

REMARKS

Volume 40
Number 1

January 2011



**EPIPHANY
SERVICE**

**January 6
7 p.m.**

**Join us at 6:15 p.m. for the
King's Cake celebration in
the Gathering Place**



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

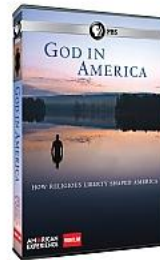
January 30th

**Following the 10 a.m.
worship service**

Congregational Meeting

**To approve the 2011 Budget
and**

**Annual Reports will be
available on
Sunday, Jan. 16th.**



**God in
America
Jan. 12 to
Feb. 16**

6:00-7:30 pm

Large Conference Room

Join us as we view the PBS series
God in America and discuss how
religion has shaped our nation.
Feel free to bring dinner to class.

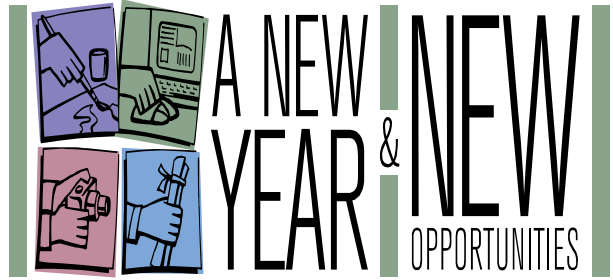
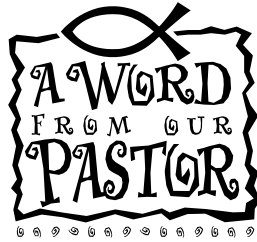
IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Pastor's Message..... | 2 |
| Church Council Update..... | 3 |
| Youth Ministries..... | 4 |
| Finance Committee..... | 5 |
| Stephen Ministry..... | 6 |
| Letter from Connolly Family..... | 7 |
| January Calendar..... | 8 |
| January Service Blocks..... | 9 |
| Gifts & Memorials..... | 10 & 11 |



“ GROWING DISCIPLES - MAKING CHRIST KNOWN ”

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Where shall we go in this new year? What shall we do with the gifts we have? Where does the journey of faith lead us? No one but God can answer these questions so it would seem prudent to include God in the things we do, especially since God has already included us in the things that God does.

There is an old African saying that we can employ this year, especially if we add one ingredient.

*If you want to walk faster,
you walk alone.*

*If you want to walk farther,
you walk together.*

From our perspective, the position of faith we would add, "If you want to walk forever, walk with God."

In this new year let us remember that it is not how fast we walk, nor even really how far, but with Whom we walk. Walk with God and enjoy the journey, regardless of the pace.

*God's Love and mine,
Pastor Peter*

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

December 13, 2010 Meeting

- We are about 92% of the way through 2010 and expenses are running slightly ahead of income (by about \$6200). We have collected 82% of our pledges to date. Please fulfill your pledge commitments before December 31, 2010.
- Gifts and Memorials Committee: The income from the Endowment Fund is proposed to be distributed as follows:
 - Property Committee: (\$9698)
 - Synod: (\$9698)
 - \$4849 to Bishops Discretionary Fund to cover healthcare costs for Pastors between Calls.
 - \$4849 to fund seminary interns on behalf of small congregations that cannot pay for interns on their own.
 - Local community needs (\$9896) to help support Center for Community Transitions which is a program which assists female state prisoners as they transition into normal life.
- Proposed new Endowment Committee members are: Eileen Dunlap and Donn Toney (2011 – 2013 terms). Tim Berly will fill the 2010-11 term.
- Rick Rehn reported that as of December 14, we have 135 contributing pledges (out of about 300 potential pledges.) Currently we have total pledges of \$462,000 (as compared with last year's \$495,000 at this same time.) St. Mark's is going to have a very difficult time meeting the needs of 2011 Mission Plan if we cannot plan on a certain level of giving. We request that if you have not made a commitment to the 2011 Plan please do so as soon as possible.
- Chris Stevenson was elected to serve on the Personnel Committee

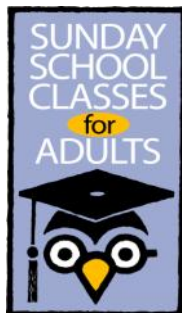
ANNUAL JANUARY CONGREGATION MEETING NOTICE

The Annual January Congregation Meeting of St. Mark's Lutheran Church will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday January 30, 2010 immediately following the 10 am service.



