

This Week at Saint Mark

<p>Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day 11:15a Morning Worship</p> <p>Monday, December 26 Church office closed 12/26-1/2 7:15a Augustine Fellowship 10:00a Finance volunteers</p> <p>Tuesday, December 27 7:15a Augustine Fellowship 2:30 Supper Club prep 7:00 Crystal Meth Anonymous</p> <p>Wednesday, December 28 7:15a Augustine Fellowship 6:30 Saint Mark Ringers rehearsal 7:30 Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p>Thursday, December 29 7:15a Augustine Fellowship</p> <p>Friday, December 30 7:15a Augustine Fellowship</p> <p>Saturday, December 31 New Year's Day 9:00a Breakfast Club prep 10:00a Crystal Meth Anonymous 11:30a Open Doors</p>
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Financial Report: YTD Actual Operating Income/Expense Report through Dec. 23:
Income: \$993,348, Expenses: \$979,202, Surplus: \$14,146
Including additional expenses of \$62,053, the actual deficit is \$47,907.
Capital Campaign IV: Pledged \$1,252,511, Total Received \$1,028,049

Financial Matters

Remember that any gifts to the church that you would like to be credited for 2011 must be received by the church no later than December 31, 2011. If you need assistance with any special gifts such as stocks, please contact Deana Hilton in the church business office at 404-873-2636. Also, it is not too late to turn in your 2012 pledge card. Your estimate helps us to be good stewards by planning appropriately for next year's ministries. Thank you!

Congregational Care

Hospitalized		Mark Corsale's parents	OR
Anne Marriott	Kennestone	Helen Coulson	Medlock Gardens
At Home		Terry Goggin's father, Delbert Goggin	TX
James Bradley's aunt, Mary Pierce	FL	Jennifer Hansen's aunt, Aylvia Plechna	AL
Suzi Campbell's brother, Tim Campbell		Phil Hulst's mother and Brett Hulst's grandmother,	
Cara Cassell's mother, Caroline	Perry GA	Elaine Hulst	Statesboro GA
Judi Cheney		Chuck King's mother, Maxine King	Dothan AL
Michael Collins-Smythe	Piedmont	Mark LaRocca-Pitts' mother Carroll	Indianapolis IN
Joe Dawsey's mother, Julia Gaines Dawsey	MI	Rick Laws' father, Ronald Laws	Henderson NC
Susie Kezh's parents, Wallace & Beth Bice	Ellijay	Jeff McMullen's mother, Sandra	Milledgeville GA
Stacy Ladd's mother, Sue Alexander		Joyce Norman's mother, Mary Newman	OH
Jill Lee Barber's father Frank Barber		Mary Elizabeth Upshaw Pike	Lenbrook Square
Kim Lockhart's step-mother, Sue Lockhart	CA	Pat Strickland's mother Dorothy Kelly	Budd Terrace
Mark McElroy's mother, Myra Nell	Anniston AL	Beth Suess' mother Gloria Klee	MN
Anne McQuade's mother Judy McQuade	PA	Gladys Wiggins	St. George Village
Justin Mercer's mother, Doris Mercer	Valdosta GA	In Military Service	
Michael Murphy's mother, Kathy Murphy	Augusta	Marlysa Brooks-All's brother Jonathan Brooks	Iraq
Mia Musciano's mother		Candice King's daughter-in-law, SGT Rachel King	
Katie Olliff's mother, Eddie Olliff	Statesboro GA		Fort Wainwright AK
Terry Oxner's mother, Katie Oxner		Zeb Lau	Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston SC
Regina Robuck's mother, Winona Robuck		Eric Lauer	Army, Afghanistan
John Snyder's aunt Goldie Lockridge	Fishersville VA	SGM Callie Leaver	Guantanamo Bay
Adria Sternbridge's father Roger	Milledgeville	Kim Lockhart's cousin, Lt. Josh James	
Grace Stephens			Army, Afghanistan
Judd Strong's mother, Mary Kay Strong	FL	Joel Rose's brother, Michael J. Rose	
In Care Facilities			GA Air Natl Guard

Please contact Rev. Phillip Thomason to notify the church of a death or illness. To reach a minister after office hours in case of emergency, call 1-800-673-0411.

