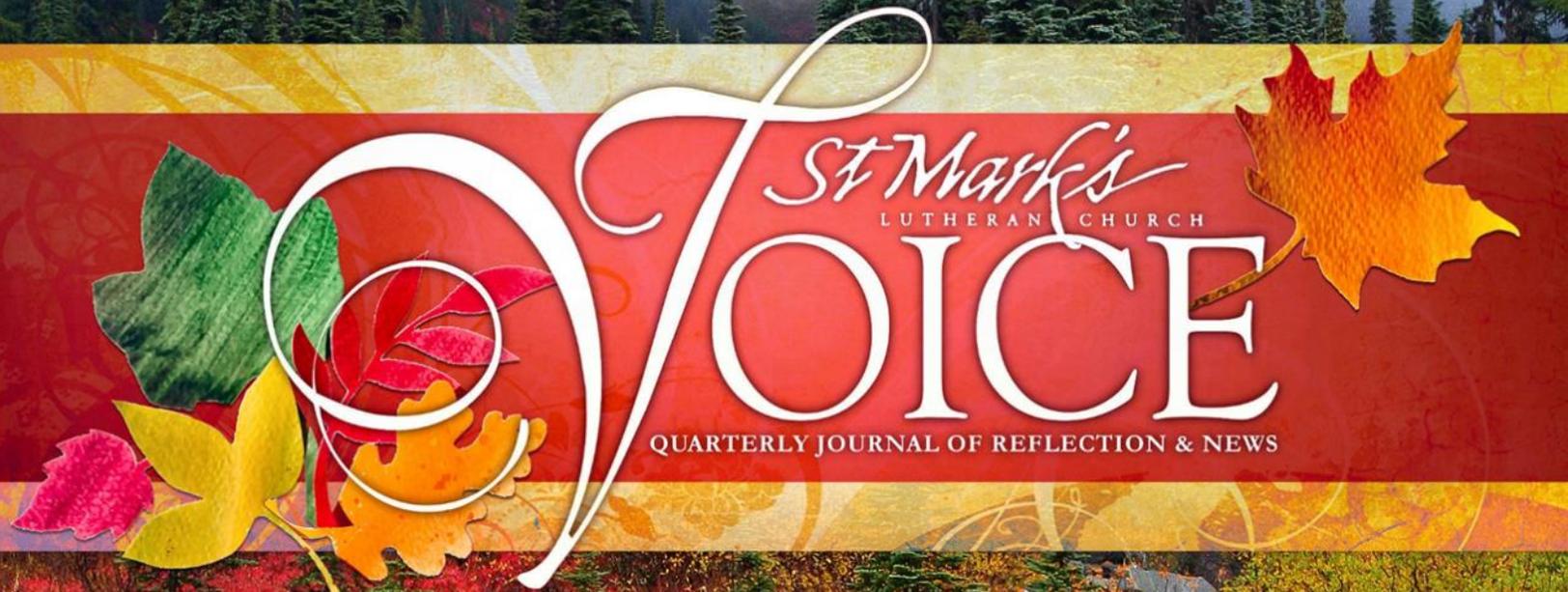
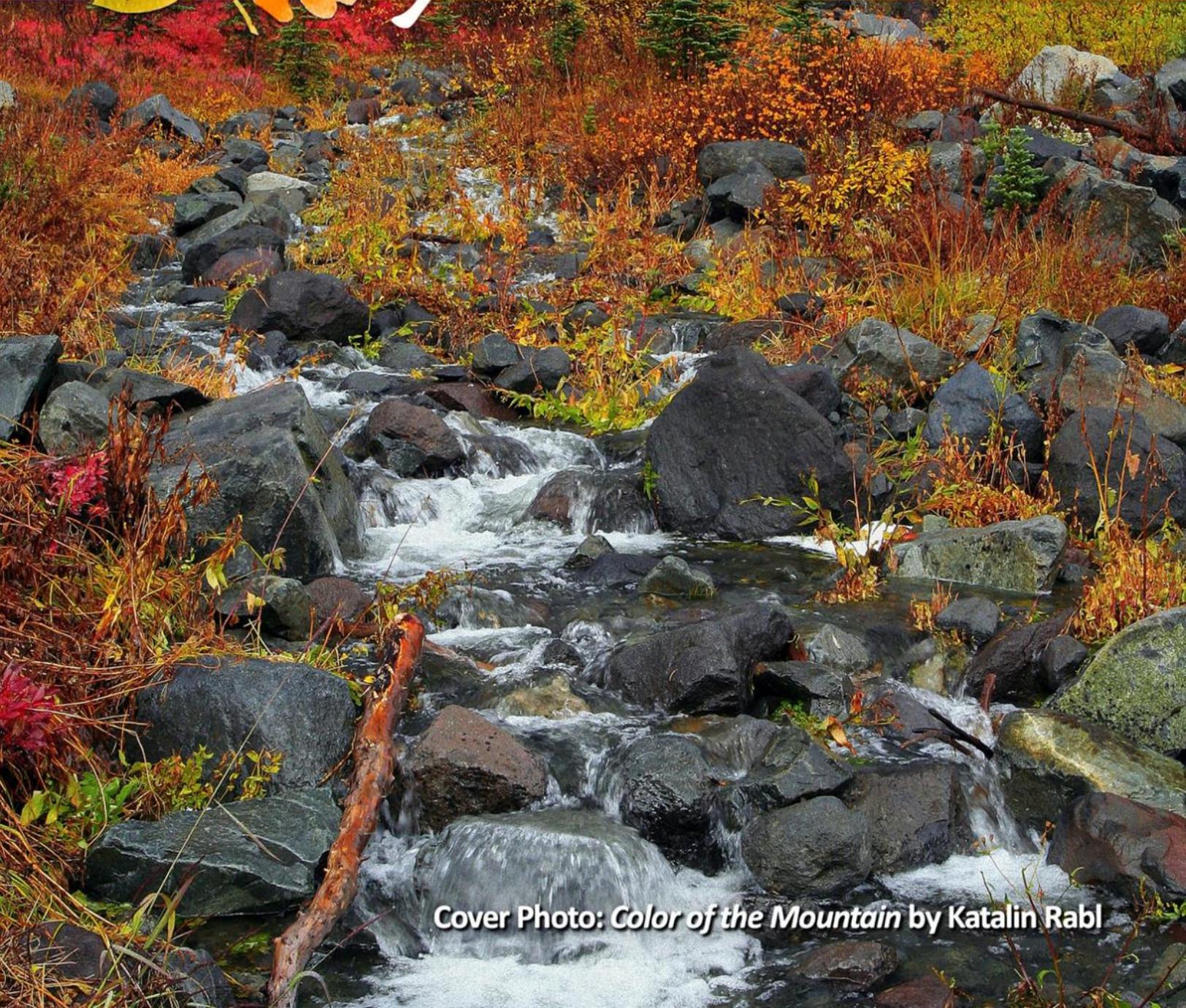


SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2013



St Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOICE
QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS



Cover Photo: *Color of the Mountain* by Katalin Rabl

Looking Ahead

I am profoundly grateful that this sabbatical time has allowed me to get to know you, members of St. Mark's, in a more deeply meaningful way. It is my hope that these relationships can be nurtured and strengthened as we move into the fall. Looking ahead, we have many activities for Rally Day on September 8th. With unique timing, this year's Rally Day coincides with the 25th anniversary of the founding of the ELCA. Looking to mid-November, the El Salvador group is finalizing participants and travel plans. I look forward to traveling with this year's delegation, meeting Pastora Norma, and sharing in our partnership with Cordero de Dios in Soyapango.

Blessings to each of you this fall,
Pastor Bekah



(Left) Religious leaders gathered at Grace Cathedral on June 26 for a press conference celebrating the Supreme Court's decision to strike down Prop 8 & the Defense of Marriage Act; (right) attending from St. Mark's: Pr Chuck Lewis, Joanne Chadwick, & Pr Bekah Davis

Rally Day Sunday, September 8

This year, we celebrate Rally Day alongside the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. T-Shirts are available for a suggested \$5 contribution. After the 9 am service, Sunday School youth will collaborate with Project Open Hand. There will also be a clean-up event around St. Mark's square, and a letter-writing campaign. The Central Gardens worship takes place at 1 pm, and we will close this day of service with a 2 pm worship at Open Cathedral with Pr. Lyle and members of the night ministry. In the Sundays following Rally Day, each week we will have a brief temple talk on the different ministries and opportunities available at St. Mark's!



St. Mark's Choir

If you have ever considered joining the St. Mark's Choir, now is a great time! The choir sings every week at the 11 am service, as well as some festivals and special liturgies. Some musical background is needed, but don't let that stop you from contacting our Director of Music, Timothy Zerlang (zerlang@stmarks-sf.org). Let him help you decide if this valuable and enjoyable ministry is right for you. Our first rehearsal this Fall will be Wednesday, September 4, at 7:30 pm, but you can join us anytime.

