



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

January—February 2019

*The Mission of St. Mark's United Methodist Church is to make
Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom, thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. Se be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Dear St. Mark's Church Family,

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for your most generous love-offering this Christmas. Linda and I are so grateful. THANK YOU. Even putting aside your generous gift, we have never felt more loved and welcomed than we have here at St. Mark's these past six months. I Thank God for calling me to this church.



I hope you are beginning to feel good about the progress you have made during these past few months. At a time when it would have been easy to walk away - and for good reason, one could argue—you have chosen to remain and to work together. As a result, you are growing stronger and healthier. Good for you!

Together, we can enter this New Year with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all the things and people we've been blessed with, and have often taken for granted. Let us be grateful for each other, for health, warmth, silence, beauty, creativity, friendship, family, fellowship, and those who help us through so many difficult times—the list is endless.

May 2019 be a year of growth and maturity for our faith and our congregation. Let us all be diligent to bring the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world in every way open to us, personally and communally. May we all follow the Son wherever He leads us, for we will never be disappointed if we remain faithful and true.

I am, as always, your pastor and friend,

Rev. Joseph M. Payne



Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Tim Mislansky, St. Mark's Finance Committee Chair

Greeting St. Mark's Family,

Here is a look at how we did in 2018, with some thoughts as we move into 2019.

For the second consecutive year, we paid our apportionments (our shared connectional giving) in full. We can be proud of how we've supported the United Methodist Church. We also made good progress on paying down the loan taken out a few years ago for improvements around the church. We reduced the principal balance by \$10,000 and now owe \$69,000.

The total giving and receipts was \$304,000 for the year. This was a 10% decline from 2017. Despite the decline in giving, we paid all our bills and paid them on time! Our total expenses were \$334,000, and were down about 3% from the prior year. The biggest reason for the lower expenses was the open jobs that we had throughout the year.

As a reminder, we borrowed \$15,000 in April of 2018 to replace our computer systems as they were failing. We've been making payments every month and now owe about \$11,500.

The parking lot fund sits at \$7,645. We need \$9,000 to repair the sinkhole, but are hoping to get to \$22,000 to repave the entire lot – an if we can get to \$35,000 we can also upgrade the parking lot lighting. Please consider a one-time gift to this fund to improve the safety of our facility.

We ended the year with about \$39,500 on deposit at the credit union of which \$31,800 is in designated funds (which means they cannot be used for the general operating expenses, such as salaries, utilities, etc. of the church). Unfortunately, St. Mark's has little to no cushion for our church finances and this is a growing concern. As we look forward to 2019, your church leadership would ask that you consider your giving and how you might continue to grow in your stewardship.

Recently, the Administrative Council has approved the 2019 budget for St. Mark's. The total expenses in the budget are \$373,000. The biggest changes from last year to this year are that we expect to be fully staffed this year. Salaries and benefits make up almost one-half of all our expenses. We have also added money to increase ministries and outreach for the year as well as dollars to replace broken air conditioners in the classrooms and replace some of the hallway lightening. To reach this level of spending, St. Mark's will need to see an increase in the dollars received.

There are positive signs for 2019. We received about 75 pledge cards for the year with total commitments of \$252,479.36. This was the most pledge cards turned in during the past few years and reflects the positive feelings many of us have about the direction of St. Mark's. We've also seen an increase in the number of families using electronic giving. This helps St. Mark's by allowing giving to be more predictable. If you are interested, you can visit <http://www.fairfieldstmarks.com/give> to sign up. And most recently, we also had a very strong response to the love offering for Pastor Joe's Christmas gift – probably double what it was the last few years. So there's positive momentum in a number of financial areas.

Should you have questions about St. Mark's finances, please do not hesitate to ask me at church or to email me at tmislansky@fuse.net or call me at 513-759-0581. And all members are welcome to our Finance Committee meetings – the next one is Tuesday, February 12th at 7 pm.



St. Mark's Administrative

Council

Highlights of Meeting held on January 8, 2019 6:30 p.m.
The Complete Minutes are on the side entrance bulletin board, by the kitchen.

