



will  
proclaim  
your  
name  
to my  
brothers  
and  
sisters...”

Hebrews 2:12

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# The Annual Report

May 16, 2010

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
142 Market Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701**

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Corey Hospes ..... September 13, 2009  
 Emily Newcomer ..... September 13, 2009  
 Devin Owen ..... September 13, 2009  
 Riley Weber ..... September 13, 2009

**RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**  
 Michele Lynn Fredericks ..... April 3, 2010  
 Sally Bjornstad..... April 3, 2010

**SENT BY LETTER OF TRANSFER**  
 The Erick Fortin Family..... May 19, 2009  
 The Matt Fortin Family..... March 15, 2010

**WEDDINGS**  
 Brittany Toy & Joshua Lynch..... May 1, 2009  
 Jeanine Shipman & Aaron Fisher ..... June 29, 2009  
 Bethany Mathie & David Heller ..... Nov. 28, 2009

**MEMBER FUNERALS**  
 James Shaffer ..... June 13, 2009  
 Phyllis Homes ..... June 27, 2009  
 Ruth Kohler..... July 10, 2009  
 Zelma Vitolins ..... October 21, 2009  
 Jonathan Phillips ..... December 30, 2009  
 John MacMinn ..... March 13, 2010

**NON-MEMBER FUNERALS**  
 Lucile Lewis..... June 27, 2009  
 Gerald Koch ..... August 13, 2009  
 Jean Sims ..... August 28, 2009  
 Joan Hunter ..... September 5, 2009  
 Kay West..... September 26, 2009  
 Mary Catherine Dangle..... November 13, 2009  
 Patricia Bailey ..... December 16, 2009  
 George Freeburger ..... December 23, 2009  
 Carl Hunter..... January 2, 2010  
 Carl Loudenslager ..... January 30, 2010



**FROM THE PARISH REGISTER IN 2009**

**BAPTISMS**

Kyseem Smith..... November 22, 2009  
 Tanya Sheets ..... April 3, 2010  
 Audrey Bower..... April 3, 2010

**FIRST COMMUNIONS**

Kyseem Smith..... November 22, 2009  
 Annika Waffenschmidt ..... November 22, 2009  
 Lynna Robertson..... November 22, 2009  
 Ian Elliott ..... November 22, 2009  
 Dylan Ott..... November 22, 2009

**AFFIRMATION/CONFIRMATION**

Stephen Boone ..... September 13, 2009



## **SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF CONGREGATION ASSEMBLIES**

### **Annual Congregation Assembly May 17, 2009 ~ Donna Clark, sec.**

1. President Harold Hershberger, presiding.
2. The following were elected to Church Council:
  - ❖ Clinton Eppleman, 2012 (1<sup>st</sup>),
  - ❖ Bonnie Eyer, 2011 (1<sup>st</sup>),
  - ❖ William Hill, 2010 (1<sup>st</sup>),
  - ❖ Dinah Labenberg, 2012 (1<sup>st</sup>),
  - ❖ Michelle Ramsauer, 2012 (1<sup>st</sup>),
  - ❖ Jane Zimmerer, 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup>)
3. Annual Report booklet was accepted.

### **Special Congregation Assembly December 13, 2009 ~ Donna Clark, Sec.**

1. President Gary Weber, presiding.
2. Several questions were asked and answered about the budget for 2010.
3. The budget was moved and adopted by voice vote with about 115 affirmative and one negative vote.
4. Everyone was advised that complete details of the budget are available from the church office, and financial reports are always posted in the office hallway.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Gary Weber, Council President*

Another year in our life at St. Mark's has passed. During the year we have looked back, and we now look forward to new initiatives in our community.

In September, we celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our organ, that was built by the Möller Organ Company in 1939. Then in February, the nave's 50<sup>th</sup> year was recognized with a luncheon. How lucky we are to have such a wonderful place for worship.

In our community, changes and challenges swirl around us. At St. Mark's, we are looking outside of our doors to those in need in our neighborhood. In the past few years, Pastor Elkin and Becky Miller Pryor have been very actively promoting the Family Promise program, to help homeless families. The program now has the support needed to begin operation and St. Mark's will be one of the first to assist the homeless in this program. Our efforts in the past year extended well beyond supporting Family Promise. The Lutheran Build, Habitat for Humanity received our support last year and will again receive support this year. The women of the church recently conducted a clothing sale which generated a profit to support charitable purposes, and which also resulted in donations of clothing to several other local organizations, for distribution to the less fortunate. These and many other efforts will continue to be the focus of St. Mark's social outreach in our community.

As difficult as the economy has been for some, it is a downtown economic boom that has been the cause of some concern to St. Mark's. Vacant land that borders the Church on Via Bella and Mulberry Streets has been the target of several ill conceived development proposals, that would surround and isolate the Church. Council has approved an initiative to actively work toward procuring the land for the use of the church, and to prevent its use in

poorly designed and cramped commercial development schemes that would have a detrimental impact on the church.

With the economic difficulties of the time, it should come as no surprise that St. Mark's is facing budgetary concerns. The 2010 budget of \$343,950 that was approved by the congregation in December, includes a deficit of \$46,075. This deficit will be met, in the near term, by transfers of income and principal from investments.

With the election of Congregation Council members at the May meeting, we will lose the services of three members of Council whose terms have expired. Bill Hill served only a one year term in his latest stint, but he has been a member of council for 15 years, in total service. Bud Hershberger and Jackie Kinney served six years each. Bud was president for four years and Jackie has been treasurer for five years. Council will feel keenly the loss of these superb leaders.

I have enjoyed working with Pastor Elkin, the staff, council and the committees, which support the congregation and its endeavors. Thanks to all for their work this year. Their reports follow. Great things are happening at St. Mark's!

~ Gary Weber

Bernadette Jones, Youth & Family Ministry  
Michele Owen, Youth & Family Ministry  
Jane Larson, Stephen Leader  
Bob Schultz, Retired Director of The Way  
Mel Wentzel, Director of The Way  
Clinton Eppleman, Archivist  
Bud Hershberger  
Deborah Maggs  
Nick Buckman  
Bob Miller  
Bill Hill  
Bonnie Eyer  
Dinah Labenberg  
Michele Ramsaurer  
Scott Bittner  
Declan Jones, youth observer



### **A WORD FROM THE PASTOR**

*The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin*

So many different activities, but still only the same number of hours in the week! This is a roughly chronological listing of some of the many ways that the Pastor has been active in the past year in addition to the regular round of preparation for leading Sunday worship services, daily Morning Prayer, meetings, visits, communions, etc.

