

St. Mark United Methodist Church
550 Hwy. 72 By-Pass NW
Greenwood, SC 29649
<http://www.stmarkgreenwood.com>
Church Phone: 864.229.5416
Kids' World Phone: 864.227.2776

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The Witness



Bypass Campus (BPC)



Rivers Street Campus (RSC)



The Coronaca Campus (TCC)

St. Mark United Methodist Church

www.stmarkgreenwood.com

Volume 17 Issue 2

March 2023

Shred & E-Waste Day
Saturday, April 22, 2023
@ St. Mark United Methodist Church
Bypass Campus
9am-12pm
Paper Shredding and Electronic Recycling

SPRING FEST
Sunday, March 19
12:30-2:30
Rivers Street Campus
THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE CHICKEN, HOT DOGS, AND ICE CREAM - BRING A SIDE OR A DESSERT TO SHARE!
THERE WILL BE AN EASTER EGG HUNT AND AN INFLATABLE FOR THE KIDS!
COME JOIN US - EVERYONE IS INVITED FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CHURCHWIDE FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!



Greetings to the Saints of St. Mark!

For everything there is a season, and a time for every activity under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

We are in the season of Lent, that forty-day period (okay, full disclaimer, Lent is 46 days but Sundays don't count. Sundays are always considered "Little Easters" so they were never days for fasting - as many folks do during Lent - but always for celebrating the Risen Christ) from Ash Wednesday that leads up to Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday). Lent is the perfect time for intentional life change (can you believe I finally wrote a sentence without parentheses? Oh . . . uh . . . sorry, I guess I did it again).

Behavior scientists have indicated it takes about six weeks to create a new habit. The first two weeks are the starting, forgetting, re-starting, failing, and re-re-starting, again. The second two weeks are when a person starts to succeed in the doing the new activity and fail occasionally. It still takes intentional effort but the person is more mindful of the effort and does it. The last two weeks are when a person pretty much is doing the new activity - or "not doing" the old activity if someone is trying to stop a bad habit - without as much conscious effort. They may fail once in a while but they pretty much have a new habit. Thus, the forty days of Lent (okay, I know it's two days short) is a perfect time for a change in our holy habits - or our earthly failures. Lent gives us the chance to intentionally break or start a habit. And this can be life-changing.

God desires us to walk with Him and follow His ways. This is obedience. God also desires us to lay down and leave behind activities, thoughts, and words that get in the way of our obedience or hurt others. This is repentance. Lent offers us a time to consider what we could start or stop doing or saying that could help us love God and love others. Our habits are important because they shape who we are. They influence our thinking and doing, most of the time with little forethought or thinking at all. Developing holy habits by what we do or don't do, say or don't say, and think or don't think is the key to growing as a follower of Jesus.

I hope we'll take the gift of Lent - starting even today if you or I haven't already - to consider what we could do during this Lenten season. Our choice will help us keep a holy Lent. I think I'll work on giving up parenthetical statements. What about you?

As many of you are aware, I have been appointed the next Superintendent of the Marion District of our South Carolina Conference. While I really did not expect to be a district superintendent, I was prepared for a move. I realized when I was ordained that United Methodist pastors itinerate. I will finish six years with St. Mark this June. Then, I will begin my first year as a DS. I will have more to say at a later date. I am not going anywhere right now . . . but July is coming (and six years is not very long). Please keep praying for St. Mark as we wait to see who will be appointed the next Senior Pastor, the Bishop and his cabinet (who will make this appointment), and Karen and myself.

*With Joy,
Steve*



Worship Attendance Year to Date Average

As of February 19, 2023

8:45 AM - BPC	68
9:00 AM - RSC	74
10:00 AM - TCC	34
11:00 AM - BPC	79
11:15 AM - RSC	94
8:45 Stream - BPC	26
10:00 Stream - TCC	18
11:15 Stream - RSC	29
Worship Attendance	420
Sunday School Attendance	120

KREW and EPIC Attendance School Year Average

As of February 19, 2023

KREW	67
EPIC	77
HSX	26

The next copy of *The Witness*, the church's monthly newsletter, will be mailed on Thursday, March 30. **Deadline to submit information for the newsletter is Monday, March 20.**

Copies of the March Birthdays list, March Anniversaries list, and Upper Rooms for March/April are located at the narthex/welcome area at each campus. You can find the birthday and anniversary list on the church mobile app as well.