ANNUAL MEETING

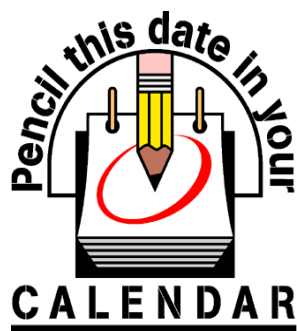
ADULT SUNDAY



**Classes begin at
8:45 a.m.
Grab a cup of coffee
and join the
conversation!**

Classes begin on January 9th.

**A new course brochure will
be emailed the week of
Jan. 3 and available in the
Gathering Place.**



**Vacation Bible
School**

**July 10-14, 2011
5-8 pm**

**Children will have a Big
Jungle Adventure!**

**Adults will have
classes too!!**

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 9 | Baptism Celebration Ray's Splash Planet 11:30-3:30pm |
| Jan. 28 | Movie Lock-in Night 7 pm– 9am |

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



**Family
Fellowship
Day**

**January 9th
11:30-3:30pm**

**Come celebrate Jesus' baptism!
We will have lunch with the
youth in the Fellowship Hall
and then go to Ray's Splash
Planet for swimming from
1:30-3:30 pm.**

**Cost: \$4 per child to swim.
Adults are free!**

FOCUS ON FAITH



Call on Faith, the new all-video smartphone "app" from Odyssey Networks, is available for the Droid, Blackberry and iPhone (plus the iTouch), offers multiple channels that feature inspiration, encouragement and information.

These include prayer, spirit boost, wise words, compassionate acts and meditations, with additional channels planned on such topics as news, parenting, music, addiction recovery and grieving. A number of faith leaders are represented on Call on Faith, including the Rev. Martin Marty, who offers an original prayer and shares a story of his personal faith journey.



FRIDAY'S AT 7:00 AM

**AT SHOWMAR'S ON
7TH & PECAN
JOIN IN THE FUN!!**



**Sunday Worship at
5:00 PM
in the Chapel.
With Pastor
Matthias Bechert**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**St. Mark's Financial Status as of
November 30th, 2010**

In Support of Our 2010 Ministries/Budget

| Nov. YTD Budget | Nov. YTD Actual | Over / (Under) Nov. YTD Receipts |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| \$619,333 | \$568,425 | (\$50,908) |

The Finance Committee monitors the monthly financial reports, watching for trends that need to be addressed. Please feel free to approach any member of Council or the Finance Committee if you have any questions regarding the Church's Finances. All requests for reimbursements and authorizations for the payment of invoices must be approved by the Committee Chairperson or the Committee's Council Liaison. ***Reimbursement for purchases will not be processed without the proper approval. Thank you for being good stewards of our resources!***



We celebrate with the following disciples of St. Mark's as they remember their baptism this month:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Geraldine Harbinson | Jan. 2 |
| Charlie Cox | Jan. 6 |
| Wendy Roberts | Jan. 7 |
| Elizabeth Conner | Jan. 8 |
| Marshall Payne | Jan. 9 |
| Clyde Shockley | Jan. 14 |
| Palmer Stevenson | Jan. 14 |
| Nanette Temple | Jan. 16 |
| Noah Dixon | Jan. 16 |
| Jim Middleswarth | Jan. 19 |
| Susan Hill | Jan. 21 |
| David Wyatt | Jan. 22 |
| Charlotte Hunter | Jan. 23 |
| Susan Ginns | Jan. 24 |
| Astrid Doyne | Jan. 29 |
| Ann Danello | Jan. 31 |



*"A Friend loves
AT ALL TIMES."*
Stephen Ministry
Is Here For You



Who might receive care from a Stephen Minister?

Our congregation has a group of people skilled in caring for those facing challenges in their lives. These people, called Stephen Ministers, have undergone extensive training to develop and nurture their caring skills. Our Stephen Ministers are working with people who are experiencing many different kinds of crises and stress in their lives.

Who might receive care from a Stephen Minister? Care receivers may be hospitalized, grieving the death of a loved one, separated or divorcing, homebound, unemployed, adjusting to the birth of a child, or otherwise experiencing difficulties.