1. Pastor worked with several couples preparing for marriage throughout the year.
2. While Pastor was away:
  - ❖ April 29, Ray Huff preached, communion was served from reserve sacrament.
  - ❖ May 3, Father Andrew France preached and presided
  - ❖ May 10, Sandy Grier, certified lay worship leader, preached and presided.
3. Pastor left for Israel in late April. During the time that he was away, he maintained the practice of



### **PERSONS WHO SERVED AT VARIOUS POINTS DURING THE YEAR AS COUNCIL MEMBERS & LEADERS**

The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin, Pastor  
Gary Weber, President  
Todd Smith, Vice President  
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer  
Jane Zimmerer, Secretary  
Beth Shafranko, Assistant Secretary  
Richard Lakey, Director of Music  
Sharon Comini, Youth & Family Ministry

- Morning Prayer about 4:30 A.M. each day upon arising, before transport to work at the dig. Together with Pr. Wertz and his wife Joan, Pr Elkin also toured northern Israel sites and the Golan region, and went to Jerusalem for a day and to Bethlehem as well. He was able to visit with friends in Haifa and Tel Aviv also.
4. New Council members were installed at either service on May 31.
  5. Pastor met with the Stephen Ministry I and II groups monthly.
  6. Pastor concluded the Divine Drama series for the year in May. We hoped to begin a new group in the fall.
  7. The final session of *The Way* was on May 31, with a family gathering and meal, followed by a service of scripture and prayer.
  8. Pastor met with potential members at various points in the year.
  9. The congregation Picnic was held on Sunday, June 14 at Indian Park in Montoursville.
  10. Pastor led a Forum on the scenery in Israel on June 21, and on the dig at Wadi Hamam on July 5, and used video clips of the travels on July 26, and August 16.
  11. Pastor met with Carlos Saldivia concerning the next set of Bible videos, and to plan future work.
  12. The staff met for a farewell luncheon on June 30 for Sharon Comini, leaving her position that day.
  13. Pastor joined by Bob Jones took a food safety course on July 6, and scored well on the exam given at its conclusion. They have received their certificates, which are now posted in the kitchen.
  14. Pastor and Bernadette led the Catechetical Camp held on July 13-15, and a makeup camp for several who were missing due to schedule conflicts on July 27-29. A unique aspect in this second round was a tour of the American Rescue Workers building, where we saw the wide range of activities that are underway daily there.
  15. Pastor and Donna attended the wedding of niece Amy Kolodick in Myrtle Beach SC on July 17. In his absence, Ken Shafranko delivered the sermon on July 19, and communion was celebrated from reserve sacrament.
  16. Pastor and Donna assisted son David in moving from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia on July 30.
  17. Three catechetical students spent a day with the Pastor on August 3 in order to get a flavor of the work of the pastor and parish in addition to what the students know from Sundays.
  18. Kathy Kolb was selected to help with publicity for the congregation.
  19. Pastor led a Forum on the dig at Wadi Hamam on July 26 and again on August 16, with video of the dig director.
  20. The catechetical camp concluded with a picnic supper and pool time at the pastor's home. All family members seemed to enjoy the time.
  21. Guests at Forum on August 3 led a mission in the Dominican Republic regularly.
  22. Met with Carlos Saldivia on August 5 and planned a video to help celebrate and explain our organ on its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in late September.
  23. Forum on August 9 was Sandy Hill representing Albright Life.
  24. Beginning on August 8, Pastor spent any available time dismantling Donna's parents home in Conyngham that suffered flood damage. Very intensive and sad work.
  25. Pastor gathered as much information as possible to assist the council in reaching a decision about the repair of the bell solenoids.
  26. Pastor had small groups of catechetical students with him on August 3, 18, and 26 to get a bit of a picture of what goes on in the ministry of the pastor and the congregation at times other than Sunday morning. The Pastor regards this as an important, but exhausting, activity.
  27. Pastor walked alongside the float at the Grand Slam Parade on August 20, and assisted Bernadette Jones and Michelle Owen in handing out nearly 1,000 little fliers about the congregation.
  28. Pastor met with landscape designers from Ettinger's concerning our proposed use of the Mulberry Street land.
  29. Pastor met with Mel Wentzel several times to plan for the beginning of *The Way* for this year.
  30. Met several times with Carlos Saldivia and cameraman Nick Falco to make a 13 minute video to help celebrate and explain our organ on its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

31. Note that the congregation has received a gift of a desk beautifully repaired and refinished for use in Fellowship hall. The desk originally belonged to Jane Larson's mother.
32. Pastor began the Wednesday noon series of studies on September 2, focusing on the cycles of stories in Genesis 12-50.
33. Pastor met with Todd Smith to plan a Veteran's Day observance on November 11.
34. The parish was pleased to welcome Bishop Driesen on September 13, who presided at the Table, preached, officiated at Confirmation, and was a guest at the family luncheon that followed.
35. Pastor negotiated the playground size, city approval, placement, gating throughout the summer, and encouraged the installation of the wood perimeter on September 14.
36. Pastor prepared the annual staff reviews for the Mutual ministry committee.
37. We were delighted to welcome Bette McCrandall to St. Mark's on September 23. Pastor presented her with a check for \$200 from recent contributions, and also a token of recognition to her mother who was traveling with her. About 40 persons were present for the luncheon event.
38. Our organ anniversary event proceeded in festive order. The video was shown, pipes demonstrated, representative organ literature was sampled, and the program concluded with the congregation's favorite postlude, the Widor Toccata from Symphony V. The luncheon organized in Fellowship Hall by Bob Jones and friends was beautifully done. A very successful event. Pastor served as the MC.
39. Pastor met with the Council at supper at Hoss' on September 27 to prepare for Consecration Sunday. Pastor provided transportation for Lou Kolb so that he could be present and give words of encouragement to the members.
40. The Way has met for 20 regular sessions under the leadership of Mel Wentzel during the season.
41. The Way met for its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon on October 18.
42. Pastor and staff met for luncheon on October 13 and other dates in the year.
43. Susan our secretary had back surgery on November 2. Bernadette and several volunteers assisted during her absence.
44. We marked the retirement of Elsie Sechler and Larry Bair from Stephen Ministry on October 18 with a public thanks at worship.
45. Pastor attended the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday reception held for Ralph Zeigler at Roseview.
46. Met several times with Carlos Saldivia. Filming of the next portion of Genesis took place on November 10.
47. Pastor met with landscape designer from Ettinger's concerning our proposed use of the Mulberry Street land.
48. Pastor welcomed several persons publicly to The Way on Sunday, December 6.
49. Pastor had several house blessings in the Epiphany season.
50. Pastor met with a dozen apartment residents in the Williamsport Home on January 7, 2010 for Holy Communion, conversation, and tea, with bread baked at the Epiphany event on 1/6.
51. Pastor and Bernadette led the bread-baking session on January 6 with 14 participants. Lots of conversation and laughter, as well as bread baked for each home.
52. Had a small milestone luncheon for those who received faith-chests on January 11, 2010.
53. With the assistance of a staff of 18 persons, many of them members of the congregation, Pastor and Donna gave a party at St. Mark's with 50 guests on December 28, 2009 for dinner, touring, and dancing with Katy Elkin and Esteban Mazer in anticipation of their marriage on February 13, 2010 in Barcelona Spain. Pastor and Donna offer their profound thanks to all involved in this marvelous event.
54. Pastor welcomed Tanya Sheets to The Way on Sunday, February 21, as a baptismal candidate.
55. Pastor was interviewed by Mark Marone of the Sun-Gazette and an article was produced about Family Promise progress.
56. Pastor was pleased to participate in the Milestone "All the Languages of Good News" on January 31.
57. Pastor and Donna flew to Barcelona Spain on February 3 to help prepare for the wedding of Katy Elkin and Esteban Mazer on Feb 13 at Hostaric Castle, northeast of Barcelona. Persons from 12 nations on four continents were

in attendance. The Elkins returned late in the night of Feb 15.

