am); Ray and Ginny Lightfoot (9:15 am); Gruber and Ann Sires (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Gene Snyder (8:15 am); Janet Kehl (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Anna Baldwin (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Carol Detwiler (9:15 am); **Sound:** Jack Davis (8:15 am); Basil Carney (9:15 am); Mike Baldwin (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Joyce Carney; **Ushers:** Warren Wiese (Head), Tom Christensen, Ray Lightfoot, Andy Kehl (8:15 am); Jim Morrison (Head), Bill and Sandy Nelson (11:15 am)

Worship Matters for Sunday, March 27, 2011

Acolytes: Emily Bibb (8:15 am); Andy Stein (11:15 am); **Altar:** Carolyn Keese (9:15 am); **Chairs:** Deryl and Carolyn Keese (9:15 am); **Children's Church:** Paige Lowe; **Counters:** Vic Holley, Jens Holley; **Greeters:** El and Kathy Henry (8:15 am); Allan and Roxann Van Heusen (9:15 am); Fred and Hallie Mappus (11:15 am); **Lay Readers:** Jean Rogers (8:15 am); Gene Snyder (11:15 am); **Projectionist:** Bob Dobson (9:15 am); **Refreshments:** Kelly Pew (9:15 am); **Sound:** Jane Barker (8:15 am); Gladys Chastain (9:15 am); Basil Carney (11:15 am); **Stephen Minister:** Jean Rogers; **Ushers:** Richard Christensen (Head), Phyllis Christensen, John and Martha Steele (8:15 am); Jim Morrison (Head), Frank and Dottie Carbee (11:15 am)

LIFE-SKILLS MENTORING



Help the children by helping the parents.
Create HOPE amid hopelessness.

To learn more about program structure, mentor training, applicant screening process -- contact

Jane Brosnan: 944-2138; janebrosnan@gmail.com

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? – Celebration Service Altar Designers

We need altar setup persons for the Celebration Service, who will use the Scripture lesson for that Sunday as the basis for the theme. These persons will set up the altar every other month or on the 5th Sundays. If you are interested and would like to use your gifts and talents to create meaningful designs, please contact **Bob Dobson** at 888-2306 or you can email him at 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.

Spotlight on Members and Group Events



Church Family Night Saint Mark Center

Wednesday, March 2 at 5:30 pm -

- **Adult's Menu:** Chicken Fettuccine w/Spinach and Cheese Sauce, Side Salad, Rolls and Dessert
- **Children's Menu:** Chicken Tenders
- **Hospitality Group E serving**

Wednesday, March 9 at 5:30 pm - Ash Wednesday

- **Adult's and Children's Menu:** Beans and Rice, Cole Slaw, Corn Bread, Fruit and Water
- **Hospitality Group A serving**

Wednesday, March 16 at 5:30 pm -

- **Adult's Menu:** Salad Bar - Baked Potato, Garden, Chicken, Pasta, Fruit, etc. and Dessert
- **Children's Menu:** Pizza
- **Hospitality Group B serving**

Wednesday, March 23 at 5:30 pm

- **Adult and Children's Menu:** Deli Sandwich (Turkey, Ham, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles), Chips and Dessert
- **Hospitality Group C serving**

Wednesday, March 30 at 5:30 pm

- **Adult Menu:** Roasted Pork Loin, Green Beans, Creamed Potatoes, Rolls and Dessert
- **Children's Menu:** Corn Dogs
- **Hospitality Group D serving**

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

Want to Take a Vicarious Trip to the Holy Land? You Can on March 2!



At Church Family Night on Wednesday, March 2 our 2011 Saint Mark Holy Land pilgrimage group will present reflections from their recent trip to Israel.

The presentation will include photographs and personal comments from many of the participants about their experiences.

The program will begin at 6:15 p.m. after the dinner.



Memorials and Honorariums

The following gifts have been received recently:

- In Support of **Kairos Ministry** by Don Fincannon
- In Memory of **Jack Stephenson** by Fred and Betty Rollison

CDC News:

Generous Donor Replaces Rail

A potential hazard in our Child Development Center has been replaced. The open railings in the stairwell were an invitation for a serious accident. A child could have fallen through so easily. Fortunately, 3-year-old Dylan's grandfather did see the potential hazard, when he took his grandson to class, and he brought it to Director Carolynne's attention, who immediately alerted our Trustees. They, in turn, arranged for safe railings to be installed at a cost of \$2,800.



Here's the rest of the story! Dylan's grandfather, **Mr. Sandy Sandifer**, said that he realized how difficult it is for a church to meet unexpected emergency funds and he donated the entire cost for this project! Mr. Sandifer is an active member of Westminster Baptist Church. Thank you, Dylan's Grandpa, from the CDC and all of Saint Mark for your generous Christian act of kindness!

Pedometer Program (continued from front page)



You can choose one of three options, outlined on the commitment form. You can also register on the church website at saintmarkumcseneca.org.

We will launch our *Walking With God Pedometer Program* with a walk around the Adams neighborhood on Sunday, March 6 at 3:30 pm. For more information, contact **Jody Gaulin** at 882-5036 or email her at Jody.G.Gaulin@JCI.com

Lenten Offering

A Lenten offering folder will be available to the congregation as we celebrate Lenten communion on March 13. Each folder can be filled with an offering of one quarter per day throughout this season of Lent. Folders will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 24. All proceeds will go to the Neighbors in Need fund and the Rosa Clark Clinic. As we share our many gifts that we have been given, through this offering, we will help to improve the lives of others in our community.