IN MEMORIAM

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."
John 11:25-26

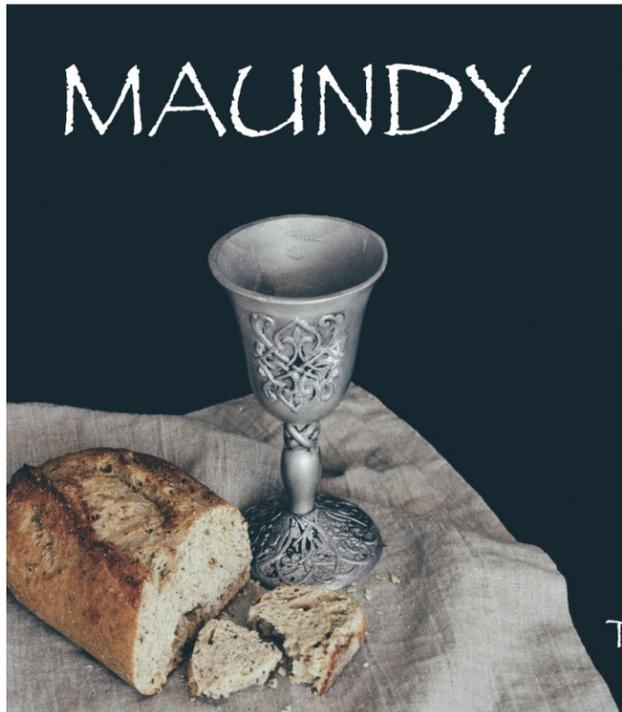
* **William Edward "Bill" LaCoste**
* **April 9, 1940 - January 28, 2023**

The Pastors and congregation extend Christian sympathy to the following members of our church family.

- Sally Gantt and her family on the death of her mother, Linda Ann Martin on February 16.

Flowering the Cross
Easter Sunday at
all campuses

Be sure to bring flowers to place on the cross before or after the service



MAUNDY THURSDAY
 April 6
 Worship Service &
 Holy Communion
 Bypass Campus
 6:30 PM
 A nursery will be provided
 This service will also be live streamed



Good Friday Prayer Vigil
 Friday, April 7
 Bypass Campus Sanctuary
 7:00am - 3:00pm
 Prayer • Fasting • Almsgiving



Greetings St. Mark,

Peter comes to understand that Jesus is the Messiah, which he proclaims boldly to his fellow Disciples and the people of Caesarea Philippi. Peter understands that Jesus is The Messiah because Jesus meets all of the traditional expectations of messiahship of “kingship, might, and victory”, as Jesus changes the lives of all those he encounters. Then Jesus challenges Peter’s messiahship expectation. Jesus proclaims that he is to “undergo great suffering”, rejection, death, and resurrection. (Mark 8:31). Peter then pulls Jesus aside to rebuke him. (Mark 8:32) St. Mark if we are to be honest with ourselves, Peter’s reaction to Jesus makes us uncomfortable because we aren’t supposed to question. That’s why Jesus tells Peter, “Get behind me Satan!” isn’t it? Maybe. Or is Jesus calling us to do something different this Lenten Season.

Maybe Jesus is calling us to be uncomfortable and to engage in a little rebuking. Maybe Jesus is calling us to ask questions like I imagine Peter did. What will cause Jesus to be rejected? Will I suffer like Jesus because I am his follower? Why isn’t Jesus living up to my expectations? Maybe Jesus wants us to grab hold of him so that we can see that life is not futile, failure is not fatal, and death is not final. Maybe Jesus wants us to see that if we do ask questions and rebuke him, that he remains faithful. That Jesus doesn’t walk away, but turns and stands by our side, just like he did with Peter. (Mark 8:33). Maybe Jesus wants us to know that no matter if times are good or bad we are seen, loved, and forgiven. (Mark 8:34) Maybe Jesus wants us to know that he is making uncomfortable places into beautiful places. (Mark 8:35)