58. On February 23 Pastor reviewed some of our video clips made last year and has passed them on to Lou Kolb for the addition of tags which will help search engines find them online.
59. On February 24 Pastor gave a tour of the chapel and nave to a large crowd of preschoolers from Little Lambs. There were lots of good questions.
60. Pastor attended both the Prayer Pillow luncheon and the JBSSBL pizza party on February 27.
61. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the nave was celebrated on February 28 at and following the 10:30 service. We talked about the beauty and significance of the building and windows and other decorative elements. We took a photograph of all those present who were willing to step into the chancel and smile. We offered a lunch for about 80 persons, and lots of conversation was also served.
62. Stephen Ministry I session was held at Valley View on March 4 so that Larue Dieter could be a part of the event.
63. Our Financial Secretary Richard Wagner had thyroid surgery on March 4.
64. Jane Larson has announced her retirement for sure from Stephen Ministry at the end of May. The Stephen Ministers plan a festive gathering on May 20 in her honor.
65. Pastor and Bernadette Jones led the annual catechetical-age trip on March 20. We traveled to the Harrisburg area and visited houses of worship and spoke with representatives in each of them about their life and faith and how their building may help them and shape them. The sites visited included: St. Catherine Laboure Roman Catholic Church, St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church, Paxton Presbyterian Church, St. Michael Lutheran Church, Temple Beth El (synagogue), and St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral. The trip was lively and informative. The only regret was that not every student eligible took part.
66. Holy Week activities proceeded according to plan. In the eight days were 4 Sunday morning services, Seder, two communions on Thursday, the community service on Good Friday and Tenebrae that evening, 5 Morning prayer services on weekdays, and the Easter Vigil on

Saturday evening, for a total of 15 opportunities for worship in the 8 days.

67. Thanks to the crew who assisted in pouring the Christ Candle on March 27, as well as making the palm crosses that morning and so many other tasks for the conduct of the services throughout the week.
68. The Icon Tea was held on the afternoon of April 11 in Fellowship Hall. The room became a display gallery for our 50 icons and icon prints. Tea and scones, etc. were prepared by Bob Jones and Michele Fredericks. Fr. Dan Kovalak from Holy Cross Orthodox Church spoke engagingly and informatively. It was a very positive educational and devotional experience.
69. The second annual Iron Chef Williamsport event was held on Sunday evening April 25. Nearly \$7,000 was raised, 110 were in attendance, many more served, cooked, cleaned, organized, publicized, etc. for the event. The winning team was Pastor Elkin, Ruth Rees and Bernadette Jones, over a team from First United Methodist. Gary Chrisman gave the play-by-play for the contest. Robert Jones was chef for the public meal.
70. We are pleased and fortunate to have a diligent and hard-working staff serving here with the congregation at St. Mark's, with whom it is a delight to work. May it long continue!



### **ITEMS OF ECUMENICAL INTEREST**

1. Pr. Elkin and Pr. Wertz, although competitors in the Iron Chef Williamsport event, were working companions in the dig at Wadi Hamam under the Arbel Cliffs near the Sea of Galilee in late April.

2. Pastor met with various church leaders in the community concerning Family Promise throughout the year.
3. Pastor presided at the Festive service of Holy Communion on Ascension Day, May 21, at Messiah Church. Sadly no one else from St. Mark's was in attendance.
4. Pastor met with Family Promise core committee each month throughout the year.
5. Pastor attended the annual Synod Assembly together with Bud and Joyce Hershberger and Bill Hill. A synopsis of events was reported in the July *Lion*.
6. Pastor Elkin led one course entitled "Can you dig that?" about archeology in the Holy Land in the fall School of Religion.
7. Pastor met with Family Promise board members and national representatives on June 23.
8. Pastor took part in the gathering of several STS pastors held at Messiah Church on June 29.
9. Pastor assisted the crew organized by Carlos Saldivia on August 24 and 25 at the concession stand at Little League on behalf of the Arts Council.
10. Pastor met with the Campus Ministry group at Penn College on August 24.
11. Pastor spent the afternoon of August 27 filling in for the Shepherd of the Streets.
12. Pastor met with Center City cluster of pastors on the first Tuesday of many months.
13. Pastor and Becky Miller Pryor represented Family Promise at a table in front of Otto's Bookstore on First Friday, September 5. A very successful time.
14. Pastor took part in the bi-monthly LSM meetings. LSM was chaired by Gary Weber this year.
15. Pastor attended the annual gathering of the Society of the Holy Trinity at the retreat center in Mundelein, Illinois. He traveled with 4 other pastors to keep costs to a minimum. There was the full round of the prayer offices, lectures, conversations, meals, communion, and one business session.
16. Pastor stood in prayer for the one hour at the Life-Chain on October 4 along with many hundreds of other people.
17. Pastor participated in the CROP walk on October 11, completing 6 miles. Folks gave sponsorships in the amount of \$115 on Sunday morning.
18. Pastor occasionally attended the Conference Pastors' monthly meetings.
19. Pastor participated in the load in of the container for Liberia on Saturday, October 24, in the rain, at Lewisburg. An incredible amount of stuff was packed tightly in the container. The rest of the congregation missed a singular experience by not coming to assist.
20. Pastor Elkin, and Kristi Hammaker, president of Family Promise, gave a presentation at the ecumenical luncheon on November 18.
21. Pastor participated in the retreat of the Society of the Holy Trinity meeting in Danville on 11/30—12/1 and served as musician for the services there.
22. Pastor and Kristi Hammaker represented Family Promise at the reception given by the PA Community Foundation on December 3 at the Gallery at Penn College for potential recipients of grants.
23. Pastor and Bernadette and Michelle Owen participated in the community live nativity on Pine Street on December 4.
24. Because of potential flu problems, the Selinsgrove Center canceled all Christmas party visits on 12/8. We rescheduled for January 20, 2010.
25. Preparation for Iron Chef-Williamsport began on January 25.
26. Pastor met with the Board of Family Promise on February 23 for an interview for Director, and then considered all three interviews and selected a candidate to whom we would offer the position.
27. The Iron Chef challenge was filmed on March 2.
28. A small country UCC church from Catawissa area gathered a number of blankets, pillows and toiletries for Family Promise and delivered them to us on February 28.
29. Pastor and Becky Miller Pryor joined an ecumenical group in cleaning the Day Center on March 6. Lots was done, with good energy and excitement.
30. Conference Assembly is set for May 2, 3:00 at Messiah Clarkstown.
31. Synod Assembly is set for June 18-19 in the gym at SU.
32. Pastor attended the Lenten retreat for the Society of the Holy Trinity on March 15 at Millersburg.



33. Elizabeth Tore, a representative of the national organization of Family Promise was here on March 21-25.

- ❖ She led training for the Board on March 22, for our congregation's volunteers and others on March 23, for the coordinators of the 13 congregations on March 24.
- ❖ Our potential director was also present for all of these activities, but as the days progressed, it became clear that she was not willing to accept the responsibilities of the position.
- ❖ The Board met on Friday March 26, and agreed that it was not a good fit between our expectations and hers.
- ❖ We then reopened our search. After consultations with advisors, more information gathering, and another interview with a different candidate, further prayer and reflection, the Board on April 12 voted unanimously to select Melissa Magargle to the position of Director. She lives in Montgomery with her family, and was employed very near St. Mark's.
- ❖ Melissa began her work on April 26, with training in Toledo Ohio.