In attendance: Ray Smith, chair; Karen Smith, Missions co-chair; Sue Luken, Lay Leader/delegate; Julie Dichtl, member at-large; Julie Mislansky, Missions co-chair; Joe Payne, Pastor; Pam Guynes, Nurture and Care chair; Charlotte Tierney, member at-large; Erin Theodor, SPRC chair; Jennie Marshall, Family Ministries chair; Steve Nguyen, member at-large and Task Force chair; Peggy Smith, Children's Ministries

Ray opened the meeting in prayer. Ray welcomed all new members of the committee; Peggy, Pam, Charlotte, Jennie and Steve.

Nurture, Outreach and Witness

Outreach- Julie and Karen shared their 2018 report: 146 members participated in an outreach, many serving more than one time. Under consideration for 2019 includes a fall mission trip to the Midwest Distribution Center and a church-wide campaign to support the Heifer Project.

Nurture- Currently their projects include pairing our college students with a member for care and support, serving funeral meals, and visitation and communion to our homebound members (this is coordinated by Lois Hill).

Witness & Outreach- Plans for 2019 include an Easter event which will be open to the community and two summer "at the movies" events that will tie-in with the subsequent Sunday service and message.

Children and Family Ministry

Peggy reported that her main goal for January is to start building a "KidMin" team, a group with a passion for kids to help dream and plan for our children. We will partner with the Scouts who meet here to collect shoes for the Soles4Soles mission. Scout Sunday will be celebrated on Feb. 10th. Peggy has been looking through the VBS materials that we have from our grant money and will start planning summer VBS when a KidMin team is established. The re-emergence of Children's Moments has been very well received.

Other Reports

Lay Leader – Sue reminded us about the Jan. 17th "Way Forward" event with Bishop Palmer and the Jan. 26th leadership training day offered to all on this committee.

Staff Parish – Erin shared that two interviews were conducted for the youth leader position. Unfortunately, neither was a good fit and they are considering more resumes that have been submitted.

Trustees – Ray reported that the parking lot campaign stands at \$7,644.

Finance – See Report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Joe shared a letter and agenda from Tony for this Saturday's meeting which will be from 9-3. All members of the Task Force and Administrative Council are invited and urged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Next meeting will be March 12th at 6:30 pm.



January 15, 2019

**Task Force Update
St. Mark's UMC**

I just wanted to take a few moments to update everyone on the latest work of the St. Mark's Task Force. As mentioned in the December service update, the Task Force (TF) has held several joint meetings with the Administrative Council (AC) with Tony Mosely serving as facilitator. We've reviewed and discussed his recommendations found in the report he submitted. Jointly, the TF and AC have prioritized and strategized on each recommendation during a 3 hour joint session in December.

On January 12th, the TF and AC met with Tony for a retreat meeting at St. Mark's from 9 am to 2 pm to discuss recommendation #1 from Tony's report as it relates to developing a set of core values and vision and how it relates to the Mission statement of the United Methodist Church. With Tony's guidance, the TF and AC worked through the process of developing a vision statement along with a set of core values to be created and shared in the coming weeks. The session was based in scripture combining the report (spanning the nearly 90 interviews members/non-members) submitted by Tony, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase, and the Statement of Understanding with the District. Much of the work and brainstorming notes can be found/reviewed on the walls of fellowship hall. The Joint session will yield a formally submitted vision statement along with core values for St. Mark's to move forward in unity and service to Christ. This set of core values and vision statement will be shared with the congregation within the coming weeks.

The Task Force and Administrative Council will meet again on Monday, February 11th to begin work on other recommendations found in Tony's report. These recommendations can be found in the "Conclusions" section of Tony's report on pages 16 and 17.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Nguyen, Chairman
St. Mark's United Methodist Church Task Force

St. Mark's Opportunities

(Fellowship, Participation, Study, Serve)



If you like to have a good time, meet people and eat - the Lunch Bunch would like to invite you to join us for lunch and socializing once a month at various restaurants around the area (we are always open to suggestions of places to eat too!). The Lunch Bunch is a group made up of 55 and older adults. We will be meeting in February at Rib City, 746 NW Washington Blvd, Hamilton, on **Wednesday, February 20th at noon.**

Please see Bob or Carol Pittman or call 829-4548 for reservations by noon, Monday, February 18th.



The Ruth Circle will be meeting on **Friday, February 15 at 1:00 pm.** in Fellowship Hall.

All women of the church are invited to come and have fellowship. There will be a short program and refreshments.

The circle meets on the third Friday of each month.