Blessings on the Journey,

Pastor Joey



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL HOLY WEEK EXPERIENCE AT THE CORONACA CAMPUS
 WHERE THE GOSPEL IS COMBINED WITH THE FIVE SENSES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 6:30 PM JOIN THE CONNECTION PRAISE BAND IN AN OUTDOOR CONCERT FILLED WITH SONGS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP FROM ALL GENERATIONS

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 6:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WE WILL JOIN WITH OUR SISTER CAMPUSES TO WORSHIP AT THE BYPASS CAMPUS FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 7:00 AM-9:00 AM & 12:00 PM-2:00 PM READ AND EXPERIENCE THE SCRIPTURE COMBINED WITH TASTE, SOUND, SMELL, AND FEEL.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 TAKE TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THE DISCIPLES FELT AND EXPERIENCED AS THEY JOURNEYED WITHOUT JESUS.



Hello St. Mark Family!

We are in one of my favorite seasons within our life as the church. The season of Lent is an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on our own faith walk while also standing in awe of Jesus and what He has done in our life and in our world. I pray that during this season we can all feel God moving in our lives as we search for a deeper understanding and meaning in our faith walk. Part of that is our having the faith that God is still here, still working, still moving in our world.

As many of you have probably heard or seen there is something special happening at Asbury University in Kentucky. Many have called this a revival, saying that the Lord is moving in unexpected ways. News of this excited me. As we move into a time where we should be reflecting on our faith journey and we should be seeking ways to draw closer to God, here comes God showing us that He is still here, still moving, still showing us that He is present. In one of the news articles I read about what is happening, one young man said that he could feel the presence of God as soon as he walked through the doors of the chapel. Another lady said she could feel Jesus standing right beside her. How could this not excite us as Christians? How could we not want to have a revival? This one spiritual event has been going on for several days now and shows no sign of stopping.

So, what's the problem with having a revival? Well, some people are calling it fake, saying it's not real, it's a publicity stunt. That is a hard pill to swallow. We pray for revival in this country, in our world. We see all the pain and despair that is happening around the world, and we pray for change. We pray that God will move in people's lives, and we will see real change in this world. Then, when it happens, some question it. Some say it's not authentic. I think that's mainly because it didn't start with them, it didn't start in their denomination, it didn't start in their pulpit, or from their pastor. So instead of embracing what is happening, some try to shoot it down. The only problem is you can't shoot down the Holy Spirit. You can't block out what God is doing, and when God decides to move, we can't control where He goes. We can pray that He will take us with Him, that He will move across our nation and world, but we can't stop Him.

I am looking forward to this season of Lent. I am looking forward to seeing how God is moving and where God is moving, and I am praying that He takes us, as His church, along with Him. I pray that this season is special for each of you. I pray that it is a season that moves us to a new relationship with Christ. I pray that this is a season of understanding and guidance. I pray that you find Christ in a new light, with a deeper understanding this year.

I pray you have an amazing season of Lent. I pray you have an amazing month and I look forward to seeing YOU at CHURCH! BRING A FRIEND!!

Robby



Easter Lily / Good Samaritan Fund

The Worship Committee invites you to make a special donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or friend in lieu of purchasing lillies. The proceeds will go to our Good Samaritan Fund which is used to provide assistance to those in need throughout the year. A list will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, April 9. To donate, please fill out the form below. All forms must be received in the church office by Monday, April 3.

Good Samaritan Fund Donation

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

You can attached your check, Venmo, or pay online.



We are updating the
CHURCH DIRECTORY

IT'S TIME TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE MADE!

Contact Debra at 229-5416 or debra@stmarkgreenwood.com to sign up for a time.

Tuesday, April 4, 2-7
Thursday, April 6, 2-7
Tuesday, April 11, 2-7
Thursday, April 13, 2-7
Sunday, April 16, starting at 8:00 am

YOUNG
AT HEART

FELLOWSHIP FOR AGES 60 AND UP

Monday, March 20
11:00 am
Potluck Lunch and Socializing

Founders Hall
Bypass Campus

Thursday, March 23 at noon
Founders Hall, Bypass Campus
Lunch is provided, and there are prizes for the winners! All women are invited.