~ The Rev. Kenneth R. Elkin



### **MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

*Carl Hieber, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by keeping the Pastor and staff advised of conditions within the congregation and to interpret to the congregation the ministry of our professional leaders.*

**MEMBERS:** Deb Maggs; Bob Schultz; Ruth Rees;

Beth Shafranko; Nancy Larson; Pastor Kenneth Elkin; Gary Weber, Council President; Carl Hieber, Chairman

### **The Role of Mutual Ministry in the Life of St. Mark's**

*The "Working Description of Committee Functions" adopted by Council in September, 1999, continues to guide the committee's activities.*

#### **ACTIVITIES**

1. Thanked departing Committee members, Skip Greevy and Karen Boone and welcomed new members Deb Maggs (1<sup>st</sup> term) and Bob Schultz, (1<sup>st</sup> term).
2. Recommended the hiring of Kathy Kolb replacing Sandra Dougherty as part-time Publicity Director for the parish.
3. Salary recommendations for the staff were given to the Finance Committee for consideration.
4. Pastor Elkin gave a report on the staff interviews.
5. Recommended the hiring of Michelle Owen as part time Christian Education Director for Sunday School, replacing Sharon Comini who resigned June 30, 2009.
6. It was recommended that Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services, check with Fisher Ins. Co. for other options to replace his Medicare supplement plan which is paid by St. Mark's. A decision was made to purchase insurance through Erie at a substantial savings for the church.
7. And, as always, discussed activities and events in parish life and their impact on the life and work of our pastor, staff and members.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding staff at St. Mark's. We thank Pastor Elkin, Dick Lakey, Director of Church Music, Lou DeSeau, Sexton, Bernadette Jones, Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry, Michelle Owen, Director of Sunday School, Dick Wagner, Financial Secretary and Susan Mahserjian-Smith, Church Secretary for their dedicated service to St. Mark's and its members. We also thank the many volunteers who assist the staff on a regular basis.

~ Carl Hieber



## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

*Beth Shafranko, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Worship and Music Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by Word and Sacrament in and beyond the congregation. To this end the Committee shall see that the worship of God is conducted in good order in accordance with the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.*

The Worship and Music committee, in an oversight capacity, continued to be very busy again this year within the congregation, as well as in the community. We have two marvelous spaces for public worship: the nave where we sang Sunday liturgies, weddings, funerals, concerts, and other events; and the chapel where we sang a variety of services including Morning Prayer, Lenten services, funeral visitations, and more.

The committee is pleased to recognize musical groups serving in the church's worship: the senior choir, the Kantorei, the adult hand-bell choir, the family hand-bell choir, the recorder players as well as the many soloists both vocal and instrumental.

We have been fortunate indeed to have the Lycoming College Chamber Choir as well as their full choir sing during several of our morning services as well as one evening presentation. We are very appreciative of those talented young adults directed by our congregational member Fred Thayer and accompanied by Mr. Lakey.

Non-perishable food, flowers, quilts, clothing, and financial contributions were gathered and then shared in support of various community, and global efforts. Outreach programs to our shut-ins provided home communion for those people unable to attend regular church services; and we also reached out to them with carols, cards, visits, flowers, phone calls, and more.

Acknowledgment must be made for the diligent service of our committee members, musicians, the behind the scenes helpers, and those who share in worship leadership roles. Without the assistance, leadership and contributions of all of them, our services to the Lord would not be as fulfilling. The committee would like to express sincere appreciation and thankfulness to Music Director Dick Lakey and Pastor Elkin – their leadership in both areas of worship and music is truly inspirational.

The Altar Guild was extremely active again this year with their rigorous scheduled activities to keep the church supplies and articles in proper order. New members to this group are always welcome.

Additional communion assistants, lectors, greeters, acolytes, and assisting ministers were introduced this year. The service opportunities are always expanding. Opportunities exist especially for assistance in our Nursery during Sunday services as well as the delivery of flowers to those in the hospitals and nursing homes.

We also look to expand the number of persons, especially young persons, who are engaged in musical leadership in the church's worship.

Children's Church continues to occur one Sunday morning each month during the 10:30 service. Attendance has grown during this time with grandparents and other interested adults attending also. The children do a terrific job and invite each of you to join them sometime in the Chapel. The service is completed in time for the attendance of all to join us for Communion in the Nave.

Challenges for the upcoming year are mainly focused in the areas of volunteerism, meeting parishioners' needs and increasing membership. It may not be obvious to most people that it truly takes a host of people to keep the church, music and worship services ministering properly. This is most evident during the Christmas season and Holy Week, but this need continues every day of the year. There exists numerous opportunities for volunteer ministry here at St. Marks. We all have gifts bestowed upon us. Please feel free to contact any Worship and Music Committee member if you can help share your gifts with many, for a most worthy cause - to proclaim Jesus Christ to all through his Word and Sacrament.

~ Beth Shafranko



**REPORT FROM THE  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

*Richard Lakey*

We express our thankfulness to all those who participate in the Contemporary Choir, Senior Choir, Adult Handbell Choir, and the Family Handbell Choir. Our appreciation is extended to each and every one who has added to the life of our church through their weekly contributions to rehearsals and worship services.

We are grateful to the following persons who have been soloists and instrumentalists during the past year: Jim Buckman, Nick Buckman, Deb Buckman, Ray Huff and Donna Elkin.

Other musical offerings during the year were:

- ❖ The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Dialysis Organ Concert;
- ❖ The Lycoming College Choir under the direction of Dr. Fred Thayer;
- ❖ The Lycoming College Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Fred Thayer;
- ❖ The Williamsport Civic Chorus;
- ❖ Various students of the Suzuki Violin Program under the direction of Pat Thayer;
- ❖ Summer Choir Camp Musical and all the folks involved in it's production

Continuing goals for the coming years are:

1. To continue to offer and expand musical opportunities for individuals within our congregations worship life;
2. To assist with Christian Education with regards to Sunday School, Bible School and Confirmation programs;
3. To continue with the annual organ concert for dialysis;
4. To continue monthly meetings and meals of Lunch 'n' Fellowship;

5. To offer opportunities to the college choirs and their participation in our worship services;
6. To encourage youth musicians;
7. To offer opportunities to other choral and instrumental groups as well as individuals to participate in our worship life.

I express my appreciation and thankfulness to all of the members who participate in the various choirs and instrumental groups, and to all who contribute to help make the music program successful. There are so many who give of their time and talent. I am indeed thankful for each of them.

~ Richard Lakey



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

*Youth and Family Ministry Coordinators  
Michele Fredericks and Bernadette H. Jones*

*The purpose of the ministry of Christian Education is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the entire world by planning and administering the total educational program of the parish. To this end, the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinators supervise educational opportunities for all youth and adults in and beyond the congregation in the Christian faith as found in the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.*

**Sunday Church School:**

1. We changed the curriculum this year to Augsburg's SPARKS program which is lectionary based. This was due to a discontinuation of the previous materials and wanting to reinforce each Sunday's lesson with the children.
2. Our youth were divided into the following configuration based on numbers, age, and/or grade level: preschool (3-4 year olds)—kindergarten; grades 1—2; grade 3; and grades 4—5.
3. Our middle school class of 6-8 graders is focused on the *To Know, to Live, to Grow* program by Augsburg Fortress.
4. The confirmation class includes six members who

meet on the third Sunday of every month with their families, mentors, Pastor and Bernadette. They all have been involved in a variety of service projects.