Saint Mark United Methodist Church
781 Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30308
(404) 873-2636 • www.stmarkumc.org

www.stmarkadmincouncil.blogspot.com

The Saint Mark Care Line (after hours emergency): 1-800-673-0411

The Reverend Doctor Beth LaRocca-Pitts	Senior Pastor
The Reverend Phillip Thomason	Minister of Outreach & Pastoral Care
The Reverend Mandy S. Flemming	Minister of Christian Ed. & Spiritual Formation
The Reverend Joshua M. Noblitt	Minister of Social Justice
Ms. Jane Burke	Minister of Fine Arts
Mr. John Richardson	Assoc. Director of Fine Arts & Organist
Ms. Kim Sorrells	Minister to Children and Youth

Activities & Recreation New Year's Open House

You are invited to an Open House from 3pm to 10pm on New Year's Day at the home of Larry Lucas (4053 Brenteresa Court in Snellville). Drop by, play games, and enjoy a relaxing day of fellowship with your church friends. Soups, sandwiches, desserts etc. will be offered - see you there! E-mail larry@larrylucasinc.com or call 404-409-2847 for more details.

Mission Giving Update!

Here is the latest update on how we are doing on our Mission Giving (Apportionment) Funds as the end of the year approaches. We have paid a total of \$68,881 and we have a remaining balance of \$61,189. The five funds we have yet to complete are (in ascending order of amount needed): The Simpsonwood Fund (to retire the debt on our conference center) \$3,182; The Ministerial Education Fund (a scholarship fund for seminarians) \$4,012; Conference Benevolences (for services to the poor like at Trinity) \$5,763; Church Development (for building new churches) \$7,190; The Conference Administrative Budget (supports conference staff like Tim McDaniel!) \$8,966; Ministerial Support (which helps churches who can't pay their pastor) \$9,524; and The Retired Ministers' Pension fund (for those who served prior to 1982), \$22,553. The books close on these funds on January 9th, but we would like to close them out by December 31st. Also, even if we gave every dime of what comes in on Christmas Eve and Christmas day and New Years day, we are likely to come up short of this goal of \$61,189. So if you have extra giving capacity at the end of this year, we would welcome your help to pay these funds in full. Just mark your check "Apportionments" and send it to the church, or put it in the offering plate this morning. Thank you for all you do to support the mission work we do here at home and around the world!

Financial Peace University Returns to Saint Mark!

Once again, beginning January 8, 2012, Saint Mark is pleased to offer Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a life-changing program that teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. The 13 week program will be facilitated by Rev. Josh Noblitt and Richard Rhodes and will meet every Sunday from 1:30-3:30pm. Cost is \$99.51 per household. Partial scholarships are available for interested parties who are serious about attending all sessions of FPU - contact Josh Noblitt for details. Register online at www.stmarkumc.org or contact Christia in the church office. Visit daveramsey.com/fpu/home/.

Church Wide Retreat Planning

Our Spiritual Formation Committee is planning a Church-Wide retreat for 2012 and would like to find out the best time to schedule it, as well as how many would be interested in attending. We are considering the following weekends: March 22-24, March 29-31, October 26-28, or November 2-4. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Jackie Watson at 404-431-3988 or Mandy Flemming at 404-873-2636 with your preferred dates.

WELCOME HOME

TO



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, December 25, 2011 - 11:15 a.m.

Christmas Day
Service of Lessons and Carols

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Enter to Fellowship † Sit to Pray † Stand to Worship † Leave to Share

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

* - Where indicated, those who are able, please stand.

MUSIC AS WE GATHER Brett Reichert, piano

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH Beth LaRocca-Pitts
One: These events are the heart and soul of the body of Christ.
Many: Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE
One: The Lord be with you. Many: And also with you.
ALL: LET US WORSHIP GOD!
The congregation may be seated.