St. Mark Women

BRUNCH AND BINGO



MARCH PREACHING SCHEDULE

The season of Lent is with us and we pray each of us is keeping a holy Lent. This simply means that we've been given an opportunity these six weeks of Lent to "dedicate or separate out time and/or activities" (the meaning of "holy") that will help us be more aware and grow in our relationship with God. This could be times of reflection during the day, giving up a food, beverage or activity for this season (to indicate a desire for God more than this item you are giving up). If you haven't started, there are still five weeks left in Lent. Prayerfully consider what God might have you do.

The Lenten sermon series is about encountering Jesus through his seven "I Am" sayings found in the book of John. Jesus presents Himself as the answer to the need in this world as we live our lives. We know hunger and want so He proclaims He is "the bread of life." We live in a world that is so confusing so Jesus reminds us that He is the "way, the truth, and the life." We hope this series will deepen your understanding of Jesus and open our lives to encountering the living Christ in our day to day living. His person is a source of hope and His presence is the source of life.

Please note that services from every campus are live-streamed each Sunday, beginning with our 8:45 AM Traditional Worship Service from the Bypass Campus, followed by our 10:00 AM Blended Worship Service from the Coronaca Campus, and lastly, our 11:15 AM Contemporary Worship Service from the Rivers Street Campus. You can watch these services on our Youtube channel at the time indicated for that service. All live-streamed services will be available online after they are completed.

- March 5 - Encountering Jesus - "I Am the Bread of Life"**
 (Communion will be shared at all campuses)
 Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship
 Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship
 Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship
- March 8 - Lenten Service**
 Pastor Steve and Pastor Joey at RSC for 12:30 PM Lenten Worship
- March 12 - Encountering Jesus - "I Am the True Vine"**
 (Communion will be shared at Rivers Street)
 Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship
 Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship
 Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship
- March 19 - Encountering Jesus - "I Am the Door and the Good Shepherd"**
 (Communion will be shared at Rivers Street)
 Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship
 Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship
 Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship
- March 26 - Encountering Jesus - "I Am the Light of the World"**
 (Communion will be shared at Rivers Street)
 Jay Adam Pearson at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship
 Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship
 Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship



It's not too late to be a part of KREW!
Ages K2-5th grade. Sundays, 4:30-6:00.

REGISTRATION FOR VBS OPENS THIS MONTH!
WWW.STMARKBRIDGEKIDS.COM

Spring Fest
Sunday, March 19
12:30-2:30
Rivers Street Campus

THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE CHICKEN, HOT DOGS, AND ICE CREAM - BRING A SIDE OR A DESSERT TO SHARE!

THERE WILL BE AN EASTER EGG HUNT AND AN INFLATABLE FOR THE KIDS!

COME JOIN US - EVERYONE IS INVITED FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CHURCHWIDE FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be a part of Spring Fest! Bring your baskets, and don't miss out on this time of fun and fellowship!



LESSONS FOR EVERYONE FROM THE GREATEST LEADERSHIP ROLE MODEL OF ALL TIME

LEAD LIKE JESUS

Belvedere UMC,
North Augusta
\$5 registration fee

March 10 5:00-9:00 pm & March 11 9:00 am-4:30 pm

Contact office@stmarkgreenwood.com or 229-5416 to register.

The Greenwood District of the SCUMC is offering a leadership class opportunity, open to everyone.....

March Church Meetings

Trustee - Sunday, March 12
Bypass Campus, Room 104 12:30 P.M.



March 5
FOOD BANK SUNDAY
PLEASE HELP US FILL THE COLLECTION BINS AT EVERY CAMPUS.




St. Mark will host the Lenten Pilgrimage March 8.

We need your help as we welcome the community to our Rivers Street Campus. If you are willing to help serve the lunch, please let us know.

Contact Debra at 229-5416 or debra@stmarkgreenwood.com if you would like to help.

