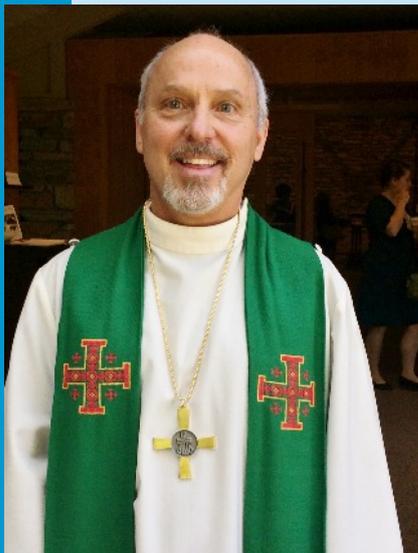


God's Generosity, My Giving



GratITUDE is the key to a life filled with a sense of deep joy. It is also the source of generosity. As Christians we are taught to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will in Jesus Christ for us. Our gratitude is a response to God's gift of life.

At Saint Mark we are the recipients of God's blessings and our desire is to share those blessings with our neighbors. This is the vision and the commitment of the pastors and our music leaders. Our mission is to share the goodness of God with all.

The White Flint corridor continues to be a particular focus of our attention because of the large number of people moving into the neighborhood. Faith in Pub(lic) is a small group meeting in a restaurant in that area. We hope this will flourish with more strangers coming to join the conversation. Engaging the congregation and community in conversations about important matters is another way we will respond to the call of God. That includes conversations about the environment, the current immigration/refugee crisis, increasing violence and what it means to be an inclusive community of Christ in a seriously divided society.



With responsibility for directing the finance, administration and pastoral care of the church, our leadership team (elders and deacons) will continue meeting together each month for bible study, prayer and theological conversation. This has strengthened the spiritual life of our congregation and I believe it will bear fruit in greater service to our community. Having returned from a sabbatical with people from all over the world, I remain convinced that Saint Mark is on the path to being a congregation open to the Spirit, following the call of God in risky, courageous obedience.

God has given so much to us. We can only receive and then pay it forward with our own generosity. I hope you sense the same gratitude and will pledge generously to support the ministry of Saint Mark.

Pastor Roy Howard

Ministry Highlights

Parish Life / Christian Formation



Once again in 2015, the Parish Life Ministry has stepped up to the plate and worked effectively but unobtrusively to enhance the Saint Mark Community. From the now traditional summer Lemonade on the Lawn and All Church Sunday Picnic to the World Communion Sunday potluck with our brothers and sisters of Living Spring Community Church, Parish Life helps us set aside time to get to know those who are new among us, to share with old friends and to bring us all closer together in fellowship and service as a faith community.

Saint Mark believes in the importance of creating a supportive environment where people of all ages can feel comfortable asking tough questions about what it means to be a Christian, and to learn and grow in faith.

The congregation's financial commitment to the 2015 church budget helped to support:

- Sending 31 youth and 10 adults on three different transformative summer trips: Appalachia Service Project (11 youth and four adult participants); Montreat Youth Conference (15 youth and four adult participants) and Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia (five youth and two adult participants).

- Twenty-two children from the congregation and surrounding community to participate in Vacation Bible School.
- Weekly Sunday School programs for children and adult education forums from September through May; One Room Church School for children ages 3 through 10 from June through August.
- Youth ministry activities for grades 6-12, including Bible studies and discussions groups, bowling and movie nights, cooking meals for Crossway Community, volunteering with Interfaith Works and fundraising for summer mission trips.
- The purchase of new books for the library.

Through these and other programs supported by the congregation's commitment to Christian Formation, Saint Mark has helped to create new opportunities for children, youth, and adults to answer the call to serve God and our neighbors, and so to rediscover what it means to be a Christian.

Teddy Ferguson and Jennifer Carr

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." Using your pledges we work to answer God's call through contributing to disaster relief efforts and other mission-related work across five continents and within the United States.



- Saint Mark continues to support the organization *Hearts With Haiti*.
- In Cameroon, we have long-standing partnerships with the people of the villages of Tchekos and Ngoro.
- 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, while also contributing to the LCC scholarship fund.
- In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we support the *Congo Lotus Care Project*, which helps support women's health, and *Reve Kandale*, a non-profit organization working to improve local schools.
- We also focus on needs in troubled areas, working with our brothers and sisters around the world to respond to human suffering resulting from disasters.

Alison Dewey

Local Mission

Local Mission Ministry at Saint Mark has long-standing relationships with our community partners. We provide funding for projects through organizations such as Crossways Community, InterFaith Works, Rebuilding Together, Literacy Council, Bethesda Help, Bethesda Cares, Cornerstone, Action In Montgomery, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless and Habitat for Humanity.