Questions - See or call Pam Guynes at 779-9162 or Charlene Miller at 844-6793.



Souls 4 Souls
January 20 - February 10

St. Marks' is once again partnering with our Boy Scout troop to collect shoes for Souls 4 Souls.

Please bring **new or gently used shoes** to church and place them in the marked container in the Narthex.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is incorrect, please contact the church office (513-844-1818)

- FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**
- 1 - Chet Hard
 - 3 - Wade Lewis
 - 3 - Elle Nguyen
 - 3 - George Peters
 - 4 - Susan Bunte
 - 7 - Arvilla Brinkmeyer
 - 8 - Lauren Leyrer (7 yrs.)
 - 9 - Shirley Cowden
 - 11 - Julie Dichtl
 - 11 - Doug Ewald
 - 11 - Laura Spahn
 - 11 - Pat Stivers
 - 12 - Cherie Kuertz
 - 15 - Sandy Phillippo
 - 15 - Erin Theodor
 - 16 - John Hawkins



- 17 - Rick Marshall
- 17 - Adam Norris (17 yrs.)
- 18 - Lily Edmundson (1 yr.)
- 18 - Morgan Howard
- 18 - Ginger Stephan
- 20 - Cindy Booker
- 22 - Alice Becker (2 yrs.)
- 22 - Shane Becker
- 22 - Bob Knau
- 23 - Lynda Combs
- 25 - Shirley Grant
- 28 - Belinda Peters
- 28 - Robert Rinker, Jr.
- 28 - Stephanie Romer

- FEB. ANNIVERSARY**
- 1 - John & Linda Prohaska
 - 11 - Dick & Darlene Kuertz
 - 12 - Don & Sue McDaniel
 - 17 - Gary & Helen Kerckaert
 - 20 - Don & Cheryl Kemen
 - 28 - Jeff & Carol Gering
 - 28 - Steve & Diana Griffith



THANKS: John and Ann McWilliam prayers, cards, calls and visits while We truly appreciate our wonderful church family.

wish to thank the congregation for their John was recuperating at Jamestown Rehab.

St. Mark's Family,
Thank you for all the prayers, cards and concerns when I was in the hospital and recuperating.
Bill Hurd

Dear St. Mark's Family,
Thank you for the many prayers, cards, phone calls and concern during my health ordeal over the past year. I still have a ways to go but your support has helped me to this point and is greatly appreciated.
Sincerely,
Merianne Cardas

Help Keep St. Mark's Membership Roster Current

Listed on these two pages are the names of every person currently on our Professing Member Roster. These are persons who are baptized and have publicly professed both the baptismal and membership vows. Professing Members are counted each year for statistical purposes.

We need your help in keeping our records current and accurate. Look carefully at this list.

1. Is any name misspelled?
2. Is any name missing that should be included? We do not want to exclude anyone. (Sometimes persons are removed unintentionally.)
3. Is anyone on this list that you believe has already withdrawn or transferred their membership to another congregation?
4. Do you have any other questions or concerns regarding this list?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, please call or email Brenda ASAP.