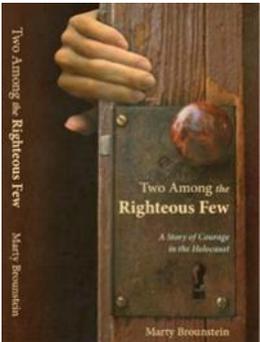




The Courage and Compassion To Do the Right Thing

Sunday, September 15 at 10:10 am
Heritage Hall

Come hear an engaging presentation by speaker Marty Brounstein. He is the author of the book, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*. It's a true story of interfaith courage and compassion, focusing on a Christian couple in the Netherlands who, despite great risks and dangers, helped save the lives of over two dozen Jews during the Holocaust. The story also has a meaningful personal connection to Marty, which he explains in his talk.



About the Speaker

For over 20 years Marty Brounstein has run a management and organizational consulting firm in the San Francisco Bay Area called The Practical Solutions Group. Through this work, he has written seven books related to business management, from contributing author to solo author.

His 8th book is quite different and special. Since it came out in the fall of 2011, Marty has been sharing this special story with a wide variety of audiences and venues throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and other cities too, including Chicago, Phoenix, Seattle and Vancouver. He is an author on a journey with a mission, as audiences constantly tell him to keep sharing this educational and inspirational story.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6

Our Blessing of the Animals service honors St. Francis of Assisi and our wonderful animal companions that bring so much joy to our daily lives. The tradition of blessing animals reflects St. Francis' conviction that all of creation shares the same Creator, and therefore all creatures and plants are brothers and sisters. Francis's love of creatures arose from a deep and abiding sense of the presence of God, which underlay all he said and did. Francis is patron saint not only of our city and Italy, but of ecologists as well.

All pets and their humans are welcome! Please ensure that pets are safely in carriers or on a leash. Photos of animals unable to attend are also welcome. Join us on Sunday morning, October 6, at the 9:00 am worship service to celebrate a St. Mark's tradition!

Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 26

Join St. Mark's members and Martin Luther Tower residents for a celebration of our German heritage and our life together on St. Mark's Square and in the community. Bring your good spirits and a friend for an evening of fun, food, music, and fellowship - lederhosen are optional.



If you have friends who may want to experience a faith community outside of the church walls, bring them along. Save the evening of Saturday, October 26th.

Women's Monthly Study Gatherings

All women are welcome to the Gatherings this autumn. There are two different groups meeting at different dates, times and using different study materials.

1st Tuesdays, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Fireside Room

We will be sharing our impressions/experiences with Lisa Dahill's 40-Day Journey with Julian of Norwich at the beginning of each gathering on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Fireside Room. All women are invited to come for dessert and fellowship for the first half hour and then discussion until 8:30.

Our books for the autumn are:

- Sep 3 Day 16 in Julian of Norwich and People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks
- Oct 1 Day 17 in Julian of Norwich and Behind the Beautiful Forever: Life, Death & Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo
- Nov 5 Day 18 in Julian of Norwich and Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race & Finding Home by Anita Hill

The Eleventh Biennial Convention

Sierra Pacific Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (W-ELCA) is holding their Eleventh Biennial Convention on October 4th & 5th, 2013 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento. The theme is: BEING MADE NEW: We are made new when we open our hearts to God... 2 Corinthians 5:17 "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.

Please join us in attending this gathering. There is a group of us attending from St. Mark's and would love to have more women of our congregation have this experience. The gathering of our ELCA women is always very inspirational. Our own Nadine Robinson is on

2nd Tuesdays, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Fireside Room

All women are invited to come for study at 11:00 and at noon to bring their sandwich or salad and share fellowship. Drinks and dessert will be provided. This year our Bible study will center on the Women of the ELCA's guide, In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women by Kay Ward, a bishop of the Moravian Church.

Our sessions will include:

- Sep 10 Hannah, a Promise Keeper
- Oct 8 Deborah, a Determined Leader
- Nov 12 The Widow of Zarephath, a Trusting Follower

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at 415.285.7438 or suzathome@comcast.net.

the Synod W-ELCA Board and is running for the office of Vice President and Jo Chadwick will be a presenter at the convention.

For information regarding the Eleventh Biennial Convention, including registration, hotel or carpooling, please contact Nadine Robinson at (415) 810-2455 or sfonLR@aol.com or Geri Bailey at (415) 391-8234 or geri41@att.net.



Where Have All the Adult Forums Gone?



You may ask this question looking at the schedule for autumn. Yes, there are currently no forums scheduled and that is because people who came to the evaluation of the forums in June could not find a person willing to continue to organize or call together people who would work on a committee to plan,

schedule and produce forums this season. So, we will have no adult program at 10:00 on Sundays between the two services and the time is open for people to use as they wish.

