



KEEPING THE FAITH ~ SECURING OUR FUTURE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2
MARCH 14, 2011

An Important Message from Our Pastor

Dear People of St. Marks,
Let's imagine...

Imagine "Keeping The Faith ~ Securing Our Future" is successful to the point we raise \$1 million. What would be the result? Our much needed repairs and replacements would be covered without having to "nickel and dime" the congregation over each repair and our all-important ministry budget would not be put in jeopardy.

Also, we could pay off our \$350,000 second mortgage, which would free up \$30,000 per year in funds that could go

towards people-oriented ministry instead of debt service. Now, imagine what we could do with that \$30,000.

Imagine supporting additional musical and mission opportunities for youth and children.

Imagine sponsoring more Stop Hunger Now and other major hunger-ending events.

Imagine supporting the growing needs of the Leadership University in Honduras.

Imagine increasing our support of local food banks.

Imagine hosting an even-

ing Vacation Bible School for families and children who cannot attend during the day.

This is just a small sample of what we could do! I am sure you can think of lots of ways to spend an additional \$30,000 a year in ministry. The point is when "Keeping The Faith ~ Securing Our Future" is successful it opens up an amazing future for St. Mark's.

I invite you to imagine with me as you pray about your commitment on April 3.

Grace and Peace,

David Bonney

Dear Church Friends:

We are facing an important time at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Several teams have been working on our "Keeping the Faith ~ Securing Our Future" capital campaign and our team, focused on emphasizing Ministry, has prepared a special program to be part of Sunday services on March 13, 20 and 27, 2011.

If you were in church for the first of these presentations, you have already seen a glimpse of what St. Mark's is doing in the world and in our local community.

The many ministries at St. Mark's are a key factor in the success of our church. Each ministry is possible through the involvement of the church family and provides each of us an opportunity to share the many blessings that God has bestowed on each of us. Did you know that St. Mark's is involved in more than 50 ministries? Our goal is to share some information about many of these during the weeks leading up to Commitment Sunday on April 3rd.

We are able to finance these ministries through

the tithes and offerings so generously given by all who attend St. Mark's. While we are seeking to raise much needed capital funds through "Keeping the Faith ~ Securing our Future," these gifts are to be above and beyond the giving to support our annual budget.

We encourage you to make every effort to attend the March worship services, share in the joy of God's blessings and pray for the success of this campaign.

Yours in Christ,

The Ministry Emphasis Team

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor:

David Bonney

Campaign Directors:

Walter & Judy Hawthorne

Campaign Coordinators:

Daisy Byrd; Tim & Kathy Merry

Vision Awareness Directors:

Linda & Gary Edwards

Spiritual Life Directors:

Chuck & Elizabeth Johnson

Children & Youth Directors:

Mike & Denise Powers;

Chris & Stephanie Franklin

Ministry Emphasis Directors:

Wally & Sharron Glasscock

Advance Cultivation Directors:

Earl & Anne Yamada

Communications Director:

Daisy Byrd

Mailing Directors:

Naomi Moore; Sandy Dodson

Hospitality Directors:

Cathy Kiiffner; Trisha Jennings;

Metta Nickerson

Commitment Directors:

Mark & Connie James;

Mike & Susan Marie Shelton

Follow-Up Directors:

Richard & Gretchen Worcester;

Brack & Pam Stovall

Consultant:

Branson Isley Cargill Associates

Important Dates:

Children & Youth Car Wash & Bake Sale 10am - 2pm	3/19
Prayer Walk & Prayer Vigil 8am - 12pm	3/26
Commitment Sunday & Brunch	4/3
First Fruits Offering	4/24

Biblical Principles to Consider When Giving

The Stewardship Principle

Stewardship is the recognition that God owns all that we possess. It acknowledges that our Lord provides the resources for our life, and, through us, the resources for godly work and for the church. We are managers, overseers, of what God has provided for our life. We are accountable for all that has been placed into our life, not just for a portion of the amount. Our giving is an expression of our love and gratitude.

The Voluntary Principle

Paul stated the voluntary principle when he said, "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has - not according to what one does not have." (II Corinthians 8:12).

Again he said, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

(II Corinthians 9:7).

No one should determine the amount of another person's commitment.

Each person and household is challenged to seek God's will in determining a personal giving commitment.

The Sacrificial Principle

In the Old Testament people came to worship with a sacrifice in hand. The word "sacrifice" can be defined as "to set apart" or "to make holy." Sacrificial giving is the act of making sacred, or setting apart, our financial resources for God. Jesus chose those who gave sacrificially as models for giving. The widow who gave two mites, the boy who gave his lunch, and the woman who gave her alabaster box of perfume are prime examples. The Scriptures make clear that God measures the gift, not in relationship to others, but in relationship to one's resources and in what is left over after the gift. The Apostle Paul said, "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has."

(II Corinthians 8:12).

And Jesus said, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required."

(Luke 12:48).

Impact Richmond; Samaritan's Purse; Stop Hunger Now ~ WE are St. Mark's!



Keeping the Faith, Securing Our Future ~ Capital Campaign Goal

Our campaign goal is to raise \$1,000,000 over a three-year period. Most would say that this is ambitious...some might even say it's *impossible!* But here at St. Mark's, we have a history of seeing the need and hearing God's call.

Consider the \$2.1 million pledged for our "Only by Grace" campaign in 2001. With these funds, we were able to build the Community Life Center, allowing us to open our doors to more people than we had ever dreamed possible!

In 2005, the St. Mark's family continued to be faithful by pledging \$1.4 million for capital improvements through "Share the Vision."

As each of you prayerfully considers how you can give "above and beyond" to meet the capital needs of St. Mark's, we offer the following example of how we can realize our ambitious, but very **possible** goal!

GIFTS NEEDED TO REACH \$1,000,000				
Number of Gifts Needed	3-Year Total	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$481
1	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$1,389	\$321
2	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$833	\$192
3	\$20,000	\$6,667	\$556	\$128
8	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$96
10	\$10,000	\$3,333	\$278	\$64
27	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$208	\$48
28	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$167	\$39
26	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$125	\$29
16	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$83	\$19

WAYS TO GIVE:

Cash, Stocks or Bonds, Real Estate or
Other Appreciated Assets.

A St. Mark's Faith Story ~ By: Barbara Hunt

St. Mark's has been "our church" for 19 years. When my husband, Randy, and my daughter, Emme, began worshipping here, it was a small church. We liked that. We made friends quickly as everyone was friendly and an extra pair of hands was eagerly put to work. We liked that. Membership grew and we were bursting at the seams. We liked that. It was an exciting time. Our facility grew several times, staff grew in number, and ministry and outreach grew in service to the community. We liked that. Throughout the past 19 years we have seen many changes. We like that.

Even though change can be hard, change is necessary. When we fail to make changes we are not doing our part to share the one truth that has remained constant and will never change, God's love for us.

God has shown His love for me in many ways at St. Mark's. I have seen God's love for me in the eyes of children in Vacation Bible School and the church nursery. I have felt God's love for me in the hands of the sick and elderly. I have heard of God's love for me in the voices of peers in a Bible study, Stephen Ministry, UMW and Sunday School.

I am truly grateful for the opportunities to serve God through the ministries at St. Mark's.

My hope for the future of St. Mark's is to continue to change. Change means we are alive! A church that is alive is growing. A church that is growing is building up God's kingdom and making disciples. Isn't this what we are called to do?