



THE BULLETIN BOARD



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

August 2013

Issue 5

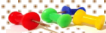
Building For Safety and the Future

During the past month, the Building Committee's focus has been securing the needed governmental permits that allow St. Mark's to proceed with the construction of our new building. Two major projects are underway to ensure that both flood control and fire protection will be optimal for all current and future St. Mark's structures.

Project #1: A detention pond will be created on our land. A detention pond is an excavated area with a large area around the pond that can accommodate high water during rainy times. A detention pond will hold water for a short period of time and slowly release it, helping to prevent flooding.

Project #2: Fire sprinkler systems will be installed in our current church building and in our new Education Building.

While these major projects benefit our new building and our 17-acres of property, they do cost money. Like so many times before, God has blessed St. Mark's with His grace: these new costs will be funded by anonymous grants. However, these additional costs remind us that our financial commitments to the capital campaign are more important than ever. Every one of our commitments is vital to the future mission and ministry of St. Mark's.

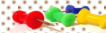


New Elementary Youth Christian Formation: Art, Dance, Drama and More!

Does making a basket out of Shredded Wheat for baby Moses sound like a different way to approach youth Christian Formation at St. Mark's? Yes, indeed it is a different plan for the first through sixth grade youth at St. Mark's starting this fall! The theory behind the workshop rotation plan is to focus for a six week unit exclusively on one Bible story. By repeated exposure to the story, the students become quite familiar with it and can complete multiple objectives. For example, this fall the group will begin by concentrating on the story of Moses, including his early childhood, his life as an Egyptian prince, his life in Midian and finally his encounter with God in the burning bush. The story is presented each week using a different discipline such as art, dance, drama, cooking, games and videos. Father Bert has enlisted the help of seven teachers to teach one week in each rotation: Sarah Baetz, Dorothy Dawlearn, Ashley Eavenson, Ruthie Hurta, Jane Marshall, Christine Ronning and Dorothy Valencia. Chris Abbott has written specific lesson plans for the teachers from the curriculum developed by State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, Virginia. So, if you see children making baskets for baby Moses, dancing to music to express their moods, or presenting small dramatic plays you will know that they are participating in the new workshop rotation plan for elementary age youth at St. Mark's.



Chris Abbott, Lesson Developer, with Zoe Caruso



Arlene Rivenes and Bud and Shirley Nordt enjoy St. Mark's gracious hospitality.

More Space for Our Gracious Hospitality

The fellowship space in our new building will be at least 50% larger than our current hospitality room. The area for fellowship will connect the new building with our current building and provide a place for us to congregate before or after services and Sunday morning classes.

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)



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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Other Organizations Support St. Mark's Growth

St. Mark's has been blessed with generous donations given by two other non-profit organizations. St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Houston donated many boxes of Godly Play materials that will be used in our educational program for children three to eight years-of-age. The donated materials included a pulpit as well as other furniture needed for a children's chapel. The Juvenile Diabetics Research Foundation donated office furniture to St. Mark's, including desks, a table, and filing cabinets, and even had the furniture delivered. We offer heartfelt thanks to these organizations for their kind support of our mission.



Godly Play Children's Chapel Furniture



Word of the Day: Piscina

Our new sacristy will have a piscina, but just what is that? A piscina is a shallow sink or basin in which the drain flows directly into the earth to ensure the reverent disposal of sacred items such as consecrated communion wine and baptismal water. The piscina can also be used for the reverent disposal of holy oils and leftover ashes from Ash Wednesday returning these particles directly to the earth.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Progress To Date

Total Number of Pledges:	45
Amount of Capital Campaign Pledges:	\$503,310.00
Amount Given Not Pledged:	\$3,773.00
Total Pledge Contribution:	\$283,458.45
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:	\$287,231.45

Progress This Month

Total Contribution: \$4,588.00

Expenses

Expenses This Month: 0
 Expenses Year-To-Date: \$40,678.73

