

CONNECT To GOD



April, 2019

Paula's Pondering

I attended a district-wide Simplified Structure training session last week. Simplified Structure is the governing system we use at St. Mark's. With this system, we have 1 committee - the Leadership Council - who is responsible for putting into place the policies which govern how we do ministry here. With the old system, we had a Finance Committee, a Staff-Parish Committee, a Board of Trustees, as well as the Administrative Board, all of which had to be filled with a minimum of 9 unrelated people. All these committees were tasked with setting policy for the church within their own area and governance degraded to permission-giving and -withholding. The actual ministry of the church was done in standing committees, each with a minimum of 9 people. These were the Education committee, the Mission committee, the Worship committee, the Evangelism committee, etc. In a large church, this system works ok, but in smaller churches like ours, it becomes difficult to find qualified people to serve. So you wind up with people just filling a position and/or the same people serving on several committees and quickly becoming burnt out.

Before I came to St. Mark's, you had changed to the Simplified Structure, for which I am grateful. Now those with the gifts of leadership and administration can lead the church, freeing up people to do the ministry of the church. While you've taken the first step, we still are not doing Simplified Structure correctly.

Last year, we began working to reinstate the Book of Discipline-required classes, where leaders serve for 3 years and 1/4 of the council rotates off for at least a year. By the end of 2020, we will meet that requirement. We're also working to insure that the council governs instead of manages - that is, they develop and put policies in place to govern the ministry of the church rather than managing the day-to-day operations. This is a completely different mind-set, and we are having difficulties making the adjustment.

But we still have one big hurdle to overcome. When the church adopted the Simplified Structure form of governance, people believed the Leadership Council also took over the ministry areas of the church. We have tried to operate as if the 12 people on the council could do all the ministry, or would find people to do the ministry. For example, to have the Easter Egg Hunt, the Leadership Council would ask someone to lead the event, or someone on the Leadership Council would lead it themselves. This has served to burn out the leaders and limit the ministry we do. Twelve people can only do so much, after all.

The Leadership Council's job is to govern - that is to set the policies that guide the ministries. The staff, both paid and unpaid, are to manage the church and make sure the programs are in place and have the resources they need. The congregation's job is to do the ministry of the church.

All this is to say that we need to bring back the ministry teams - Discipleship, Worship, Outreach (Evangelism and Mission), and Facilities Maintenance at the very least, and we need you to be a part

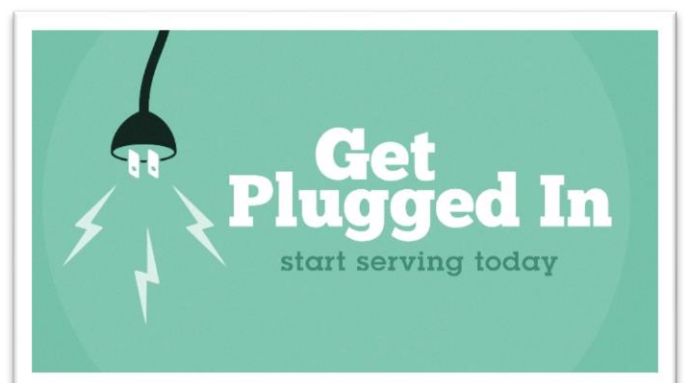
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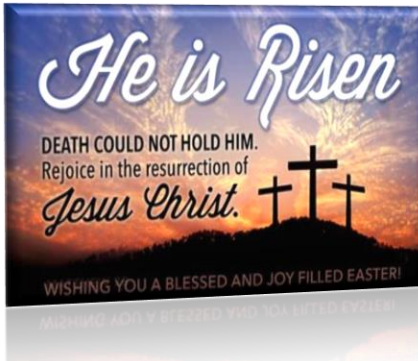
of these teams. **EVERYBODY** should be involved in some way in service to St. Mark's. Where do your passions lie? Do you like landscaping, planting, weeding, mowing? Join the Facilities Maintenance team. Do you enjoy planning parties, meeting new people, having fun? Join the Outreach Team. Do you want to meet people's needs and serve others? Then you belong on the Outreach Team, too. Is your passion decorating? Try Facilities Maintenance team (for the building at large) or Worship Team (for decorating our worship space). Do you want to run the video or audio? Join the Worship Team. Do you want to help others learn about God and move forward in their faith journeys? Join the Discipleship Team.

Get the idea? There is a place for everyone, and everyone is needed. Even if you just want to make phone calls or send cards, there is a team for you. If you have a passion, or even just think you might enjoy something I haven't listed, come talk to me. We'll create a team if there is enough interest.

For St. Mark's to take the next step, we have to stop relying on the Leadership Council to do everything. All of us must step up to the plate and take our turn at bat. Let's all take responsibility for what God wants to happen at and through St. Mark's.