GREENWOOD
Lenten
PILGRIMAGE



EPIC STUDENT MINISTRY
WWW.STMARKEPIC.COM

EPIC IS A CHRIST-CENTERED MINISTRY FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12. EPIC SUNDAY NIGHTS ARE FROM 6:30-8:00. ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED! BRING A FRIEND!

HSX, our High School Extra Bible study, meets after EPIC. 9th-10th Graders are led by Haley McLaughlin in the Attic. 11th-12th graders are led by Julie McLaughlin in the High School Room.

NEVER GIVE UP
HOW HOPE CHANGES EVERYTHING
March 12

GUEST SPEAKERS
March 5
Haley McLaughlin
March 19
Lauren Clamp

What I Really Want
You can be more free
March 26

Sunday Nights in March

Salkehatchie
June 17-24, 2023
Summerville Salkehatchie is back!

Check www.stmarkepic.com, social media, and your email for updates. Registration opens soon for those 14 and up by June 17.



Music Ministry

I don't know where times goes, but it sure does seem to go by faster each year. My Dad told me once that feeling comes with aging. I didn't particularly like that thought but find it to be true. Regardless of how fast time seems to move, here at church we find ourselves officially in the Lenten season with Easter not being far behind and it's a glorious time to continue singing and praising the gift God give us through Jesus Christ.

Many of you in the congregation have spoken to me in the past about how much you love it when we have instruments join the choir, or special soloists, vocal or instrumental. Believe me we do too! And it is especially true during the Lenten/ Easter and Advent/ Christmas season. While the finance committee has been most generous to us with our music budget, I try hard to keep our cost below that given budget in these financially challenging times. With that thought in mind if anyone, or a group like a Sunday School class would like to sponsor a guest musician(s) the gift would be greatly appreciated. Any gift can go to the choir fund and will go directly to sponsoring a guest musician(s).

As we enter into this Lenten/ Easter season may it be a time for personal reflection and preparation for the celebration of the gift of the Resurrection.

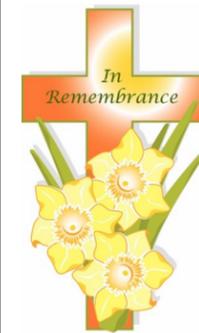
Carol Jones, Minister of Music



Kids' World is off to an amazing start to 2023! We currently have 50 students enrolled, with several more scheduled to join us in the next few months. It has been heartwarming to experience such an abundant amount of interest in our new infant and toddler program. We are so thankful for the support of the church as we have made this transition. As we continue to grow and serve so many of the children in our community, we ask that everyone please continue to pray for these children, as well as our teachers, that God may use each and every one of the families of KW to be a light in Greenwood and surrounding areas.

My assistant director, Mrs. Sydney and I will be joining you all on March 19 at BPC to speak about our first year at Kids' World. Several of our teachers will be with us and we would all love the opportunity to meet the members of St Mark. So we invite you to join us Wednesday, April 12 between 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM at the preschool for a quick drop-in to allow everyone to see the exciting transformations that have taken place! We look forward to a wonderful time of fellowship.

Blessings!
Amanda Wideman



St. Mark gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:

- To *The General Fund* in loving memory of **Bill LaCoste** by Ronnie and Brenda Millender, Wanda Hill, Jane Clyburn, Richard and Mary Senatore, Tommy and Patty Burton, Rick and Nancy Henderson, Eva Grodzicki, Rees and Lea Jones, Emmett and Edith Brooks, Jimmy Wilson, Charles and Sarah Schulze, Lewis and Gail Burges, Jason and Shelby Bingham, McDaniels Family, Shelleys Family, Ted Colcolough, Bob and Mabel Templeton Trudy Sherard, Kay Stanton, Bonnie Bryson, Tri-County Fertilizer& Specialty, Manley Garvin LLC, Donna and Lang Foster, Jr, Aubrey Swofford, Marvin and Wife Quattlebaum, Betsy Talcott, Shirley Simmons, Fred and Betty Latham, Howard and Beverly Arner.
- To *The General Fund* in loving memory of **Tom Bickerton** by Toni Ross.