If you are interested in getting some folk together to work on planning for programs or studies or any other proposals for what might happen during this time period, please contact Pr. Bekah.

Living with Loss: a Drop-in Group



You are invited to join us for this 6-session drop-in group for people who have experienced losses such as death, employment, relationship, or illness. We will be meeting Saturdays from 10am - noon on September 21 and 28, October 12, (October 20-Sunday 1-3 pm), November 2 and 23. All sessions will

meet in the Urban Life Center. Childcare can be provided if requested in advance. There is a cost of \$10/session and stipends are available. Invite your friends. Everyone is welcome. Group sessions will be led by Kirsten Maier Smith and Jo Chadwick. Please let us know if you are planning to attend by contacting Kirsten Maier Smith (415) 430-5126 or Jo Chadwick (415) 409-6294.





Senior Center Activities for Fall Senior Center Luncheons

Senior Center Luncheons take place in Heritage Hall, generally on the third Thursday of the month from 12 noon to approximately 1:00 pm. The cost is \$4. To RSVP for these meals please call the MLT Office at 415.885.1084.

The upcoming dates are:
September 19 • October 17 • November 21

Senior Trips

Senior Trips depart from the Brockie Lounge at Martin Luther Tower. The trips generally take place on a Friday, and the usual departure time is 10 am unless indicated otherwise. There is a \$3 transportation fee to help cover the cost of gas. To RSVP please call the MLT office at 415.885.1084. Please watch for flyers and an announcement in the church bulletin for details on trips this fall.



Congregational Retreat November 15-17 at Bishop's Ranch

Crisp autumn air...breathtaking views...a sense of peace... spiritual renewal...joy and fellowship....singing, meditation and worship. Seekers of all kinds go on retreat for a variety of reasons. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, please join fellow St. Mark's parishioners at the stunning Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, November 15-17 (Friday night through Sunday afternoon). We have a variety of activities planned and you may choose to participate in any or all of them. Cost is \$250 and includes Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Some scholarships are available— just ask.

Interfaith Homeless Shelter

January 12-February 2, 2014

Beginning Sunday, January 12, St Mark's will host the SF Interfaith



Council Homeless Shelter for three weeks. Overnight housing, breakfasts and dinners will be provided for approximately 60 men each evening and morning in the Urban Life Center Auditorium. Please contact John Elford at jbruceelford@gmail.com if you can help. Be a part of St. Mark's Social Ministry...we look forward to serving with you!

Thank You from the Night Ministry

To all members and friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church: From all of us at Night Ministry – our Governing Board, volunteers and staff – and on behalf of those whom we serve, thank you for your generous and faithful support. We appreciate your Second Mile Giving offerings, your hand made hats and scarves, your toiletries and blankets, and your lunches for Open Cathedral. We appreciate your hospitality in providing space for our concerts, meetings, trainings and special events. We appreciate the volunteers from St. Mark's that have served so well, both daytime and nighttime. We appreciate your prayers, blessings and encouragement that lift us up and sustain us in our work. Thank you for being valued partners with us in our work to lighten the darkness and rekindle hope.



Night Ministry
cordially invites you to

Gold Rush 49 50th Anniversary Kickoff Event

Saturday, October 19, 2013
Red Carpet Reception at 5:30 pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church & the Urban Life Center

A fun-filled evening of
Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, wine & dessert

Silent Auction | Live Auction

Red Carpet/Cocktail Chic Attire

For ticket & other information, go to
www.sfnightministry.org/fallgala

ST. MARK'S GLOBAL MINISTRY



(Clockwise from left) Carol Melissa and Clarke Helland; Ana Luz with Matt, Clarke, and Alana Helland; El Salvador Group records Palm Sunday YouTube greeting

Walking Together with Cordero de Dios

St. Mark's relationship with Cordero de Dios is one of accompaniment. What does accompaniment mean? The ELCA describes accompaniment as "walking together in solidarity, practicing interdependence and mutuality." A relationship of accompaniment "emphasizes mutual respect, mutual decision-making, and mutual support."

El Salvador

When visiting a country struggling with poverty, it is easy to search for ways to "fix" things. This impulse, while noble, can hinder the development of deeper relationships. On our last visit, Bishop Gomez urged Cordero de Dios and St. Mark's to build a relationship that dignifies both congregations. This goal guides our sister parish ministry.