Upcoming Events



- 4/7 Lent & Communion
- 4/14 Palm Sunday
- 4/19 Good Friday
- 4/21 Easter Sunday
- TBD Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday Sermon Series

Series: The Last Day

- April 7.....The Torture..... Mark 15:15-23
- April 14The Crucifixion.... Mark 15:25-39

Birthdays

April

- 4/3 Will Faris
- 4/4 Kelly Buhrlé
- 4/7 Rick Buhrlé
- 4/12 Amanda Townsend
- 4/13 Larry Alberton
- 4/18 Rebecca Clark
- 4/19 Keith Buhrlé
- 4/24 Angie Ring
- 4/30 Anne Fiene



Phone Prayer Chain

If you know of a member going to the hospital, have a need, a concern, or a joy, please call someone on the following list, starting at the top, if possible. Call any time, day or night. If the person you call is not at home, leave a message or call the next person on the list.

- Pat Townsend 373-3915 or 225-9459
- Rosemary Garten 427-5725 or 519-8500
- Carol Marcks 427-5725 or 560-5627
- Marilyn Berry796-5789
- Lucille Bolen.....560-5131
- Mary Branstad 796-9659 or 868-3752
- Ann Fiene.....257-5214
- Jackie Leffingwell257-1123
- Linda Roberts..... 650-5131 or 853-3398

- Carol Buhrlé.....796-3630 or 225-8174
- Shirley Weaver461-9224 or 716-1184
- Chris Pauley..... 571-3922
- Gayle Elliott 257-9655
- Arletta Cahill 600-9203
- Flora Costanza 914-8034
- Sandy Bower 373-5603
- Anna Inman(660) 232-1221
- Jackie McMenemy 461-7577

Prayer Chain



Bread Of Life Food Pantry

To make an appointment, call the office at 816-257-1812. Donations of unexpired non-perishable food items, personal care items and monetary donations are needed.

Web: www.facebook.com/BreadOfLifeStUMC

Proverbs 19:17 The one who is gracious to the poor lends to the Lord, and the Lord will repay him for his good deed.



Community Clothes Closet

St. Mark's Community Clothes Closet has free donated clothing and accessories for men, women, and children. We take new or clean gently-used clothes and are available to anyone in need. No appointment is necessary and there is no application process.



Donation Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9–3pm

Shopping Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9–Noon

United Methodist Men's Minutes

Nine members were present for March 9 meeting. Joseph Brison received a coat while Salvation Army Bell ringing because they thought he looked cold.

Treasurers Report:

Hy-Vee Breakfast for UMM:	\$125.71
Salvation Army:	50.00
Boy Scout Camp Scholarships	\$345.00
Apportionments:	\$800.00
Ending Balance:	\$4,481.94

United Methodist Women's Minutes

Ten members were present for March 6 meeting. February meeting was cancelled due to weather, so only January minutes were read & approved.

Richard Cash of Little Richard's Family Restaurant donated 100 Irish potatoes and 25 sweet potatoes for the St. Pat's Potato Bar held Saturday, March 16. Eighty-two (82) attended. We raised \$657.

UMW supplied soda & pizza for 40 Randall Elementary staff for the Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 19.

Ending Balance:**\$2,391.17**

Breaking Free From Fear And Worry

[Prayer Is Your Lifeline](#) by Mo Mydlo

The first step in the journey to freedom from anxious thinking—and the most important step—is to grow your faith by spending time with God. Prayerlessness is a sure-fire way to keep yourself in bondage to fear. Until you realize that prayer is your lifeline in times of trouble, you will keep searching for other things to fill that void. And you will continue to be disappointed. The Bible calls the other things to which we turn for comfort or satisfaction idols. You need to cast down those idols when you recognize them, and if you cannot recognize them, you need to ask God to reveal the areas in your life in which you're substituting something for Him.

Prayer is how we develop a relationship with the living God. Prayer is how we voice our struggles to God so He can take them and release us from them. So often we will pick up the phone to call a friend when we are worried, scroll through a newsfeed to get our minds off our problems, or seek advice from an unidentifiable group of "friends" on social media when God is right there ready to help. God needs to be our first call. We call on Him through prayer. When we call on anything else before Him, we flirt with idolatry.

Teach yourself this rhyme to avoid jumping to another defense mechanism before you consult with Christ: "When I fear, I need God here. Who needs to hear it? Holy Spirit." Then drop to your knees, bow your head, or simply whisper, "Help me, Jesus." You will be amazed at how fast He runs to you. You can feel good knowing you went to God first and avoided idolatry.

Prayer Focus: Spend time with God in prayer. Ask Him to reveal any idols that may be interfering with your relationship with Him.

Isaiah 41:13 (ESV) For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

Source: www.MyBible.com