Flower Calendar

The 2023 Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board by the senior pastor's office. Dates available are: Apr 16, Apr. 23, Apr. 30, May 21, Jul. 30, and Oct. 8. Make sure to include a phone number or email address. When it is your turn, you will be notified early that week as a reminder of the date you chose and will be asked for information for the bulletin.

JOIN US FOR THE GREENWOOD

Lenten

PILGRIMAGE

THE HALF HOUR SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 12:30pm.
LUNCH CONSISTING OF SOUP AND SANDWICHES
WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00 pm AND 1:00 pm.
COST FOR LUNCH IS \$1.

March 1 - Immanuel Lutheran Church
March 8 - St. Mark UMC, Rivers Street Campus
March 15 - South Main Baptist Church
March 22 - First Baptist Church
March 29 - Main Street UMC
April 5 - Morris Chapel Baptist Church

Prayers of the Church

Prayer requests will remain on this list for three weeks unless we are notified differently.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Emerald Gardens

(201 Overland Drive,
Greenwood, SC)
Charlotte Koone

National Healthcare

(437 E Cambridge Ave,
Greenwood, SC)
Betty Lightsey

Shut-In/Homebound

Mary Ellen Anderson
(864.223.5275)
1830 Alexander Road W
Greenwood, SC 29649

Danny Bearden
c/o Khristy Lee
2419 Lafayette Street
Winterville, NC 28590

Jean Bedenbaugh
Lexington Medical Center
Extended Care
815 Old Cherokee Road
Lexington, SC 29072

James and Mary Anna Evans
5800 Old Providence Road
Apt 4310
Charlotte, NC 28226

Charlie Helms (704.535.7848)
c/o Teena Williams
4600 Crofton Ct.
Charlotte, NC 28205

Verne Logan
228 Pump House Road
Greenwood, SC 29649

Annell McManus (864.229.1596)
110 Northgate
Greenwood, SC 29649

Gary Roper
301 Fairway Lakes Road
Greenwood, SC 29649

Jenny Valkenburg
(864-223-0987)
119 Creek Road East
Greenwood, SC 29646

MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDEES

Charles McDonald,
Tommy Wilson
Toni Ross
June Newman
Mary Ellen Anderson
Fay Sample

MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDEES CONT'D

Derrell Gregory
Verne Logan
John Clark
Jim Conley
Dodie Conley

MEMBERS' FAMILY

Mike Bartley
Kyle Langley
Kathy and siblings
Dorothy Harvely
Cindy McCall
Martha Moore

MEMBERS' FRIENDS

Johnny Vickers
Pat Vickers
Donna Keck
John Testin
Riley Faith
Louise Robinson
The family of Rick Horton
Cliff and Ellen Arnold
Ken Talley
David Rinehart
Rev. and Mrs. Milton and Betty Moss McGuirt

MILITARY

Jack Boyd - Army
Dr. JC Elmore - Army
Brycen Fleming - Army
Randall Geddings
Joshua Goff - Marines
Dr. Caity Jarrío—Army
Mackenzie Latham - Air Force
Banner Peksa - Army
Parker White - Army

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Clemson:
Caleb McLaughlin, Caroline Addis, Clary Pederson, Conner Pederson, Dawson Hudson, Gloria Grace Murray, Jasmine Creswell, Josh Godwin, Kathryn Goff, Laila Monda, Patrick Smathers, Rebecca Bell, Savannah Farmer, Taylor Case, Trevor Brewington, Tyler McManus, Wyatt Prince, Will Godwin, and Zach Robinson.

Furman University:

Annika Patterson

Georgia Southern:
Mathis Brewington

Lander:

Caroline Alexander, Caroline Rhodes, Caroline Smith, Cole Ison, Dylan DeLoach, Jewel Malone Leopard, Kellynn Ashley, Kylie Gantt, Lowndes Still, Rhianna Philcox, Ryan Latham, and Zoë Moore.