Our last two visits to Cordero de Dios have allowed us to learn about some of the parishioners' health issues. One young adult, Carol Melissa, began losing her eyesight to undiagnosed and untreated diabetes. Another young adult named David struggles with an eye condition requiring expensive treatments and eye drops. Ana Luz, an adult, is in need of dental work after falling and damaging her teeth. At the end of the second visit, we felt our relationship with these parishioners and Pastora Norma had progressed to the point where we could ask to help – in a way that would dignify both congregations.

It turns out Cordero de Dios has a committee which prioritizes needs within the congregation. They use whatever money they can spare to help individual parishioners. We asked Pastora Norma to send us a list of the highest priority medical needs, as determined by that committee. She did. Members of the St. Mark's sister parish ministry team raised a little over \$1,000 to assist with medical needs.

We created an El Salvador accompaniment fund within the social ministry budget, which we hope to develop through individual donations. This fund is separate from the travel fund, which is part of the yearly budget to support visits between the parishes. If you are interested in supporting the specific individual health needs that arise at Cordero de Dios via the El Salvador accompaniment fund, please contact the church office for instructions on directing your donation.





Bright Stars Over the Bay

St. Mark's continues to build BRIDGES TO BETHLEHEM to support the dwindling Christian community in the birthplace of Jesus. St. Mark's has joined with other Bay Area churches and with the non-profit Bright Stars of Bethlehem to present a Palestinian Festival of Arts and Culture at San Francisco State University on September 26-29. (See program details below.)

Prior to the 3-day festival, on September 25, our local churches proudly present an important fund-raising event, "Bright Stars Over the Bay." It will be held at the General's Residence at Fort Mason, San Francisco starting at 6 pm. It

will feature the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, as speaker, and Palestinian cuisine and music by the Georges Lammam ensemble. These events are dedicated to scholarships for students at the Diyar Academy of Children and Youth in Bethlehem. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to a hopeful future for Palestinian youth and to learn more about our impressive Lutheran ministry in the Holy Land. The slogan of this multi-faceted ministry is: "Hope is what we do!" Please plan to attend! For more information, go to the events section at www.sfgate.com.

Room for Hope, A Celebration of Palestinian Arts

September 26-28 at San Francisco State University

Tickets begin at \$22.50 for a single event. An all access pass can be purchased for just \$125. For more in-depth detail and to purchase tickets, please visit www.roomforhope.me. Below is a festival overview.

Thursday, September 26 at 6 pm

- Intro to Dabka Dance
- Being a Writer, and Palestine: Nathalie Handel
- Diyar Dance Troupe Performance
- Reception

Friday, September 27 at 4:45 pm

- Female Entrepreneurial Challenges in the U.S. and Palestine
- Presentation by Mahasen Nasser -Eldin, Palestinian filmmaker
- Film Series

Saturday, September 28 at 10:30 am

- Workshops and Discussions
- Keynote Address by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, President and Cofounder of Bright Stars of Bethlehem
- Music Concert

Palestine-Israel

Bright Stars of Bethlehem PRESENTS

Room for Hope
Celebrating Palestinian Creativity

1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

FACEBOOK.COM/ROOMFORHOPE2013
@ROOMFORHOPE2013
ROOMFORHOPE.ME

Tickets packages start at just \$22.50!
For more info, please go to RoomForHope.Me

SEPTEMBER 26-28

Experience the creativity of the Palestinian people through dance, music, art and entrepreneurship.



(Lower left) Pico, the last baby born before the clinic opened. Her mother died in child birth. (Right) Mumeya clinic recently finished

Faith and Action in Rwanda

Rwandan Lutheran Pastor John Rutsindintwarane and his spouse Rwamagana Lutheran School Principal Robin Strickler visited St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Sunday June 30, 2013. They told stories of faith, empowerment and transformation taking place in Rwanda.

Pastor John Rutsindintwarane and PICO Rwanda

A few years ago, we heard stories from our Bishop Mark Holmerud of Mumeya, a small community in rural Rwanda. Women with problem pregnancies literally had to be carried by gurney many kilometers over rugged terrain and through a river to the nearest clinic in Tanzania. Many women and babies died on the way.

Rwandan Lutheran Pastor John Rutsindintwarane is Executive Director of PICO Rwanda. PICO is "People Improving Communities through Organizing". Pastor John told the congregations in Mumeya he had no money to offer but he was willing to give them his brain and his heart. Mumeya villagers from five different congregations began faith-based leadership training in a space that was open to everyone, a grassy area under a big tree. Soon, community leaders began holding one-to-one conversations to identify the major needs in the community.