5. Lou DeSeau and Bob Jones continue teaching the high school class. The curriculum revolves around topics of concern with the students and revisits prayer and parts of the service. The class is consistently attended by 4-5 youth.
6. The monthly rotation schedule for teachers continues to be successful.
7. Pastor Elkin led the Crossways Class for adults. *Crossways* is an in-depth study of the entire Bible.
8. The Middle Lounge Class for adults was led by Kathy Dancho on a variety of subjects.
9. Vacation Bible School, Gospel Light's *SonRock*, was held in June, 2009. A total of roughly 43 children attended, with 12 teen assistants and two dozen adults in teaching/support positions.
10. In order to accommodate the nine students, two sessions of Confirmation Camp were held in July.
11. Adult forums were presented in the Crossways Room each Sunday in August.
12. We hosted Lutheran Shared Ministry's School of Religion.
13. We organized the Twelfth Annual Youth Retreat for confirmands in January.
14. The Way, a process of faith formation, under the leadership of Pastor Elkin and Melvin Wentzel continued. There was an adult baptism (with her daughter being baptized at the same time) and five candidates affirmed their baptism; all seven became members of St. Mark's on the Great Easter Vigil, April 11, 2009.
15. Children's Church continued on a once a month schedule during the school year.
16. A joint celebration for all Sunday Church School attendees was held in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday Church School hour at Easter.

#### Youth and Family Ministry Activities:

1. Passing on Faith (formerly Child in Our Hands), remained a keystone of our family ministry at St. Mark's. Milestones celebrated this year: Receiving blankets for newborns; First Communion (with one of the five being baptized on that day); Baptismal Lunch with faith chests for recently baptized; Prayer Pillows were given to children ages 2-4; children in kindergarten and

- 1<sup>st</sup> grade received "All the Languages of the Good News" bags; third graders received their Bibles; The Blessing of the Keys was offered to those youth who became new drivers; and "Progressions," a new milestone for those young adults leaving for college, the military or business and their parents.
2. Six middle-to-high school aged youth and three children assisted with the annual Mulch Day last spring.
3. The Annual Church Picnic was held at Montoursville's Indian Park.
4. Two dinner/pool parties were held for first and second year confirmands, their families and mentors on July 15 and 29, following the confirmation camps.
5. Last summer: St. Mark's Summer Playgroup met at various parks in and around the Williamsport/Montoursville every other week.
6. St. Mark's Church Choir Camp was held for one week last summer. The intergenerational cast of 30 rehearsed *100% Chance of Rain* for performance Sunday evening, August 15, and in church on Aug. 16.
7. Five of our youth were confirmed on September 13, 2010, by Bishop Driesen. A luncheon for the Bishop and the families was held afterward.
8. Teen Movie Night was instituted for our youth on the fourth Sunday of every month. There is a consistent attendance on these evenings.
9. A group pack'n'wrap for Operation Christmas Child was held in November. Participants packed 37 shoe boxes with small gifts for needy children around the world; additional boxes were packed at home for a grand total of 32.
10. A group of 15 traveled to Corning to view the museum and design gifts.
11. Family Advent Wreath Making & Luncheon was attended by over two dozen people on the first Sunday of Advent.
12. Kids' Morning Out was attended by 16 children; five teen assistants were on hand as well.
13. The four members (and 5 visitors) attending the Christmas Cookie-Baking event produced the cookies sent for our shut-ins.
14. Christmas Caroling was conducted by 14 carolers, visiting as many of our shut-ins as they could.
15. Over 40 members, young and old, participated in the Christmas pageant for Christmas Eve this

- year: adults sang, teens narrated and children acted out the story according to Luke. Nine adults helped with preparation or during the presentation.
16. Over 70 pieces of winter warmers, scarves, hats, and gloves were collected for those in need. Four dozen teddy bears were collected and given to the Williamsport Police Station, the Pregnancy Care Center and the Wise Options for Women shelter.
  17. Bread-baking this year was led by Pr. Elkin and Bernadette Jones: the ladies (and some of our youth!) filled the kitchen with laughter and the wonderful smell of baking bread.
  18. Ed Gair is now crafting our Faith Chests for the Baptism Milestone.
  19. We trained four new acolytes in January.
  20. The John Bower Sunday Church School Basketball League for our youth began in December and continued on through February of 2009. Our youth created three teams. Coach Rick Robertson headed the teams with Mike Jensen and Kirk Owen assisting him.
  21. 74 cans of soup and \$146 were collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday," held in February.
  22. We took six of our youth to the middle school retreat at Camp Mt. Luther.
  23. A family bowling party was held in February; 30 attended.
  24. Lenten childcare was instituted for Wednesday evenings during Lent. Michele arranges for children to experience materials that relate to each evening's lesson in chapel.
  25. Fun Night continues as a monthly event.
  26. The confirmation class went to observe the art & architecture of Harrisburg churches.
  27. Bernadette again held an egg-dying session for adults and older youth; attendance remains high.
  28. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday, April 3, 2010: well over 60 were served by 8 youth, led by Declan.
  29. The St. Mark's Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 6, 2010.
  30. Summer Choir Camp will be held this summer. The program is yet to be decided.
  31. Vicki Hospes and Brittany Toy & Megan Eppleman, continue to schedule nursery and acolyte volunteers, respectively.
  32. Family hand bell and contemporary choirs continue under the direction of Dick Lakey.

#### Outreach/Continuing Education:

1. Bernadette attended Little Lambs Open House with flyers about St. Mark's and Sunday School.
2. Several of our youth attended the *See You at the Pole* events on September 23, 2009, at their various schools. Little Lambs had their own prayer circle at our fountain at the front of the church.
3. Five of our youth participated in serving the Consecration Sunday meal at St. Luke: Declan & Sara Jones, Devin Owen, Riley Weber and Theoron Hershey.
4. Our continued involvement with campus ministry this year included:
  - a. hosting table for the Fall Fiesta at the beginning of the school year
  - b. providing a dinner and Taizé service on Wednesday nights
  - c. leading two bible studies on the gospel of Mark for Monday Faith Talks
  - d. providing breakfast items for our mission trip through contributions from the congregation during Children's Church.

Sharon would like to thank the council and congregation for their support of this ministry
5. Iron Chef Williamsport, our fundraiser for Family Promise of Lycoming County, raised over \$7000 this year. Our youth servers contributed \$481 from their Tips for a Promise.
6. Gary Weber has been instrumental in getting Youth and Family information on St. Mark's website. To that end, we have provided him with text and photographs of our events.
7. Assistance continues for the YouTube videos.
8. Habitat for Humanity:
  - a. We had some workers help out at the site and volunteered to serve lunch.
  - b. *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, a youth fund raiser for Habitat, raised over \$800 over Fourth of July weekend. Matching funds obtained by the Women of St. Mark's raised the total to over \$1000.
9. We entered a float for the Grand Slam Parade on August 20. Along the way, we handed out small cards with our contact information and links to our various sites, as well as candy. We are planning another for this year.

~ Bernadette H. Jones

~ Michele Owen



## **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

*Becky Pryor-Miller, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Social Ministry Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by providing opportunities to share Christian love. To this end, the committee will address social needs by leading the congregation in extending Christian compassion and helpfulness to the aged, ill, orphaned, and persons of all ages in need.*

Since assuming the chairmanship of this committee in June of 2004, it has been my goal to continue with the many long-standing activities of this committee and to expand our congregation's service to our community in additional ways.