PRELUDE AND CHIMES John Richardson
Love Came Down at Christmas - Stopford

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* - IRBY No. 250

BIDDING PRAYER Kim Sorrells

THE LORD'S PRAYER
*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

BLESSING Kim Sorrells
The almighty God bless us with divine grace: Christ, give us the joys of
everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King
of Angels bring us all. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Kim Sorrells

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON I *Genesis 3:8-15* Diane Haase
God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman
shall bruise the serpent's head.

*HYMN No. 211, stanzas 1,2,5,6,7
O Come, O Come Emmanuel - VENI EMMANUEL

LESSON II *Genesis 22:1-8* Matt Flemming
God promises Abraham that by his seed shall the nations
of the earth call blessed.

CAROL *Angels From the Realms of Glory - REGENT SQUARE* No. 220

LESSON III *Isaiah 9:2,6-7* Kim Sorrells
Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

*CAROL *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* - ES IST EIN ROS No. 216

LESSON IV *Isaiah 11:1-9* Mandy Flemming
The peace that Christ will bring us is foreshown.

CAROL *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* - MENDELSSOHN No. 240

LESSON V *Luke 1:26-35,38* Phillip Thomason
The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

*CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High* - GLORIA No. 238

LESSON VI *Matthew 1:18-21* Jane Burke
Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL *The First Noel* - THE FIRST NOEL No. 245

LESSON VII *Luke 2:8-20* Mark LaRocca-Pitts
The Shepherds go to the manger.

*CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* - ST LOUIS No. 230

LESSON VIII *Matthew 2:1-11* LuAlice Waite
The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL *In the Bleak Midwinter* - CRANHAM No. 221

LESSON IX *John 1:1-14* Beth LaRocca-Pitts
Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

*CAROL *Joy to the World* - ANTIOCH No. 246

THE COLLECT Beth LaRocca-Pitts
One: The Lord be with you. Many: And with your spirit.
One: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Child of Bethlehem, who in love
made humankind, create in us love so pure and perfect that
whosoever our heart loves may be after thy will, in thy name,
and for thy sake. Amen.

HOMILY *God Dwells Among Us* Beth LaRocca-Pitts

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* – PERSONENT HODIE
The Chancel Choir
On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
Him the Father gave us.
*Ideo – o – o, ideo – o – o,
Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!*
His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him
From the cold would hide him.
Ideo....
God's bright star o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led;
Kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him,
Praise him and adore him.
Ideo....
On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us;
Peace and love he gave us.
Ideo....

*DOXOLOGY No. 95
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow - OLD 100th
(an alternate text for those who wish to utilize it)
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost, AMEN!*

*PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING Mandy Flemming

*HYMN No. 251
Go, Tell It on the Mountain - GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*BENEDICTION Beth LaRocca-Pitts
May the One who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and
heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and
the blessing of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
remain with you always. Go forth in peace and joy.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

*POSTLUDE *Improvisation* John Richardson

Children's Sunday School classes will not meet today
and no nursery care is available.

Church Office Holiday Schedule
The church office will be closed the week of December 26 - 30 and Monday,
January 2. No Remarks will be published this week or the week of Jan. 3.
If you need to contact a minister in case of emergency, please call
1-800-673-0411. The church staff wish you a very Merry Christmas and
a happy and healthy 2012!

January 2012: Looking Ahead

We will have one worship service next Sunday at 11:15am on January 1,
New Year's Day.

The Saint Mark Grief Support Group will not meet this Tuesday, Dec 27 but will
resume at our regular time (6:30-8pm) on Tuesday, Jan 3, 2012. Questions?
Contact Rev. Josh Noblitt (jnoblitt@stmarkumc.org).

The Job Network will not meet for the remainder of the year. They will resume
their weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 6:30pm on Jan. 10, 2012.

Wednesday night fellowship dinners (and Beth's Bible Study class) will resume
on Jan. 18, 2012. The dinners will be provided by a new caterer. The first
program of the year will feature Rebecca Burns, author of *Burial for a King;*
*Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Funeral and the Week That Transformed Atlanta and
Rocked the Nation.*

Assisting in Worship Today

Hospitality Team: Mark Haley, Walter Allen, Ted Barnett, Tom Baugh, Todd Fuller,
Joseph Hackett, Kelly Mathison, Jonathan Perez, Cooper Prudent, and Robby Stiles

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