Thank you. 513.844.1818 b.smoot@fairfieldstmarks.com

Dale Addis	Elizabeth Bunte	Ben Gallihugh
Joy Addis	Merianne Cardas	Dollie Gallihugh
Mike Aiken	Russ Carr	Marla George
Dianne Aiken	Kraig Cavender	Brian George
Nick Alcorn	Vicki Cavender	Jeff Gering
Don Ault	Chelsey Cavender	Carol Gering
Carol Ault	Shelby Cavender	Chris Gering
Bud Aydtlett	Ben Chambers	Gale Goodman
Shirley Aydtlett	Heather Chambers	Kayla Goodman
Kathy Balchunas	Janice Chaney	Bob Grammel
Alan Batt	Greg Childress	Shirley Grant
Wilma Batt	Sue Combs	Qufabian Grant
Trey Batt	Lynda Combs	Sherman Griffin
Jim Baughman	Patty Combs	Teresa Griffin
Joanne Baughman	Norma Cooper	Diana Griffith
Shane Becker	Chris Cooper	Corey Gross
Brooke Becker	Jean Cottrill	Pam Guynes
Jim Beckett	Norma Cox	Jeff Guynes
Sue Beckett	Patty Coyle	Ron Hamblin
Chris Beiser	Maxine Craig	Becky Hamblin
Pat Belarski	Cheryl Creach	Bob Hamp
Jean Bennett	Dick Davis	Sharon Hamp
John Best	Edith Davis	Jacquie Hampton
Sheila Boggs	Bill Dichtl	Chet Hard
Dave Booker	Julie Dichtl	Pam Hard
Cindy Booker	Zach Dichtl	Sarah Hard
Alicia Booker	Lauren Dichtl	Zachary Hard
Mike Booker	Penny Dole	Jerry Hartwig
Mary Kay Bowling	Dee Dee Edmundson	Gail Hartwig
Lisa Bowman	Malakie Edmundson	Ben Hartwig
Kathy Bradley	Tre Edmundson	Freida Hawkins
Dick Brewer	Aidyn Edmundson	Anne Hennen
Debi Brewer	Helmut Espig	Mark Hensler
Vivian Brill	Terri Espig	Jenni Hensler
Lee Brinkmeyer	Doug Ewald	Hannah Hensler
Arvilla Brinkmeyer	Beth Ewald	Maddie Hensler
Rick Broshear	Pat Fassnacht	Mark Hensler Jr.
Terrill Broshear	Linda Fenzel	Debbie Hill
Rick Broshear	Pam Finfrock	Nancy Hole
Crystal Broshear	Mike Fitzpatrick	Lew Hollinger
Helen Brown	Kathy Fitzpatrick	Marta Hollinger
Cindy Brown	Wes Flannery	Paul Huelsman
Debbie Bryant	Debbie Flannery	Donna Hughes
Nancy Bumpus	Marjorie Gaddis	Bill Hurd

Bob Janosik
Carolyn Janosik
Byron Jones
Jim Jones
Betsy Jones
Iris Jones
Don Kemen
Cheryl Kemen
Sarah Kent
Rick Kiefer
Mike Kinnard
Judy Klingel
Cliff Klug
Cheryl Klug
Bill Knau
Mary Lou Knau
Bob Knau
Marty Kubik
Gay Kubik
Dick Kuertz
Darlene Kuertz
Greg Kuertz
Cherie Kuertz
Greg Kuertz
Megan Kuertz
Ray Kuertz
Missy LaMar
Alethea LaMar
Wade Lewis
Nancy Lewis
Michele Leyrer
Sue Lintner
Gale Logan
Barb Lowry
Mark Luken
Sue Luken
Katie Luken
Sarah Luken
Jennie Marshall
Mary Mastronicola
Eleanor McCollum
Sue McDaniel
Ted McDaniel
Heather McDaniel
Evan McDaniel
Jacob McDaniel
John McWilliam
Ann McWilliam
Bob Mendenhall

Becky Mendenhall
Donald Menke
Gretchen Menke
Caitlin Menke
Ciara Menke
Chelsea Menke
Sue Miller
Charlene Miller
Cindy Miller
Maryada Millsbaugh
Bob Miracle
Nancy Miracle
Rich Mischell
Cindy Mischell

Tim Mislansky
Julie Mislansky
Joe Mislansky
Mary Mislansky
Flo Moore
Don Moser
Susan Moser
Denny Mullen
Sue Mullen
Tim Mullen
Maria Mullen
Helen Mullen
Robert Netherland
Martin Netherland
Steve Nguyen
Kym Nguyen
Jack Nguyen
Will Nguyen
Elle Nguyen
Shirlene Norris
Adam Norris
Kathy O'Connell
Tomie O'Sullivan
Stephanie Paige
Katlyn Paynter
Greg Peters
Marilyn Peters
George Peters
Belinda Peters
Carl Phillippo
Beth Phillippo
Sandy Phillippo
Mary Pierson
Ardean Pitman
Pat Pitman
Bob Pittman
Carol Pittman
Juanita Pool
Zedith Pottenger
John Prohaska
Linda Prohaska
Greg Pullem
Evelyn Rewerts
Jennifer Rinker

Ruth Ritenbaugh
Autumn Roemer
Sandy Ronningen
Sue Rumley
Bill Schumacker
Lynne Schumacker
Paul Schutte
Dan Scofield
Judy Scofield
Cathy Seeger
Pat Sena
Virginia Shaw
Andy Shellman
Ann Shellman
Dale Shreve
Elaine Shreve
Cody Sines
Carol Smallwood
Karen Smith