In fulfilling those goals many members of the congregation assisted with various activities throughout the year. Our outreach to the community included

1. Hosting the community on our front lawn for the Fourth of July festivities. We provided refreshments, information about St. Mark's, and good cheer to more than 300 people.
2. Welcoming several individuals representing service organizations in Williamsport as they explained their work in our community during our Summer Forums.
3. Providing food and monetary donations to St. Anthony's Center.
4. Providing food to Sojourner Truth Ministry.
5. Hosting our missionary, Bette McCrandall, at a luncheon attended by several people from St. Mark's and other Lutheran congregations in the area.
6. Entertaining the residents of the Selinsgrove Center in January with songs, a story, and gifts for the residents and their caregivers.

Our Christmas visit was rescheduled due to illness at the Center.

7. Providing modest (sweat shirts, watches, phone cards) Christmas gifts to 50 residents of the Danville State Hospital
8. Collecting hygiene items, linens, and making monetary donations to the Shepherd of the Streets Emergency Fund.
9. Supporting the work of The Pregnancy Care Center by providing clothing and baby items through our association with the Newberry Branch of NGA.
10. Collecting a variety of non-perishable food for the United Churches Food Pantry. This is an ongoing activity for our congregation. These ongoing donations support the work of the Worship and Music Committee.
11. Assisting the Women of St. Mark's in their collection of school kits, hygiene and sewing kits, and infant layettes.
12. Hosting a luncheon at a Habitat for Humanity building site.
13. Assisting our Family and Youth Coordinators with outreach to United Campus Ministries at Penn College. This committee assisted with dinner and providing snack items for finals' bags.
14. Representing our congregation as a member of the board of Family Promise of Lycoming County. This year saw much progress toward opening this program. Jane Zimmerer and Becky Miller Pryor will be co-coordinators for hosting at St. Mark's. They have collected items needed for hosting, attended training, and continue preparing for families experiencing a housing crisis. A tentative opening of May 16, 2010 is planned.
15. Assisting with the Iron Chef Williamsport cooking competition to raise money for Family Promise.
16. Welcoming the ongoing assistance from Gary Weber in posting this committee's activities on our web site.

Pastor and other members of the congregation provide service to our community and beyond by volunteering locally at St. Anthony's Center and Shepherd of the Streets.

Additionally this committee has teamed with our Family and Youth Coordinators to involve our

Sunday School children in Christian service. Hygiene items and food contributed by the children have been dedicated during Children's Church. Social Ministry assists the Women of St. Mark's with their annual clothing sale. This event enables additional outreach to charities locally and globally to occur.

Many other opportunities to reach out in Christian love to our neighbors exist. I encourage you to pray and answer Christ's call to serve.

*We can do no great things – only small things with great love. ~ Mother Teresa*

~Becky Miller –Pryor



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

*Jane Larson, Stephen Minister Coordinator*

*The purpose of Stephen Ministry is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by providing process in which Stephen Leaders train, organize, and supervise lay persons known as Stephen Ministers to provide effective Christian Care to others.*

Stephen Ministers continue to be linked in a one to one relationship with care receivers. Our dedicated St. Mark's Stephen Ministers continue to meet on a monthly basis for the purpose of devotions, guidance, support and relevant continuing education. St. Mark's enrolled in the Stephen Series in December of 1997.

Stephen Ministry I continues to meet monthly on Thursday, 8 am – 10:30 am. Care-receivers are being served and concerned persons are being visited. Stephen Ministry I ministers are: LaRue Dieter, Catherine Lundy, Carol McMorris, Dr. Dave McMorris, Connie Shaible, Lou DeSeau, Carl Weaver, Jane Angle, Henrietta Tyson, Pastor Elkin and Jane Larson.

Larry Bair & Elsie Sechler retired from the Stephen Ministry this year. They were presented with a framed picture of the class. We are grateful for their many years of service.

Stephen Ministry II continues to meet monthly on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and are now serving care-receivers. They are: Kathy Eshelman, Gladys Knauss, Shirley Kinney, Larry Lehman and Mary Schultz.

This class has been studying the book, "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart" by Kenneth Haugk, Ph.D.

Jane Larson, Stephen Leader/Coordinator will retire as of May 2010.

Our ministry will continue to identify potential care receivers with the assistance of the congregation and to provide quality care to those in need.

~ Jane Larson



**PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE**

*Bob Jones, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Parish Life Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by encouraging mutual care and fellowship within the congregation and presenting to the public a Christian image, which will reflect favorably on the work of Christ through this congregation.*

1. The committee was reorganized and tasked with a more focused mission. The purpose of the Parish Life Committee is to present hospitality and fellowship to the church and the community.
2. Many of the MATC goals were removed from this committee and reassigned by council as they no longer pertained to Parish Life.
3. The Lenten and Seder meal showed better attendance.

4. Iron Chef Williamsport showed better attendance.
5. Throughout the year we have served over one thousand persons in our church.
6. Small additions to kitchen and dining inventories were made during the year by way of gifts or purchase.
7. Funeral and Milestone lunches were marked.
8. The Way, Organ and Nave anniversaries were marked.
9. Several server training sessions were held and attended by our youth.
10. Certified two persons in food safety (state certifications on file in kitchen).
11. The Consecration catering swap between St Luke and St. Mark's will continue for the second year and plans to renew for the coming year.

We thank all those committees and persons that have helped us achieve our goals throughout the year.

~ Richard Lakey



**PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

*Frank Doebler, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Property Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and all the world by promoting the use of the congregation's physical resources in the support of our Christian Mission. To this end the committee arranged for the promotion, protection, maintenance, repair and expansion of church properties. The Committee supervises the use of the same by the congregation and other organizations so that the facilities are adequate for the functions assigned by the congregation.*

1. Maintenance projects included:

- ❖ 24 volunteers gathered on Saturday, April 25, at 8:00 A.M., to weed and mulch all the beds on the church grounds and heavy pruning of holly etc. in courtyard.
- ❖ annual boiler maintenance
- ❖ several rooms and stairwells painted by Little Lambs.
- ❖ Letters above the main nave door were sandblasted, powder-coated, and re-installed.
- ❖ number of light ballasts were replaced.
- ❖ Replaced all signal bulbs for the exhaust fans.
- ❖ Updated some lighting in the stairwells.
- ❖ Tiles in the basement ceiling were replaced because of water leaks.
- ❖ carpets in the north and office hallways were professionally cleaned.
- ❖ Doors are being shaved to close properly.
- ❖ Filled the 50' void that was increasing in width and depth in State Street with five sacks of blacktop.
- ❖ Installed and painted ceiling molding above the cabinets in the north end of the choir room,
- ❖ Walls in Fellowship Hall were painted after the plaster repair,

2. Repairs included:

- ❖ Replaced the south water bib.
- ❖ Put drain plugs in the window boxes.
- ❖ Kitchen refrigerator
- ❖ Replaced the battery on the emergency power generator.
- ❖ the drain line from the office hallway water fountain.
- ❖ Billtown Mechanical replaced some leaking steam piping in the basement ceiling, at a cost of \$730.
- ❖ Several solenoids for the tower bells were replaced
- ❖ Sidewalk drain on the northwest side of the church was repaired and plate replaced.
- ❖ Ramp plate at sacristy doors was cleaned and painted.
- ❖ Water leaks in water condensate return lines in the basement ceiling of parish house were repaired
- ❖ Large section of hot water line in the parish house basement ceiling was replaced.