After hundreds of these conversations, Mumeya residents decided that a health center was their top priority. 25 leaders organized community labor, matched with govern-

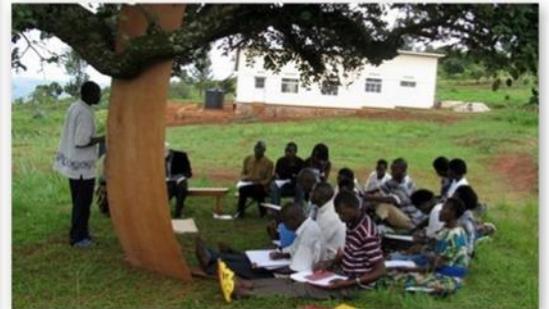
ment resources, to build a 38 room clinic from the ground up. It employs 25 and serves 30,000 people. By the end of this year, water and electricity will be available for the first time, and a co-op will increase the income of subsistence farmers.

PICO Rwanda has helped develop similar leadership teams who are taking action in Nyange and Kigali. The team in Nyange has determined that the most important improvement for their community would be roofs to withstand the rainy season. They have begun producing roof tiles. In Rwanda's capital Kigali, 120 women who are former prostitutes are organizing in cooperatives with help from PICO Rwanda, hoping to sell food. Their organizing work includes going to the Rwandan government for support of their food sales.

PICO-Rwanda seeks to unlock the potential of Rwandan families and faith-based communities by turning their faith into action, promoting a culture of peace, democracy, unity,

(Continued on page 9)





(Left) Rwamagana School in Rwanda; (Top right) Nyange community making tiles; (Bottom right) Mumeya villagers organizing under a tree

(Continued from page 8)

and reconciliation where equal human rights are afforded to all. Through individual and collective accountability, PICO Rwanda helps transform people and organizations to promote justice rather than division or discrimination.

St. Mark's has supported the work of the Mumeya congregation through Pr. John's work with PICO Rwanda. We will continue to support their work as people are empowered, first to build and support a clinic and now to build roofs and establish life-sustaining cooperatives. Pr. John asks us to pray with them, spread their good news, and provide financial support as we are able.

For more information about PICO Rwanda, go to www.picointernational.org.

Robin Strickler, Rwandan Lutheran School Principal

Robin Strickler, the principal of the Rwamagana Lutheran School in Rwanda, updated us on the school, which is now in its fourth year of educating students in eastern Rwanda, both girls and boys in junior and senior high school. 86 students are engaged in a learning experience known as Expeditionary Learning. Students are encouraged to work together and think creatively as they learn. The school strives to maintain a diverse population of students and teachers, including both low and high-income students.

The school was recently recognized by Rwamagana District as having the highest performance on national exams in the district. The Rwamagana Lutheran School is exploring ways to implement a curriculum in environmental studies. The school has received an ELCA grant that has helped start an after school study program that supervises weak students and offers help from student peer tutors.

The school is working to produce sufficiently well qualified graduates to impact Rwanda's ability to create wealth and stimulate economic growth.

Many of the students are only able to attend school because they receive scholarships. According to long-range projections, the cost for a student in 2014 and beyond is expected to be \$1481 per year, or approximately \$120 per month.

We at St. Mark's have supported the work of the Rwamagana Lutheran School through our Lenten offering. Our own WELCA group has regularly sent offerings to the School, especially to support girl students. The School is supported by the Rwanda School Project which has 501(C)3 status so all contributions are tax deductible. Contributions can be made by sending a check to The Rwanda School Project, 1300 St. Francis Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. For more information about the school and donations, go to www.rwandaschoolproject.org. Click on "You Can Help" and go to the secure link.