Mars Hill University:
Sarah Ellen Johnson

Midlands Technical College:
Parker Boggs

Piedmont Technical College:
Andrew Tripp, Ethan Long, Jeremiah Holmes, and Lauren Coker.

Southern Wesleyan:
Haley McLaughlin

The Medical University of South Carolina:
Mae Furman

University of Kentucky:
Julia Goff

University of South Carolina:
Caroline Bell, Carter Rhodes, Harriet Ward, Jordan Mapes, Kynslea Philcox, Lauren Clamp, Meg McGovern, and Olivia DeTreville.

University of South Carolina, Sumter:
Braeden McDonald

Winthrop:
Carlie Pundt

Wofford:
Olivia Murray



Finance

March of 2023 is here and with it comes the season of Lent. There are extra services and opportunities to worship, learn, and serve. This can mean additional expenses but we shall see. It also provides a time when persons intentionally give as part of their Lenten discipline. Giving is not only a great way to express our gratitude to God for all His blessings but it is also a great way to grow our faith. Some people, who don't regularly tithe do so during Lent as an exercise of faith. WE hope you will all find a way to celebrate and observe a holy Lent this year.

This is the third financial report of this year (not sure we can still call it a new year but it still has that "new" year feel to it). February's figures are still being worked on as this newsletter is put together the month before publication. All of February's bills, contributions, and final reconciliation won't be finished until March.

The finances for 2023 are as follows:

General Fund	\$216,627		
Actual Expenses	\$74,845	Budgeted Expenses	\$91,832
Actual Income	\$65,284	Anticipated Income	\$82,520

The important numbers are reported above to give us a snapshot of what is happening financially with St. Mark. Our expenses were almost \$17,000 lower than we budgeted - a good thing. Unfortunately, our giving was about the same amount lower than we had hoped. Therefore, based on actual expenses compared to our income, we spent about \$9,561 more than we took in. Not really so bad for one month but it's a trend we don't want to continue if possible. Our General Fund is at \$216,627.

As always, it is what we do together that makes the difference. No one can give it all, but when we all give the best that we can, then good things happen. Our faithful and generous giving allows St. Mark to carry out its calling to care for one another in our church, across the city and our state, and even touch the lives of persons across the globe. Our church seeks to make sure we are good stewards of every dollar that is given. Keep praying for God to meet our needs and let us keep faithfully giving as best we can to see what God will continue to do through our wonderful church. We are blessed.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 12:30 Lenten Service - Immanuel Lutheran Church 6:00 Coronaca Bible Study 6:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	2 7:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 West Side AA 7:00 Girl Scouts	3 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	4
5 4:30 KREW 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	6 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 West Side AA 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH	7 9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	8 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 12:30 Lenten Service - RSC 6:00 Coronaca Bible Study 6:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	9 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Founders Hall in use 5:30 West Side AA	10 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	11 12:00 Founders Hall in use
12 12:30 Trustee meeting 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	13 10:00 Staff Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 West Side AA 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH	14 6:00 Parkinson Support Group 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	15 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 12:30 Lenten Service - South Main Baptist Church 6:00 Coronaca Bible Study 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	16 7:00 Men's Bible Study 3:00 Founders Hall in use 5:30 West Side AA 7:00 Girl Scouts	17 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:00 Founders Hall in use	18 Founders Hall in use all day
19 12:30 Spring Fest 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	20 Information due for the church newsletter Kairos using RSC 10:00 Staff Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 11:00 Young at Heart 5:30 West Side AA	21 Kairos using RSC 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	22 Kairos using RSC 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 12:30 Lenten Service - First Baptist Church 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	23 Kairos using RSC 7:00 Men's Bible Study 12:00 Brunch and Bingo 5:30 West Side AA	24 Kairos using RSC 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	25 9:00 Founders Hall in use
26 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	27 10:00 Staff Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 West Side AA 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH	28 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	29 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 12:30 Lenten Service - Main Street UMC 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	30 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Newsletter labeling in Founders Hall 5:30 West Side AA	31 6:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	Worship Services are: Bypass Campus: 8:45 am & 11:00 am Rivers Street Campus: 9:00 am & 11:15 am Coronaca Campus: 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am