- ❖ Large section of hot water line in the parish house basement ceiling was replaced.
  - ❖ The sound system for the church was repaired by SV2.
  - ❖ our organ maintenance firm re-leathered the 32 note 8' Trumpet action box. The cost was \$1,420. The work was done on April 9.
  - ❖ Replaced the temperature controller in the water heater in the working sacristy.
  - ❖ Base cement of the north wall of the choir wing was repaired.
  - ❖ Leaks in the north cellar wall in parish house were repaired in the midst of strong rainstorm.
  - ❖ Hinges in the Office Entrance west door were replaced by Smith Glass.
  - ❖ Door closer at west end of second floor in parish House was replaced by Smith Glass.
  - ❖ New ceiling light was installed in the south east stairwell in parish house.
  - ❖ Hot water faucet in Women's restroom of Parish house was repaired.
  - ❖ Various flush valves were repaired.
3. Additions included:
- ❖ Planted the window boxes.
  - ❖ Gasoline storage cabinet was purchased.
  - ❖ The sink for the south-central restroom on the second floor was installed.
  - ❖ A photographic survey of the building and contents to supplement our insurance coverage was done
  - ❖ Gas-powered hedge trimmer was purchased.
  - ❖ State and Water Authority jointly repaved our south parking lot
  - ❖ Playground was installed on top of the new paved south parking lot. After the fencing was professionally installed, the committee members installed the boards along the base to hold in the mulch.
  - ❖ several old chalkboards were re-installed in the basement for Little Lambs use.
  - ❖ heavier duty kitchen cart purchased
  - ❖ Pastor and Bob Jones attended a Food Safety course on July 6, and took the test at the conclusion of the day and received certification.
  - ❖ Ettinger's Landscaping did the landscaping for the south end of the playground.
  - ❖ Exit light installed in nave as per request of the Insurance company.
- ❖ Installed new lighting in the old scout room for the sake of Little Lambs art activities.
  - ❖ Installed shelving that had been given to us some months ago, placed in the coal bin to serve as storage for records and supplies.
  - ❖ Window valances were installed in Fellowship Hall.
  - ❖ Little Lambs added several murals to the painted walls in the basement.
  - ❖ The sound system for the church was repaired by SV2.
  - ❖ Some tiles in the narthex ceiling We purchased a box of these specialty tiles which are out of production.
  - ❖ Billtown designed a replacement piece for the lintel on the sacristy entrance.
  - ❖ Billtown constructed new covers for the nave exhaust fans.
  - ❖ Installed insulation on heat pipes in the organ chamber.
  - ❖ A beautifully finished desk was donated to the church from Bob Miller, for use of hospitality in Fellowship Hall. A generation ago it served in Jane Larson's mother's home.
  - ❖ Two light switches with dimmers were installed for special lighting in Fellowship Hall.
  - ❖ Old computer was set up to serve the video projector on the media cart.
  - ❖ Small lights were installed over the west sinks in the kitchen.
  - ❖ Six smoke alarms were installed in choir hallway, nursery, and Crossways rooms, in preparation for hosting Family Promise.
  - ❖ Hanging rods were installed in men's room anteroom for the round table.
  - ❖ A new saddle stitch stapler was purchased for the office, upon the failure of the last one.
  - ❖ cabinet in the Crossways room was ordered
  - ❖ Outside work day will be May 15, 2010.



**FINE ARTS COMMITTEE**

*Joyce Hershberger*

*It is the task of the Fine Arts Committee to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the world by searching out what is good, true and beautiful to serve as aids in the proclamation of the Gospel.*

This year we consulted on various purchases, including buying additional flatware, water goblets, recovering of loveseats in the Historical Room and the like.

We helped with arrangements for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church building on February 28<sup>th</sup>. A presentation concerning stained glass windows and other special features of the nave was followed by luncheon prepared by Bob Jones and his superior committee.

Our second event was the icon tea which was presented on April 11. A modest but enthusiastic group visited the display in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Dan Kovalak was our guest lecturer and shared his vast knowledge of the subject in a very interesting and entertaining way. Again, our head caterer, Bob Jones and his assistants served tasty treats along with a variety of teas. It was a special afternoon and one that I wish more of the congregation could have heard. We got a new appreciation of the wonderful collection of icons that we have.

I am grateful for an outstanding committee to help in these ventures – they are dedicated to this church and its worship space – Jane Larson, Lucille Weaver, Bob Miller, Bob Schultz and Pastor Elkin. Your good humor and time commitment are most appreciated. Special thanks to Bob Jones for his creative ideas for our events –his enthusiasm is wonderful and his willingness to tackle any challenge is gratifying.

~ Joyce Hershberger



**LIAISON COMMITTEE**

*Joyce Hershberger*

*It is the task of the Liaison Committee to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by maintaining the connection between the Little Lambs Pre-School and the congregation.*

Our group meets quarterly basis to discuss dates of mutual interest, consider requests for additional space and attach costs to those space issues.

We were delighted that, after years of planning and delays, we were able to provide space for outdoor play for the children. It had long been a dream of the pre-school to have that availability and it is finally a reality.

Additionally, we re-evaluated the charges for the first time in several years and increased the monthly rent.

We feel we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Little Lambs and that having them at St. Mark’s is mutually beneficial.

Pastor Elkin, Nancy Larson, Lou DeSeau, Bernadette Jones and I meet with Holly Tillman, school director and consult other committees as needed.

~ Joyce Hershberger



**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

*The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world*

*by initiating programs for the development of good use of all of the resources entrusted to us by God.*

1. This spring, we developed a new format for our Consecration Sunday program. We continued dividing up the responsibilities of materials printing and distributing, securing a guest speaker and soliciting reservations but new this year we exchanged meal preparations and servicing with our sister Lutheran Church, St. Luke's. We prepared and serviced their congregation a lunch October 25th after they had prepared and serviced our congregation a breakfast after the 8:00 a.m. service and a lunch after the 10:30 a.m. service on October 4th. This process was well received by both congregations. Great relationships were developed for future endeavors and we saved money, too. Many thanks to Bob Jones and his helpers. What an enormous responsibility they took on and handled with ease. Bishop Driesen delivered the first stewardship message and Lou Kolb was our "guest speaker" on Consecration Sunday and delivered a very interesting sermon.
2. The Finance Committee and Council then developed the budget and presented to the congregation on December 13th for action.
3. In addition to the regular giving envelopes that are made available to any who wish to use them each year, we added a special Synod Benevolence giving envelope. The funds received from this envelope are sent directly to our regional ELCA office in Lewisburg. There were other special giving opportunities such as the Shepherd of the Streets, St. Anthony's Center, World Hunger, Family Promise, our missionary, disaster relief and others.
4. Our youth have been supporting our community and world by continuing to collect money and/or items for needed causes.

Thanks to all who support our stewardship through-out the year.

~ Ray & Cindy Huff



**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

*Clinton Eppleman, Chairperson*

It is the purpose of the Archives Committee to keep and protect the heritage of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church.



**MEMORIALS COMMITTEE**

*Carl & Beverly Hieber, Chairpersons*

*The purpose of the Memorial Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the whole world through the thoughtful use of special gifts to the congregation.*

Gifts have been received in memory of the following members and friends of the parish in the past year:

Phyllis Holmes	Carl Hunter
Arthur Kline	Jonathon Phillips
Zelma Vitolins	Wilbur Hughes
Ruth Beryl Kohler	Jeanne Fergus
Courtney Jarrett	

~ Carl & Beverly Hieber



**FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

*Jackie Kinney, Treasurer*

*The purpose of the Finance Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by managing the financial resources of the congregation.*

Finance Committee handled the following items in the course of the year:

1. Met with our M & T Bank portfolio managers in February and August.
2. Continued to use Heat Envelopes to defray the cost of the heating bills. Thanks again to the congregation.
3. Prepared the annual budget for action by Council and Congregation.
4. Handled many small regular management matters.
5. At the end of the year, we review the St. Mark's Investment Fund and Welker Trust Fund and noted a profit of 31.31% and 36.72%, respectfully, an increase of 2.56% and 6.35%.

