

The Evangel

May – June 2005

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

In the heart of the city for ministry to the world

A Message from the President of Council

As spring begins to show its promise

so we at St. Mark's Church are beginning to see the fruits of our labors. Monday, April 11 we had the preliminary bond closing and expect the final bond and tax credit closing to be in late May. These monies will allow us to start our retrofit in June once we have a permit in place. I want to commend especially Susan Munn for her countless hours spent to bring this deal to conclusion.



The Renovation Commission—under Gary Schilling's expert leadership along with Herb Lembcke—has been meeting with architects and contractors to finalize the drawings necessary to submit at the end of April for final permit approval. We are expecting to have the comprehensive construction bid for the retrofit by June 1 in advance of our planned **Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 5**. At that time we will present the estimated cost of construction and the total proceeds we can expect from the bond and tax credit financing package. Sunday, June 5 we will be asking you to vote to proceed with the retrofit within these parameters. Please mark this date on your calendars as it will be a very important meeting. The meeting will take place immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the church sanctuary.

The Capital Campaign Committee under the leadership of Marge Okuley and Greg Jahnke has been meeting with our consultant to plan our appeal to raise additional funds necessary to cover renovation expenses and bridge funding for mission and ministry. We will be conducting the active phase of the campaign in the fall and you will be hearing more about that during the summer.

We have tentatively set **Sunday, June 12**

as our final Sunday to worship in the unretrofitted church sanctuary. I encourage everyone to attend either the 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. service that day. Beginning on Sunday, June 19, both the 9:00 and 11:00 services will be held in the Urban Life Center auditorium and will continue there for the next several months during the construction process. How exciting it will be for all of us to witness the retrofit and construction from across St. Mark's Square! As of this writing the move out is being organized by George Irvin, Barbara Bock and the Property Committee.

As we move through these last few weeks before the summer we ask for your positive thoughts and prayers to guide us as we fulfill a long time goal at last.

Thank you to all.
Barbara Engmann

Please see pages 2 and 3 for further information about the retrofit and move. Opportunities to help prepare for the move are detailed under "Strong Workers Needed" on page 10.

THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Pastor Jennert and I attended a two day conference on “Healthy Congregations—Healthy Leaders” taught by Rev. Peter Steinke. During the conference, we heard about the 13 Triggers of Anxiety for Churches and we are thankful that we could only identify three at St. Mark’s! The three triggers for anxiety we identified are money questions (how do we pay for the retrofit?), building questions (will our retrofit EVER happen?) and transition questions (how long will we have to worship in the auditorium during the retrofit?).

We are nearing the beginning of a major transition and change in the life of this congregation. Moving out of our sanctuary and waiting for the retrofit to be finished has been the long-awaited, hoped for dream of many. However, with any change there is anxiety and tension. How comfortable will we be worshiping in the auditorium for the next several months? Will visitors and potential new members want to be part of this faith community during this huge transition? Will people stay away from worship because we are not worshiping in the sanctuary?

I want you to know that your pastors will be responsive to the concerns and questions raised, but our main focus will continue to be on the MISSION of this congregation. Healthy congregations focus on mission and in doing so, anxiety decreases and clarity prevails in our planning for the future.

I commend to you Pastor Jennert’s article in this newsletter. In it he focuses us on our mission as a community of faith. Our mission statement (on the back of the newsletter) has several key words which I am focusing on in the months ahead: growing, reaching, service, and welcome. In the midst of all the change and transition to come, I invite you to stay focused on what we are called to do and be as a Christian Community: to grow this community, to reach out in service, and to welcome all. With our mission as our focus, we will see our way through the transition ahead and even thrive because of it.

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

From Pastor Christian

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in words alone, but in every leaf in springtime. —Martin Luther

Blessed Easter to you! Yes, we are indeed still in the *season* of Easter. This season lasts 50 days altogether from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. On Easter Sunday we celebrate with Christians all over the world the resurrection of Jesus. During the season of Easter we hear in the stories of the Acts of the Apostles what happened to Jesus’ friends after the resurrection. Best of all, the story continues from there to us today, to our own lives.

How has Jesus’ death and resurrection affected your life? Easter is the season to see new life all around us and wonder what God is up to in *our* lives. Where are new seeds planted and the soil being tilled? Where are new shoots rising and what needs weeding around here?