Thank You Notes!!!

To all my dear friends at Saint Mark,
Thank you for your cards, calls and prayers. I am back home and am fine. Saint Mark is such a wonderful church. It's no wonder I love this church. The caring, loving people here at Saint Mark are an inspiration to me. God bless you all.
With love, **Art Rogers**

My family wishes to express our heartfelt thanks for the many kindnesses shown us during the illness and death of my husband, **Jack**. The many visits by **Steve, Jeff**, the Caring Ministry, and members of our Church always came at a time when we were most in need of support. Jack really appreciated the lovely prayer quilt during his hospitalization, and our whole family was deeply moved by the memorial service, especially by the lovely singing of the choir. A special thanks to the UMW for the delicious lunch they provided; they gave new meaning to the phrase "comfort food." Our sincere thanks go to all who sent cards, prepared food, or offered their condolences. Mere words cannot express our gratitude for the loving concern we experienced. May God bless you all.
Mona Stephenson & family

Around the Church and Community



MUSIC NOTES with David Wilcox



The Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra will present ELIJAH by Felix Mendelssohn, on Palm Sunday, April 17, at 7:00 pm. Guest soloists will be Tom Dickinson and Chuck Chandler. Tom teaches voice at the Governors School for Arts and Humanities in Greenville; Chuck teaches voice at Shorter College in Rome, GA. This is a monumental work on the scope of Handel's MESSIAH. Please join us and invite your friends for this special presentation.

Special Music Ministry Programs for 2011

- Wings Acts of Kindness Theater, Sunday, April 3, 6:30 pm
- Palm Sunday, April 17, 7:00 pm Chancel Choir presents Elijah
- Good Friday Service, April 22, 7:00 pm; music by Chancel Choir and Saint Mark Ringers
- CROSS Club Musical – “Grace” – Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 pm
- Wings Homecoming Concert – Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 pm
- A Great Day of Singing – Sunday, October 30
- Children's Sabbath, Sunday, October 9
- Sing-a-Long Messiah, Sunday, November 27, 5:00 pm
- Wings Dessert Theatre, Sunday, December 4
- All Choirs Christmas, Sunday, December 11 (8:45 and 11:00 am)
- Service of Lessons & Carols, (music by John Rutter) Sunday, December 18, 4:00 pm

The Celebration of Youth Concert will be presented by the GAMAC Orchestra, Boychoir, and Girl Choir on Friday, March 25, 8:00 pm Henderson Auditorium, Anderson University. The concert will also feature Seth Gilliard, a junior violinist at Furman who won the concerto competition. He will play Introduction and Rondo Capriccio by Camille Saint-Saëns. For ticket information call 864-231-6147.

The Anderson Chapter of the American Guild of Organist will present a members recital, Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 pm at Boulevard Baptist Church, Anderson, SC. The program is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the program. I am the Dean for the Chapter and will be one of the performers.

- David Wilcox

Easter Lilies Available Soon

The time is fast approaching for ordering the beautiful lilies that grace our church at Easter. Be looking for order forms in the Sunday bulletins, in the Atrium, and also through the *Grapevine* later this month. We are researching where to get the most beautiful plants for the most reasonable price for you. This information will be available soon. If you have questions regarding the lilies, please call **Barbara Stephenson** at 882-8040.

Thank you, **Worship Ministry Team**



Young Adult Ministries

Our young adults (after high school through twenties) meet the first and third Tuesdays each month at 7:30 pm. Please contact **Donna**, 882-2603 or dposton@saintmarkumcseneca.org, if you are interested in joining us.



Wings for the Lord Presents Acts of Kindness Theater Sunday, April 3, 6:30 pm

This spring, *Wings* will present songs and skits about “kindness and love”. We will have an hors d’oeuvre buffet and will “auction” our youth off to you to help you with “chores, babysitting, cooking, etc.” **Tickets will go on sale March 13.** All proceeds from tickets and auction go toward summer choir tour.

M.E.T.S. are “Traveling” in March



- When:** Thursday, March 31
Where: Billy Graham Library, Charlotte, NC tour at 12:30 pm
Time: Those riding the church bus meet in church parking lot at 8:30 am. The bus will leave promptly at 8:45 am.
Cost: **Admission** to the Library is FREE; **Lunch** will be available before the tour at the cafeteria on campus; **Cost for bus riders** is \$10 per person to help with gas.
RSVP: No later than Monday, March 21. Contact **Claudia Smith** at 944-9914 or smit5324@bellsouth.net.

Ride for Life 2011



The “Ride for Life” is a three day charity bicycle ride from Seneca to the coast that raises money for the Foothills Pregnancy Care Center. This year’s ride will be from Seneca to Hunting Island (Beaufort) on June 23rd, 24th, and 25th. If you think you may be interested in participating as a rider or a support person, you can come to the **Ride for Life 2011** kickoff meeting in the Commons Room on Tuesday, March 15th, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. For more information contact **Jeff Pearson** at 882-6212 and visit the web site at <http://www.scrife4life.com>.

Attention All Walkers, Joggers and Runners Ages 9 and Under Thru 80 and Over



On April 16, Chick-fil-A is sponsoring several races in support of Volunteers in Medical Missions at South Cove Park in Seneca.

- 100 meter - children age 9 and under
- 1 mile - children age 12 and under
- 5 kilometers (3.1 mile) - age 11 and under thru 80 and over

April 16 is not that far away. If you have not been training because of inclement weather or some other reason, start now. For additional information, consult the poster in the atrium. Entry forms also available at the poster. **- Bob Gray 888-1812**