Each of us has times when we are lonely, grieving, hurt, or in need of care. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells us that such troubles can bring spiritual growth to the sufferer. But when we who are in Christ suffer, we also find comfort through Christ, and one of the ways we find this comfort is through others who have found Christ's care and comfort in their sufferings (2 Corinthians 1:4-6). Our Stephen Ministers offer this Christlike care to those in need.

Think about your life and the lives of the people around you. Are you going through a time of crisis or challenge? Do you know someone who is suffering from grief or loneliness? Is one of your friends struggling to find meaning in life after he or she has retired or after all the children have gone? Could you or someone you know benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister?

If you have questions about the work of the Stephen Ministers in and around St. Mark's, feel free to call Stephen Leader Sarah Ingle at 704-529-6656. The people who are so generously giving of their time and talents as Stephen Ministers are listed here: Lisa Barnette, Lin Beaulieu, Flora Chance, Sarah Dagenhart, Bill Schwartz, Sue Schwartz and Lucas Zubrod. Please consider whether you know of someone who needs their care. Currently four are available. And I ask you to remember them and their ministries in your thoughts and prayers.



**Comfort those in any
trouble with the comfort
we ourselves have
received from God.**

2 Corinthians 1:4

iFeliz Navidad! クリスマス



Merry Christmas from the Connolly Family!



Sasebo, Japan is a wonderful place to live. We have had many adventures and learned so much since we have lived here!

The year began with John's first full deployment aboard the USS Harper's Ferry (LSD-49). They left in January for nearly four months that included stops in Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, and Okinawa and returned home in April. After a long summer at home, they left again in September for their Fall patrol, which lasted until late November. For John this has been an exciting year of ministry. He had the opportunity to lead Ash Wednesday services in Thailand, and Easter services off the coast of Korea. He also joined with the Lutheran Church of Singapore to celebrate Reformation Sunday with an afternoon service.

Maggie Rose (aka Maggie-chan) is thriving at Sakura-no-Seibo yochien. In March, her school year ended and she moved up to the Nencho year, which is made up of the oldest kids in the school. It has been a really fun year because the Nencho kids go on so many field trips. They have taken a train ride to a huge playground, visited the firehouse, picked tea, planted flowers and sweet potatoes, and even had a sleepover away from home! Meanwhile, she has continued her ballet lessons. She enjoys it, but is thrilled to be studying jazz dance too! She has also started taking piano lessons with a local lady who speaks English. In September, just before her 6th birthday, she lost her first tooth in a particularly spectacular way on a zip line; hopefully the rest will be less exciting.

Emma has been taking elementary Japanese lessons both through the University of Maryland courses on base and at a local Japanese language club in town. In April, she started teaching English at Seiwa Joshi Gakuin, which is an all-girl Catholic junior/senior high school. She teaches 8 lessons each week, which is the perfect amount.

In July, we took a long family vacation to visit Osaka and Tokyo. The vacation included equal parts kids stuff (Tokyo Disney and Universal Studios Japan) and adult stuff (temples, castles and museums), and everyone had a great time, even though it was BLAZING hot. (Columbia, SC go'nuthin' on Japan in August!!!)

2011 promises to bring many more adventures, planned and unplanned. We know we will be moving and leaving Sasebo, Japan, sometime in the Fall of 2011. Stay tuned to Facebook and Xanga for more exciting adventures - oh so many onsens and sushi restaurants to visit and so little time to do it in.

2010 has been a year of adventure and exploration for us. We sincerely hope that your 2010 has been full of wonderful things and that 2011 promises more of the same.

Peace,

Emma
恵真

John
ジョン

MAGGIE
ROSE

sraconnolly@mindspring.com

johnemma@mindspring.com







maggierose@mindspring.com

Emma's blog is at www.xanga.com/sraconnolly and also has loads and loads of photos of the adventures.

You can also find us on Facebook.