With deepest sympathy, we lost Larry Lundy, a dedicated and knowledgeable committee member. His many years of service has been missed by all.

Thanks to Brenda Bittner, Barb Thomas, Carl Hieber, Bud and Joyce Hershberger, Art Decker, Ken Shafranko, Charlie Fortin, Bill Hill, Bonnie Eyer and Pastor Elkin for all your help with the financial matters.

~ Jackie Kinney



**WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

*Shirley Hill, Chairman*

*The purpose of the Women of the ELCA is stated as a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

The Women of the ELCA purpose statement shows how the organization works to bring God's message of love and grace to the world. Our own St. Mark's unit focuses on a mix of local projects as well as global undertakings.

We supported our own companion synod of Liberia and hosted Bette McCrandall, our longtime missionary to that country, at a dinner program. Lutheran World Relief has benefited from our donations of quilts, kits, soap bars, and funds to purchase blankets.

Clothing left over from our rummage sale was given to the local charitable groups of Daniel's Closet, West End Community Center, New Garment Agency, and American Rescue Workers. We also collected used cell phones for recycling.

Our main service project continues to be quilting. We are proud of our completion of 101 quilts last year. Many thanks go out to our faithful group of Lucille Weaver, Grace Arner, Lillian Skeeby, Shirley Hill, Ruth Sherlinski, Ernestine Doane, Elsie Sechler, Dorothy Bingaman, Alona Hopley, Liz Ruesskamp, and Roxie Larson. Work is done at home and every Wednesday morning at the church

Jane Kline and Becky Miller Pryor chaired two rummage sales. The funds earned, plus partial matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, allowed us to send donations to Shepherd of the Streets, United Churches of Lycoming County, Camp Mt. Luther, St. Anthony's Center, Habitat for

Humanity, Church Women United, Lutheran World Relief (Project Comfort), ELCA International Disaster Response, ELCA Domestic Disaster Response (Haiti), American Rescue Workers, and Newberry Branch of New Garment Agency. We also contributed a monetary donation to Family Promise in addition to items purchased by individuals to help with housing needs.

The children at our Women and Children's Dinner last year enjoyed being entertained by a clown, following a catered turkey dinner.

The future of our fundraising is at a crossroad. Due to the fact that Thrivent Financial has discontinued their Care in Congregations program of matching funds, plus the huge amount of work involved, our ability to continue charitable

contributions is in jeopardy. We are also hindered by our declining membership due to illness and aging. We invite younger women to join us in response to God's gracious love. With their renewed spirit our organization will continue our missions into the future.

We want to thank the entire congregation for their generous support in providing us with materials to carry on our projects. God bless you all.

~ Shirley Hill, Chairman

~ Lucille Weaver, Treasurer

~ Ernestine Doane, Secretary

**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009**

**GENERAL FUND:**

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Envelope: Pledges	\$ 253,856.00	\$ 269,595.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 13,647.00	\$ 14,950.00
Parking Lot/Rentals	\$ 18,935.00	\$ 18,800.00
Transfer From Investment Fund	\$ 10,373.00	\$ 16,875.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 16,899.00	\$ 20,000.00
Welker/Benevolence-General	\$ 1,499.00	\$ 2,000.00
Heat Envelope Income	\$ 325.00	\$ 3,000.00
Synod Donations	\$ 2,259.00	\$ -
Bequests	\$ 19,878.00	\$ -
Total Income	<b>\$ 337,671.00</b>	<b>\$ 345,220.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Staff	\$ 222,189.00	\$ 227,945.00
Administration	\$ 15,063.00	\$ 17,100.00
Worship & Music	\$ 4,920.00	\$ 5,950.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 7,422.00	\$ 6,500.00
Property	\$ 64,412.00	\$ 64,350.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 24,534.00	\$ 23,375.00
Total Expenses	<b>\$ 338,540.00</b>	<b>\$ 345,220.00</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ (869.00)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE INCOME:**

Hunger, Food, Blankets, G Missions, St. Anthony Shepherd, Thanks-Offering, Mossy Foot, Misc,	\$	4,747.00
Capital Income	\$	3,036.00
Organ Fund	\$	1,177.00
Theological Fund	\$	193.00

**MEMORIAL FUND:**

Balance as of December 31, 2008	\$	<b>9,967.00</b>
Gifts	\$	3,820.00
Disbursements	\$	(5,075.00)
Balance as of December 31, 2009	\$	<b>8,712.00</b>

**INVESTMENT FUND:**

Balance as of 12/31/08	\$	<b>502,437.00</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Gifts, Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$	308,942.00
Interest/Dividends	\$	18,039.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$	<b>326,981.00</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Fees	\$	(8,769.00)
Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$	(39,695.00)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$	<b>(48,464.00)</b>
<b>Market Value Change</b>	\$	<b>178,039.00</b>
Balance as of 12/31/09	\$	<b>958,993.00</b>

**Women of the ELCA  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Treasurer's Report  
May 3, 2010**

**Checking Account**

Balance April 16, 2009		\$301.68
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Income:

Transfers Savings	2451.00	
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 2451.00	<u>\$ 2451.00</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$ 2752.68</u></b>

Expenses

Jerry Keebler (Women's dinner)	135.00	
St Mark's (seven dinners men)	55.25	
USSWO (Mission in-gathering)	100.00	
Women ELCA (Response – Haiti \$75 x 4 quarters)	300.00	
ELCA (International Disaster)	50.00	
NGA (New Garment Agency - 2009)	100.00	
Jane Kline (Bazaar Ad)	29.32	
NGA (New Garment Agency - 2010)	100.00	
St. Mark's (Family Promise)	200.00	
Shepherd of the Street	300.00	
United Churches	200.00	
Camp Mt. Luther	300.00	
St. Anthony's Center	200.00	
Williamsport/ Lyco Habitat for Humanity	100.00	
Church Women United	100.00	
Lutheran World Relief (Project Comfort)	100.00	
ELCA Domestic Disaster Response	50.00	
American Rescue Workers	100.00	
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$2519.57</u>	<u>-\$ 2519.57</u>

<b>Balance 5-13-10</b>		<b><u>\$ 233.11</u></b>
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Savings Account

Balance April 16, 2009 \$ 3019.54

Income:

2009 Clothing Sale (inc. \$250 change)	814.52	
Thrivent (Clothing Sale Matching Funds)	\$400.00	
2009 Bazaar (inc. \$300 change)	1208.47	
Bazaar	95.00	
Thrivent Financial (Bazaar)	550.00	
2010 Clothing Sale (inc. \$250 change)	673.75	
Clothing Sale	25.00	
Interest	<u>4.82</u>	
Total Deposits	\$3771.56	<u>\$3771.56</u>
		\$6791.10

Withdrawals:

Change 2009 Clothing Sale	250.00	
Change 2009 Bazaar	300.00	
Change 2010 Clothing Sale	250.00	
Transfers to checking	<u>2451.00</u>	
Total Withdrawals	\$3251.00	<u>-\$3700.00</u>

**Balance Savings 5-03-10 \$ 3540.10**