Upcoming Music Events at St. Mark's September-December 2013

9/14	New Esterhazy Quartet	4 PM
	<i>The Cellist King: Music for Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia</i>	
9/28	Clerestory	8 PM
	<i>The Bard, a celebration of Shakespeare's words in music</i>	
10/6	Noe Valley Chamber Music Zofo Piano Duo	4 PM
10/11	California Bach Society	8 PM
	<i>Monteverdi Vespers of 1610</i>	
10/12	Roland Dyens, Guitar	7:30 PM
10/13	San Francisco Early Music Ostraka	4 PM
11/1	Katona Twins Classical Guitar Duo	7:30 PM
11/2	San Francisco Sinfonietta	6 PM
11/3	San Francisco Early Music	4 PM
	<i>Archetti Baroque String Ensemble</i>	
11/9	Pieter Wispelwey, Cello	2 PM & 7:30 PM
	<i>Bach: The complete suites for unaccompanied cello</i>	
11/10	Noe Valley Chamber Music	4 PM
	<i>Latitude 41 Piano trios by Saint-Saens & Schubert's Notturmo</i>	
11/16	Bay Area Rainbow Symphony	8 PM
	<i>Cyrus Ginwala, Guest Conductor Britten - Centennial Celebration Concert</i>	
11/17	Bay Area Rainbow Symphony	4 PM
	<i>Cyrus Ginwala, Guest Conductor Britten - Centennial Celebration Concert</i>	
11/22	Volte	8 PM
	<i>Britten & Beyond, In honor of Britten's 100th birthday</i>	
11/23	Alvaro Pierri, Guitar	7:30 PM
11/30	New Esterhazy Quartet	4 PM
	<i>Haydn & His Students VI</i>	
11/30	Clerestory	8 PM
	<i>"Clerestory Christmas" An all-American holiday celebration of festive songs old & new</i>	
12/7	San Francisco Lyric Chorus	7 PM
	<i>From British Shores... Christmas Across The Pond</i>	
12/8	San Francisco Lyric Chorus	5 PM
	<i>From British Shores... Christmas Across The Pond</i>	
12/13	California Bach Society	8 PM
	<i>Christmas with Peter Warlock & Henry VIII</i>	
12/14	San Francisco Choral Artists	
12/15	Young Women's Choral Projects	7:30 PM
	<i>Gifts of the Season: Spirit, Peace & Joy</i>	
12/16	Beethoven's Birthday Celebration Concert	7:30 PM
12/21	Voices of Music	8 PM
	<i>Celebrate the holidays with our recreation of a 17th Century Venetian Christmas Vespers</i>	
12/22	San Francisco Early Music	4 PM
	<i>Galax Quartet with Contralto Karen Clark</i>	

Council Meeting Highlights May 2013

- Accepted resignation of Marge Jencks from Council
- Welcomed Aron Bohlig's return to service as Treasurer through the end of the term year
- Directed Endowment Committee to further consider and revise policies regarding bequest appropriations
- Accepted proposal for contract for Pastor Lyle Beckman during Pastor Ekdale's sabbatical
- Post-Council Retreat discussion and brainstorming topic: "Double Digit Growth"
- Learned about resources for the homeless following Suzanne Smith and Pastor Ekdale's attendance of meeting convened by Bevan Dufty

June 2013

- Appointed Mary Carlton Lull to fill Jencks' vacancy
- Discussed Nate McDonald's proposal to develop St. Mark's mobile application ("mobile app") to improve communications and outreach
- Discussed initiating a prayer vigil affiliated with the ACT Palestine Forum
- Received proposal for audit
- Considered extension of strategic plan goals to 2014
- Post-Council Retreat discussion and brainstorming topic: "Letting Go"

Your Gifts at Work Annual Giving 2013

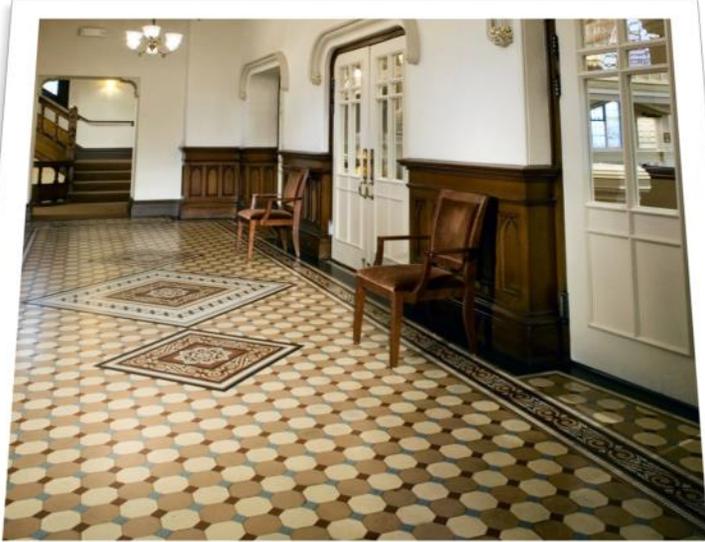
General Fund

One year pledge	
No. of pledges	177 out of 210 possible
Pledged for year	\$ 363,422
Received thru 07/31/13	\$ 226,568

Income versus Expenses

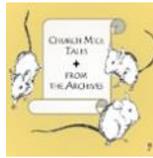
<u>Jan-Jul '13</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 308,894	\$ 323,229
Expense	<u>\$ 325,333</u>	<u>\$ 335,559</u>
NET	- \$ 16,439	- \$ 12,330





Colorful floor tile patterns in St. Mark's narthex

The Treasures To Be Found Looking Down



Along the way we've learned to "Look up, not down; look out, not in; and look forward, not back". These maxims help guide our lives and are appropriate for us to remember. But sometimes there are treasures to be found when we deviate from a maxim, specifically the first one and look down instead, especially when viewing the patterns and colors of St. Mark's stunning tile work.

