



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

Spirit & Service Sundays

(First Sunday of the Month)

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Christian Education & Spiritual Formation

Welcome to Christian Formation Ministry at Saint Mark. We hope to foster a strong sense of Christian community by educating people of all ages. Christian Formation is based on our Theory of Core Values, which has been developed with young children in mind. Through age-appropriate lessons, we hope to lay a strong foundation for a life-long relationship with Christ. For adults, we hope to build upon this foundation and further our desire and enable us to be disciples of Christ.

There are a number of ways to be involved in Christian Formation. You can teach a Sunday School class, help with a Youth activity or participate in or lead an adult education class. You are also invited to join the Christian Formation Ministry team behind the scenes by helping to design children, youth, adult, or inter-generational activities or simply by being present at our monthly meetings to provide feedback and ideas as we discuss the rich Christian Formation community at Saint Mark.

Finance

The Finance Ministry (FMT) organizes and guides the financial administration and financial support of the church. The FMT is chaired by an elder serving on the current session and consists of several members including the treasurer who makes sure the paper work is done properly for accurate record keeping and pays the bills that are submitted. Our main purpose is to help the Saint Mark ministries draft their annual budgets, to provide monthly expenditure reports, target income and expenses for the year and to develop long-range financial plans and strategies. Our financial records are audited annually by a CPA to ensure accountability.

The FMT also is responsible for recruiting a team of “counters” which counts the collection plate and other income on a weekly basis after the Sunday services for deposit at our local bank. The Pledge Secretary and FMT work closely to accurately record contributions and distribute statements for tax purposes. FMT also manages the Saint Mark security investments, which total over a million dollars. Everyone is welcome to join the ministry - no financial experience is necessary. If you are interested in working with this ministry, we guarantee that you will learn some financial acumen in addition to knowing that you are helping with the financial plans and strategies for the future of Saint Mark.

Global Mission

The Global Mission Ministry works prayerfully to support Saint Mark's stated Mission to "listen and respond to the needs of the world." In 2010, we have worked to answer God's call through contributing to disaster relief efforts across five continents as close to home as the Gulf coast and as far away as flood ravaged Pakistan. In addition to our work to be responsive to needs resulting from disasters, we also focus on on-going needs in troubled areas and on creating partnerships and friendships with our brothers and sisters around the world. Through Global Mission, Saint Mark has long-standing relationships with people and organizations in Haiti, Cameroon, and Lithuania and has participated in mission trips to all three countries over the years. As many of you are aware, through the generous contributions of Saint Mark members, visitors, and friends, we have raised approximately \$18,000 for disaster earthquake relief in Haiti. In addition, through the leadership of Roy Howard and many of our members, Saint Mark organized the recent D.C. area tour of the Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti which to date has raised nearly \$50,000 for the rebuilding efforts of the Saint Joseph's Family, an organization with which we have had close personal ties for several years. Across the world in Cameroon, we are working to facilitate and fund the building of a well for the people of the village of Tchekos. In Lithuania, we have a long-term relationship with Co-Missionaries Becky and Eric Hinderliter who serve the PCUSA at the Lithuanian Christian College International University. The Global Mission Ministry is blessed by the generosity of the people of Saint Mark. We take our responsibility seriously as we strive to hear God's call throughout the world.

Local Mission

Simply stated, Saint Mark's Local Mission Ministry is the embodiment of Christ's call for us to love one another as He loves us. Our response to this call is revealed in our sharing of our time and resources to foster relationships with and support individuals and groups who work to help those in our community who are hungry, who are sick, who have no voice.

Would you like to get involved in our mission? There are many opportunities and many needs! For instance, our Friends in Action team mentors a local family who needs help with finding work, developing family budgets, navigating county services, and other life skills that we all need to succeed. Our Macdonell Scotland Scholarship project helps qualifying low-income students who live at the Scotland Community find ways to make college a reality. Saint Mark's annual Shelter Week uses volunteers from our church community to prepare and serve food at a local homeless shelter. Or maybe you'd like to volunteer at Manna Food Center with other members of the church one Sunday each month or help out at Mercy Health Clinic.

These are just a few of the numerous ways in which you can use your time and energy to carry out God's call in our world. Please visit a Local Mission meeting to find out more or contact Barbara Welsh, Elder for Local Mission or Tina Moulton, Convener.

Parish Life

The heart of Christian community lies at the intersection of its people in the sharing of activities through fellowship and in support of one another in every day life. Luther said that the church is "the assembly of people who believe in Christ," and that "with this church one should be connected and see how the people believe, live and teach." In doing so, "they certainly have Christ in their midst."