Ray Smith
Brenda Smoot
Cameron Smoot
Laura Spahn
Joey Specht
Nicole Specht
Gary Specht
Ethel Stanifer
Ruth Stanifer
Kristina Stanifer
Brandon Stanifer
Randy Starkie
Nancy Starkie
Ginger Stephan
Don Stewart
Marilyn Stewart
Cory Stewart
Jean Stivers
Max Stover
Betty Stover
Rich Stracke
Suzan Stracke
Joan Streckfuss
Kristy Theiss
Erin Theodor
Jean Thomas
Danny Thomas
Thomas Tierney
Charlotte Tierney
Andrea Tischler
Phyllis Tunning
Gary Weaver
Sue Webster
Don White
Barb White
Christy White
Betty Winkler
Tari Wolf
Peggy Woods
Peg Wyatt



Mission Spotlight

The Broken Bus Ministry is a grass-roots mission that was started by a Liberty Township family in 2013. Many of us know and love them- Michelle and Greg Bailes and their children, Jordan and Justin. What started out as serving pizza out of the trunk of their car to the homeless in downtown Cincinnati, the dream and the call from God eventually led them to buy a broken down, rusty, beat-up bus, THE Broken Bus. About three years ago, the ministry was able to move its operations from the Bailes garage to a storage facility in Fairfield where donations are accepted, sorted and the bus is prepared for its weekly trip. Five years later, the mission thrives and serves weekly; feeding, clothing and building relationships with the homeless in our city.

One of Michele's most important goals is to plant seeds of servant ministry among the community. Volunteers of all ages and from all parts of the Cincinnati area have served in various ways including families, church groups, Scouts, school groups, high school sports teams, the list goes on and on. So how did St. Marks start our partnership with the Broken Bus? Glad you asked! It's all because of Ann McWilliam! About three years ago, she brought a newspaper clipping to our Ruth Circle meeting. The article talked about this emerging ministry and their need for support. Ruth Circle decided to send a donation and the rest is history. We asked Michele to bring the bus to St. Marks and tell her story to the youth, later she spoke to the whole congregation. Her personal story and her genuine love for those who are mostly unloved and cast aside spoke to many of us and we knew we had to get involved.

St. Marks supports The Broken Bus Ministry with our gifts, prayers and our talents. St. Marks Cares, through your generous designated giving, sends regular donations. Our Ruth Circle group often supports them as well. St. Marks has a small group of dedicated, hard working women who volunteer most Wednesday mornings at "the bus stop" (our name for the storage facility) sorting donations and loading the bus for its Saturday trip downtown. We've sent many of our members on bus rides, cooked delicious, hearty meals to be served to the homeless and we regularly have donation drives to help stock the bus.

If you haven't already, please check out their website, thebrokenbusministry.org, and like their Facebook page, **The Broken Bus Ministry**, for updates on ways to serve and pray for the mission. If you have any questions or want to get more involved, talk to Julie Mislansky or Sue McDaniel.



2018 Mission/Outreach Results

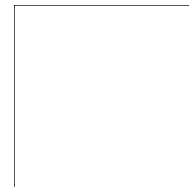
Thank you church for your commitment to mission and outreach. During 2018, mission/outreach opportunities were available for 6 organizations on a regular basis, 2 mission trips and various outlets during Good Neighbor Sunday. 146+ people volunteered for at least one of those, 39 people volunteered for 2 or more and several people served multiple times for a specific organization.

Financial and/or gifts in kind support in the amount of \$14,513 was provided for 2 missionary families, UMCOR and 10 organizations (the regular 8 plus Parkside Nursing Home and Big Creek Missions). Check out the detailed results posted on the bulletin board for more information.



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014



St. Mark's Staff

Pastor, Rev. Joseph M. Payne -
Joe's cell #614-531-2373
Pastor Emeritus, Bob Klingel
Admin. Assistant, Brenda Smoot
Director of Music, Chris Beiser
Organist, Sue Combs
Director of Children & Family Ministries, Peggy Smith
Nursery Director, Lauren Dichtl

Church Office Hours :

Monday — Thursday
9:00 - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Friday - Office Closed

(513) 844-1818
Fax: (513) 844-2828
fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:
Sundays 9:30 am