Have you looked down in the narthex and studied the floor tiles? They're original and beautiful—it looks like not a tile has been disturbed or broken since 1895, despite all the foot traffic for 118 years.

I invite you to enter the narthex, gaze downward, take a long look, and be rewarded.

This is the 21st in a series of Tales from the Archives by Marge Jencks

Church Member Donates Art to St. Mark's

"O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." Psalm 104,24

For Katalin ("Kata") Rabl, sharing her talents with St. Mark's comes naturally. Kata, who sings in the choir and occasionally substitutes on the organ, recently donated over forty matted and framed nature-related pieces of fine art photography to St. Mark's. A member of St. Mark's for almost 2 years, Kata shared some interesting details about herself and her art.

What motivated you to donate your art to St. Mark's?

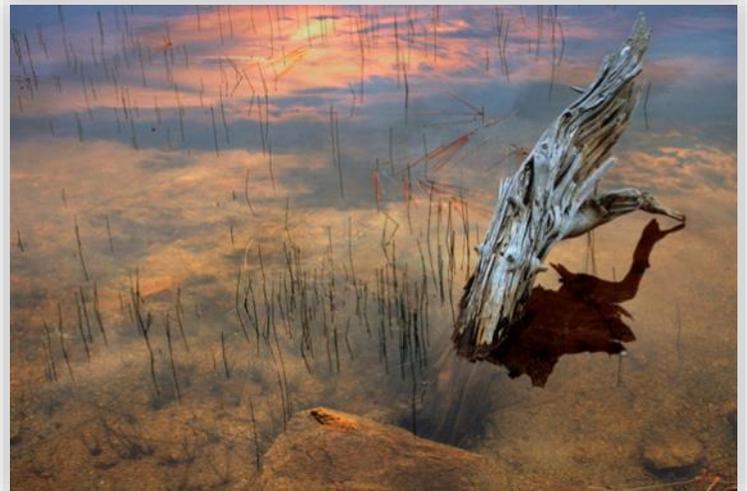
These framed nature images were displayed at three solo photography exhibitions in Los Angeles, San Diego and near San Francisco. Later some of them were exhibited and sold at various art shows and some were given away to friends and neighbors. St. Mark's seemed like the appropriate place to display the remaining pieces to remind people of the beauty of God's creation.

When did you become interested in photography?

The high respect and adoration I've always felt for Nature guided my interest early to biology and later to photography. After obtaining my PhD in neurobiology, I bought my "real" SLR film camera here in the US and pursued a degree in professional photography. Along with fellow Hungarian photographer, Brassai, I believe that "the purpose of Art is to raise people to a higher level of awareness than they would otherwise attain on their own."

What are your favorite scenes to photograph?

Everything in Nature.... where every cell, every flower or grandiose landscape reflects the immense, primordial peace and harmony of the Divine. I especially like to hike and take pictures in national parks; they are truly America's best idea.



What inspires you the most as a photographer?

Beauty. By showing the beauty of Nature captured in the moment, the mission of my art is to enlighten people and elevate human consciousness. Through my pictures I want to encourage others to protect the remaining natural world and preserve ecological diversity.

What is your next photography project?

In November I will publish a coffee table photo book about the winter wonders of Yosemite NP. The images will be paired with inspirational quotations.

Many thanks to Kata for her donation of art, which will be displayed primarily in the church offices and the Urban Life Center. Stop by to view her work or go to www.rabl-fineartphotography.com.

St Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Elvira Markov
Johanna Najera
Nursery Attendants

Jenny Hart
Sunday School Coordinator

Suzanne Smith
Church Council President

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION w/Children's Time
10:00 am Refreshments
11:00 am CHORAL EUCHARIST
12:15 pm Refreshment & Fellowship Hour

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Midweek Supper
6:45 pm MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9 am to 5 pm



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES

For Labor Day:
Monday, September 2

For Thanksgiving:
Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29

St. Mark's is a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation

St. Mark's is one of over 315 congregations, 22 synods and 12 organizations across the ELCA and the ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community. For more information, please contact Steve Krefting at krefting@stmarks-sf.org or 415.826.3124 or speak to one of the pastors.

St. Mark's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Elect
The Rev. Mark W. Holmerud, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod
The Rev. Susan Strouse, Dean, San Francisco Conference
Sister Parish: Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in Soyapango, El Salvador



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.