The Parish Life Ministry is centered on bringing the spirit of sharing and community to members across the congregation in a number of ways, integrating members of all ages and with varied interests into the life and ministry of the church, and helping them to find a place of belonging both for service and for their own spiritual nurture. Likewise, the volunteer opportunities within Parish Life are abundant and varied. *(Continued)*

Parish Life coordinates opportunities on Sunday mornings for fellowship, including providing refreshments and hospitality between worship services (after service in the summer); works with other ministries to coordinate special events such as celebratory and memorial receptions at Saint Mark; and identifies and coordinates fellowship opportunities outside of Saint Mark such as the “Progressive Dinner”. The possibilities are endless and all contributions, ideas and efforts-no matter how small-are valued and welcomed.

Property

Primary purpose of Saint Mark’s Property Ministry is to maintain the health, safety and welfare of anyone while on the premises of Saint Mark property. Those goals are accomplished by a Property Ministry - ideally made up of nine individuals that perform as project managers for a particular area of responsibility related to Saint Mark’s buildings and grounds. The property project managers have coordination responsibilities for the following areas:

1. General Property Administration - Management of day to day operations of Saint Mark facilities
2. Grounds
3. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing related issues
4. General construction (non mechanical, electrical, and plumbing)
Maintenance and repairs - interior and exterior of all buildings
5. Safety, security and risk management
6. Facility renters and outside users
7. Audio/visual and IT (Information Technology) equipment and infrastructure
8. Aesthetic coordination for buildings which include: interior architecture, finishes, lighting, furniture, furnishings, flowers and special event decorations
9. Strategic planning and the development of Facility Use Policies and Procedures

Stewardship

The Stewardship ministry team seeks to lead the congregation in being faithful stewards of our lives, including wise management of all our resources. We think of biblical stewardship as not narrowly focused on raising money to sustain our ministries, but rather on the wider vision of stewardship as a way of life. This vision includes raising money by encouraging tithing and proportional giving of our incomes, but it goes much further than that in searching for the ways we can be joyful in sharing all the gifts of our lives, and especially with caring for God's creation. This is why we have a strong environmental focus. Our ministry also includes Planned Giving, Estate Planning and Wills emphasis as aspects of what it is to be faithful with our resources even after death. We very much would like to you to join us. Whether your interest is environmental stewardship, financial planning and fund raising, or wise management of resources, it's all about stewardship as a way of life.

Welcoming

Ours is a sharing faith. After the resurrection Jesus commissioned the disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Our Book of Order states that the first responsibility of the Session is "to provide opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced in and by the church, that members may be better equipped to articulate their faith, to witness in word and deed to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and to invite persons into a new life in Christ, in accordance with G-3.0300" (G-10.0102) Evangelism is a lifestyle that is to be lived, taught, preached and believed by the whole congregation. It is a serious responsibility, requiring serious hospitality. Hospitality is very different from friendliness to people like us. We are called to provide hospitality to everyone. The Saint Mark Welcoming Ministry helps to provide opportunities for our members to practice sharing the good news as well as receiving visitors, and helping with preparing new members for joining our congregation. We also work to help our new members find their gifts and the joy of service. Another activity is helping to host special events that outreach to our neighbors and the greater community.

We would love for you to join us in this ministry of welcoming all people to our community. We have a variety of ways you can participate within a time crunched schedule. Please let us know. Nothing is more important to the growth of a congregation than a personal welcoming.

Worship & Music

God created humankind to honor and praise Him as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In a very real sense, everything we do at Saint Mark (whether it be under the aegis of Global Mission, Local Mission, Christian Formation, even Property and Personnel) is done in praise of God. However, our communal worship is the one enterprise in which everyone (whether a founding member, a visitor, a child, an elder or a skeptic) finds a role and a responsibility. Our worship as liturgy is “the work of the people” and thus requires active participation and personal commitment. At worship it is God who is the audience not the congregation. Each person contributes everything he or she has – heart, voice, mind, attention – to the glory of God.

The Worship and Music Ministry is charged with facilitating the active participation of all who care to join in communal worship. We insure that the mechanics of the worship service are operating. This includes sanctuary preparation, usher scheduling and training, sound operation, preparations for the rites of Communion and Baptism and many other scene setting activities.

There is surely no sound on earth more pleasing to God than that of an ordinary congregation singing its heart out. At Saint Mark Presbyterian Church we hope that silent spectators will become active participants.

The Chancel Choir and the cantors help to lead our services. If it is true that music and song accompany all spiritual revivals and are essential in deepening spiritual life, the choir is an instrument of the Lord through which his message may reach the hearts of the congregation.

Jesus declared, “You did not chose me, but I chose you...”. We aspire to acknowledge this grace and trust with all of our strength and heart.