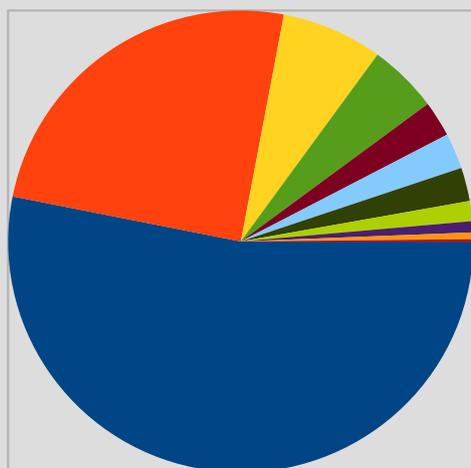
Our efforts also include service to our neighbors in need. Examples include preparing meals for a week in September to benefit the Women's Shelter, casseroles for Crossways, participating in construction projects with Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity, and involvement in advocacy for affordable housing through AIM. Saint Mark offers our education building and sanctuary as a reduced or no-cost meeting space for various community partners. The LMM introduces Saint Mark members and friends to opportunities to serve, putting faith into action by helping our neighbors.

Mary Casper



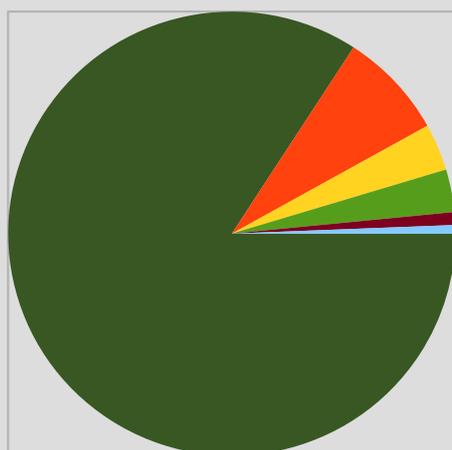
Saint Mark Budget 2015

Expenses - 2015



- Personnel
- Property
- Local Mission
- Finance
- Administration
- Global Mission
- Worship/Music
- Education
- Welcoming
- Youth Mission
- Parish Life

Income - 2015



- Pledges
- Building Use
- Loose Collections
- Internal Funds
- Investment Interest
- Per Capita

Saint Mark's operating expenses are substantial. The financial burden of personnel, utilities and property maintenance represents significant outlay and is essentially unavoidable. These costs must be managed and budgeted responsibly every year and Saint Mark's Session works hard to achieve this.

The Mission of our Church, the activities described in this brochure that help Saint Mark thrive, requires our generosity.

***Our pledges will directly impact our work in 2016.
What we give equips us for Mission.***

Responding to God's Generosity

What is Tithing?

1. It's making a VOLUNTARY, SYSTEMATIC contribution of financial support to your church.
2. VOLUNTARY: Giving out of love and gratitude for all God gives you.
3. SYSTEMATIC: Giving a predetermined portion of income.
4. The Old Testament Guideline for GIVING was a "tithe" - or tenth - of total property.

And of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you.

Genesis 28:22

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income.

1 Corinthians 16:2

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.

Proverbs 3:9

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Things to do...

1. Pray for God's leading as you consider your pledge.
2. If you've never pledged before, make a commitment to pledge.
3. If you pledge regularly, consider increasing your pledge by at least 1% of your income.
4. If you're not able to pledge at this time, please indicate this on the card and hand it in. This will help us set a realistic annual budget.

Enrich your life

A regular plan for giving enables us to offer ourselves in service and devotion to God. We become stronger in faith, more aware of others' needs and we experience the joy of sharing with one another in Christ.

BRING your pledge card to church on Consecration Sunday, November 1, 2015.

STAY for a Celebratory Lunch.

Pastoral Staff



Pastor / Head of Staff

Rev. Dr. Roy Howard

Associate Pastor

Rev. Shelby Etheridge Harasty

Director of Music

Jeffrey J. Doenges

Office Administrator

Christina Stefanelli

Consecration Sunday Service

9:30 am, November 1, 2015

Our Core Values

Relying on the grace of God, we the people of Saint Mark seek to be a community where spirit and service come together.

With faith in God through Jesus Christ we honor these core values:

Commitment: We offer ourselves, our time, our gifts and our resources to the service of God.

Community: We are a caring family of faith, honoring the gifts of all people and celebrating our life together.

Compassion: We care for all God's children, responding to those in pain and nurturing one another in love.

Hospitality: We welcome everyone to share with us in the community of Christ.

Mission: We listen and respond to the needs of the world, reaching out to serve others in our community and throughout the world.

Spiritual Growth: We grow closer to God through the disciplines of prayer, study, service and worship.

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