クリスマス
クリ

JANUARY 2011

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 8:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery |
| 2 10:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM— Sunday School 5:00 PM—German Worship Service | 3 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MTG 6:15PM 7:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 4 Centering Prayer 12:15 PM Parlor 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 5 -Bible Study 11-12:00 PM -CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM | 6 -Wonderful Thursday 5:00-7:00 PM Epiphany Svc 7:00PM  8:00 PM Alanon Mtg | 7  Men's Breakfast 7:00 AM Showmars, 7th & Pecan 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 8 8:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery |
| 9 10:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM— Sunday School 5:00 PM—German Worship Service | 10 COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 11 Centering Prayer 12:15 PM Parlor RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE 6:30-9:00PM 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 12 --Love Circle 10:00 AM -Bible Study 11-12:00 PM -Wonderful Wednesday 5:00-7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM | 13 Taize` 6:30 PM Chapel 8:00 PM Alanon Mtg | 14  Men's Breakfast 7:00am Showmars, 7th & Pecan 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 15 8:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery |
| 16 10:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM— Sunday School 5:00 PM—German Worship Service | 17  7:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 18 Centering Prayer 12:15 PM Parlor RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE 6:30-9:00PM 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 19 -Bible Study 11-12:00 PM -Wonderful Wednesday 5:00-7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM | 20 Taize` 6:30 PM Chapel 8:00 PM Alanon Mtg | 21  Men's Breakfast 7:00am Showmars, 7th & Pecan 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 22 8:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery |
| 23 10:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM— Sunday School 5:00 PM—German Worship Service | 24 7:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 25 Centering Prayer 12:15 PM Parlor RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE 6:30-9:00PM 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 26 -Bible Study 11-12:00 PM -Wonderful Wednesday 5:00-7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM | 27 Taize` 6:30 PM Chapel 8:00 PM Alanon Mtg | 28  Men's Breakfast 7:00am Showmars, 7th & Pecan 7:00 PM AA Meeting | 29 8:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery |
| 30 10:00 AM Worship 8:45 AM— Sunday School ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 5:00 PM—German Worship Service | 31 7:00 PM Crystal Clear Recovery 7:00 PM AA Meeting | | | | | |



JANUARY SERVICE BLOCKS ST. MARK'S MEMBERS SERVING THIS MONTH

| | |
|--|---|
| USHERS: 10:00 a.m. | |
| USHERS: <u>January 2nd & 9th</u> Alan Harms, Fay Fisher, Richard Fisher, Karen Covington, Sue Schwartz, Gina Wilson | USHERS: <u>January 16th, 23rd & 30th</u> Tom Sehorn, Benny Cox, Tim Berly, Bill Usinger, Wayne Hallman, Matt Hurley |
| ACOLYTES/CRUCIFERS: <u>Jan. 2nd:</u> C: John Mobley, A: Andrew Dixon, Matthew Chapman <u>Jan. 9th:</u> C: Anna Chapman, A: Katy Chapman, Ashley Ginns <u>Jan. 16th:</u> C: Suzanna Payne, A: Sydney Payne, Chris Lambert <u>Jan. 23rd:</u> C: Laura Wenzel, A: Jacob Wenzel, Claire Lippert | ACOLYTES/CRUCIFERS CON'T: <u>Jan. 30th:</u> C: Natalie Howarth, A: Nick Howarth, Clayton Wall |
| CHILDREN'S CHURCH: <u>Jan. 2nd:</u> Shelley Mobley <u>Jan. 9th:</u> Beth Canute <u>Jan. 16th:</u> Chris & Melissa Parrish <u>Jan. 23rd:</u> Karen Kasting | CHILDREN'S CHURCH CON'T: <u>Jan. 30th:</u> Eric & Bev Timm |
| GREETERS: <u>Jan. 2nd:</u> Henry & Lynn Rhodes, Gail Robinson, Chris & Gennie Stevenson <u>Jan. 9th:</u> Marcos Anderson, David & Lisa Basinger, Eric Timm <u>Jan. 16th:</u> Lin Beaulieu, Margie & Alan Bell, Tim Berly, Ann Brown | GREETERS CON'T: <u>Jan. 23rd:</u> Jason/ & Jen Caenepeel, Cheryl Carpenter, Benny & Judy Cox, Bill & Yen Davenport <u>Jan. 30th:</u> Bill Daleure, Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Rhonda Douglass, Dave & Eileen Dunlap |
| LECTORS: <u>Jan. 2nd:</u> Roger Kuznia <u>Jan. 9th:</u> Sarah Ingle <u>Jan. 16th:</u> Margie Bell <u>Jan. 23rd:</u> Virginia Stackel <u>Jan. 30th:</u> Larry Lippert | TABULATORS: <u>Jan. 2nd & 9th:</u> Harry Kendrick, Richard Cansler, Alan Harms <u>Jan. 16th, 23rd & 30th:</u> Cliff Edahl, Carol Usinger, Karen & Kevin Feezor |
| PRAYER ASSISTANTS: <u>Jan. 2nd:</u> Virginia Stackel <u>Jan. 9th:</u> Roger Kuznia <u>Jan. 16th:</u> Mike Mobley <u>Jan. 23rd:</u> Anne Conner <u>Jan. 30th:</u> Catherine Metze | SOUND SYSTEM: <u>Jan. 2nd:</u> Ernie Marion <u>Jan. 9th:</u> Kevin Feezor <u>Jan. 16th:</u> Eugene Park <u>Jan. 23rd:</u> Alan Bell <u>Jan. 30th:</u> Pam & James Stephens |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: <p style="text-align: center;">NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINT</p> | COMMUNION ASSISTANTS CON'T: <p style="text-align: center;">NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINT</p> |

MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

There are many ways to offer gifts in memory of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are now part of the Church triumphant, and in honor of those for whose lives with us now we are grateful. Following is a list of such gifts received as of December 23, 2010.

| <u>In Memory of Mr. Phillip Gerdes</u> | <u>Fund Designation</u> |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Louise Cobb The Daleure Family | Salvation Army Salvation Army |
| <u>In Memory of Louis B. Gilham</u> Susan League | Homeless Meals |
| <u>In Memory of Kathleen Guentert</u> Elizabeth Williams | Flower Fund |
| <u>In Memory of Tolly Kleckley</u> Larry & Sarah Dagenhart | Gifts & Memorials |
| <u>In Memory of Ed Marz's Birthday</u> Ben & Faye Blankenship | Gifts & Memorials |
| <u>In Memory of Ruth Rehn</u> Larry & Lois Witham | Debt Reduction Appeal |
| <u>In Memory of Martha Russell</u> Larry & Sarah Dagenhart | Gifts & Memorials |
| <u>In Memory of Dr. Robert Stackel</u> Barry & Rachel Fulp James & Geraldine Harbinson | World Hunger World Hunger |



MEMORIAL AND HONOR GIFTS

There are many ways to offer gifts in memory of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are now part of the Church triumphant, and in honor of those for whose lives with us now we are grateful. Following is a list of such gifts received as of December 23, 2010.

In Honor of Pastor Brown & Pastor Hartner

J.B. & Mary Lou Kiser
Jan Mitchem

Fund Designation

Debt Reduction Appeal
Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Karen Covington's Birthday

Steve & Mary Lou McCurry

Communion Needs

In Honor of Dianne Hagstrom & Karen Kasting's Birthday

Karen Covington

Communion Needs

In Honor of Pastor Emily & Ian Hartner

Anonymous

Music Fund

In Honor of J.B. & Mary Lou Kiser

Tom & Maxine Ridenhour

Congregational Life

In Honor of Mrs. Gail Robinson

Joyce

Room in the Inn

In Honor of St. Mark's Church Staff & Friends

Sue Walker

Room in the Inn

In Honor of Virginia Stackel's Birthday

Karen & John Covington

Homeless Meals

In Honor of Mrs. Virginia Stackel

Rev. James & Geraldine Harbinson

World Hunger

In Honor of Kathleen Williams 20th Birthday

Elizabeth Williams

Flower Fund



ST MARK'S Lutheran Church

1001 QUEENS ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28207-1847

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charlotte, NC
Permit No. 1187

DO NOT HOLD!
Date sensitive material. Please deliver promptly!

Ph: (704) 375-9185 Fax: (704) 375-5776
Email: stmarks@saintmarkselca.org
Website: www.saintmarkselca.org

STAFF

| | |
|--|------|
| Rev. Dr. Peter M. Brown Senior Pastor | X232 |
| Rev. Emily Kuhn Hartner Pastor | X223 |
| Mrs. Dianne Hagstrom Parish Administrator | X221 |
| Mr. Les Ackerman Dir. of Music Ministry/Organist | X226 |
| Ms. Karen Kasting Director of Education & Youth | X229 |
| Ms. Debra Wideman Financial Administrator | X224 |
| Mr. Carl Gipson Church Custodial Service | |
| Ministers All the disciples / members of St. Mark's | |



JANUARY REMARKS

The deadline for the February
ReMarks is noon on January 12th.
Pictures, articles, and suggestions are
WELCOME! Please submit to
secretary@saintmarkselca.org