



KEEPING THE FAITH ~ SECURING OUR FUTURE

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A Special St. Marks Faith Story

St. Marks has been a blessing to me for quite a number of years. I started attending as a single mother when my son, Kevin, was in elementary school. He attended Vacation Bible School and Sunday School until he graduated from high school several years ago. He had wonderful adult mentors who took interest in him through his church activities and sports programs, and it really meant a lot to both him and me.

I have been a part of several different Sunday School classes, each one providing a warm, caring group of Christian friends who laughed together, learned together and prayed together. When Rick and I began dating, he started attending church with Kevin and me, and he joined in 2002. We were eventually married at St. Marks. We have wonderful memories of our very simple wedding ceremony in the sanctuary and remember with fondness the Caritas group that was in the fellowship hall as we came through. There were several families with small children who looked up with excitement in seeing us

dressed up in our wedding clothes, and I remember feeling so proud that we were a part of a church so dedicated to helping others -- the Caritas group was being well-fed and cared for and had a safe, secure place to stay. It added to the joy of our special day.

Rick and I were fortunate to be a part of two different mission trips to Southwest Virginia. St. Marks gave us an opportunity to experience first hand the joy that can come from helping others less fortunate and working together with a team to make things happen in the name of Christ. For several years we volunteered to stay overnight with the Caritas group and met people who had so little in material possessions, but yet were so thankful for what St. Marks was providing to them. It was very humbling to realize how blessed we are, and yet how easy it is to take what we have for granted.

Over the past two years our involvement at St. Marks has been limited. When my elderly mother came to live with us in December 2008, we

promised her that we would take her back to her church in Amelia County as long as she was able to go. As a result, we've not been as active in St. Marks' programs, but have always known that our family was in the thoughts and prayers of our St. Marks friends. We've appreciated so much "The Connection" and other church newsletters that have helped us to stay connected, at a time when we've been able to offer little back to our church family.

God didn't promise us an easy life, but a life rich with blessings if we believe in him. Country singer, Randy Travis, sings a song that ends with, "I guess it's not what you take when you leave this world behind you; it's what you leave behind you when you go." I hope we all consider what it is we can offer to St. Marks, whether in time, talent or financial gifts, because what we leave behind can continue to richly bless generations for years to come. We are thankful that St. Marks has been available to us as we strive to grow in our Christian faith.

~ Aggie Blocker

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

Commitment Sunday 4/3

First Fruits Offering 4/24

COMMITMENT SUNDAY ~ April 3, 2011

Many of us are asked, and even expected, to make commitments in our lives. To commit means to pledge or make a promise to undertake a particular course of action. We make a commitment when we agree to take on a marriage, family, friendship, career, or an educational endeavor. We commit to invest our time, energy, and money in those things that we hold dear, in those things which we set as priorities in our lives.

On April 3rd, at all worship services, each of us will be given an opportunity to make our three-year financial commitment to the “**Keeping the Faith ~ Securing our Future**” capital campaign. Estimate of giving cards (see sample below) will be distributed and we will be given an opportunity to complete them during our time of worship. As you consider your own part in making this financial commitment, please *pray* for guidance in reaching a giving decision which will be right for you and St. Mark’s United Methodist Church. Allow *faith* to become part of your decision, leaving room for God’s help. Consider *sacrifice* as a way to set apart a portion of what you have, to give something that you personally value as a way of expressing your love for God and St. Mark’s.

Q & A

Exactly how much money are we trying to raise though this campaign?

We need to raise \$1,000,000 over a three-year period. The money will be used to cover anticipated facility repair and replacement costs over the next ten years and to reduce mortgage debt, allowing for expanded ministry possibilities.

When do I begin making contributions to meet my commitment?

We will begin paying our commitments with “First Fruits” on Sunday, April 24th. Special envelopes will be provided in advance to facilitate this giving.

Will I have the opportunity to revise my commitment?

Yes, you will have the privilege of revising your commitment at any time during the three-year period. If this is necessary, we ask that you communicate your decision to the financial secretary.

Will I be asked for a commitment publicly?

No. Your individual commitment is confidential.

How will we make our gifts toward the campaign?

Capital campaign contributions may be made using the same payment options that are available for regular giving to the church for the operating budget. Special offering envelopes will be included with your bi-monthly packet if you wish to use them. You may also give online, choosing the capital funds designation to distinguish your gift from regular offering.

How frequently should I give?

This is entirely up to you. It will be helpful if you can indicate on your estimate of giving card whether you plan to give weekly, monthly, annually or at some other interval.

What if I am unable to attend worship services on April 3rd?

You may mail or hand-deliver your estimate of giving card to the church at any time. You may also use the secure online option to register your commitment via the following link: www.stmarksmidlo.com/commitmentcard. The online option will be available beginning March 29th.



Commitment Card

- \$ _____ per week for 156 weeks Total \$ _____
- \$ _____ per month for 36 months Total \$ _____
- \$ _____ per year for 3 years Total \$ _____
- \$ _____ per _____ payments Total \$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Signature: _____

This is an estimate of giving and may change depending on personal and family circumstances.

Capital Stewardship Campaign

**St. Mark's
 United Methodist Church
 11551 Lucks Lane
 Midlothian, Virginia**

WAYS TO GIVE:
 Cash, Stocks or Bonds, Real Estate,
 Other Appreciated Assets.

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

You're Invited!

April 3rd will be a very special day for the St. Mark's family as each of us makes our financial commitment to "Keeping the Faith ~ Securing our Future" and we celebrate Communion together. In further celebration of our love for the Lord and each other, everyone is invited to enjoy a **delicious homemade brunch** after worship. Please make plans to stay for a while on Sunday to enjoy food and fellowship! Brunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following each worship service.

Success!

The carwash and bake sale was a huge success! We raised a total of \$939.25! We had 10 children, 15 youth and 15 adults donate their time and numerous families donated baked goods, drinks and carwash supplies so 100% of the \$939.25 will benefit the Capital Campaign!

Our Founding Members ~ WE are St. Marks!