One of the things where I see new life around here at St. Mark’s was at the Easter Vigil where we baptized little Olivia and received her as the newest member into this community along with thirteen others of all ages and walks of life who affirmed their baptism and joined St. Mark’s. They decided to become part of this community and share in the life and mission of it. They want to be fed and grow spiritually as well as using their own unique gifts to contribute to the ministry of this church. They have tasted the “good news” of resurrection. They have felt the inclusive love of Jesus and have taken seriously his message of God’s reign for *all* creation. This life-giving message speaks to them. These newest sisters and brothers represent the Easter faith of hope and life. New people are already inquiring about baptism and membership at St. Mark’s.

Can you imagine a church that has a sign on its doors saying “Temporarily no new members accepted” or “For members only?” From the very beginning, the church followed the instruction of Jesus: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* (Matthew 28:19) [cont.]

*From**Pastor Christian*

[continued from the previous page]

Let's open the doors of St. Mark's even wider, giving heed to Christ's invitation and sharing the good news with all people. Where is God calling us, both individually and as a community of faith? Where can *your* talents and gifts be used for the mission of the church to reach out and acquaint many with the good news of new life?

The hope and blessing of new life is weaving through all of our lives everyday. I invite you to open your eyes to this Easter season of new life and pass it on to those who have yet to hear and experience it. Give thanks to God who makes all things new!

Easter Blessings to you all,
Pastor Christian

The Day of Pentecost & Confirmation

**Sunday, May 15, 2005
at the 11:00 a.m. Service**

Confirmation marks the completion of two years of learning and service in the Christian faith for seven young people at St. Mark's. Confirmation includes a public profession of the faith into which all these young people were baptized described as Affirmation of Baptism. This special liturgy will take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We rejoice with these young people and their families on this very special day in their lives of faith. A festive reception in their honor will immediately follow the service. Hope to see you there!

Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, Mary Beth Weaver, Bill Dahl
—Confirmation teachers

Ascension Day Holy Communion Service

**Thursday, May 5, 2005
12:00 noon**

Last Sunday Worship in our Sanctuary before the retrofit begins Sunday, June 12

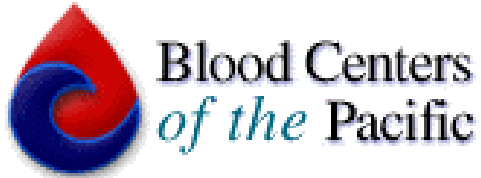
**Beginning Sunday, June 19, we will
worship in the Auditorium of the Urban
Life Center.**

Opportunity for Discipleship & Baptism Sunday, June 12

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Mark's or being baptized? On the last Sunday in the church building before moving to the Urban Life Center for the seismic retrofit we will baptize and welcome new members to St. Mark's. Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Christian will gladly provide you with more information and walk with you through the process of discipleship. For more info contact one of the pastors or call the church office at ☎ (415) 928-7770. The church office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Blood Drive

Sunday, May 29, 2005
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



St. Mark's is once again hosting a blood drive by Blood Centers of the Pacific and we need you! The blood drive will be held Sunday, May 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Urban Life Center Auditorium. We had a great response last time (28 donors) and we're hoping to get a few more this time. If you are able to participate, sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex starting Sunday, May 8, or contact Margy Glasner at ☎ (415) 566-1629 or glasner@cgl.ucsf.edu.

Lutheran Social Services Open House

Sunday, May 22, 2005
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Northern California invites you to celebrate their new home. Their new San Francisco office is located at 290 8th Street (near Folsom). If you plan to attend, RSVP to ✉ communications@lssnorcal.org. St. Mark's gave \$1,000 from Social Ministry to help LSS open their new office. For more information about the wonderful work they do in our community, visit their website at www.lssnorcal.org.



Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build



St. Mark's will help build a house for Habitat for Humanity, San Francisco starting this spring. Construction should start in the very near future for the first phase of twelve single family homes to be built in the Oceanview area of Daly City. St. Mark's is working in collaboration with other members of the San Francisco Interfaith Council on the Interfaith Build. Some of the faith organizations working with St. Mark's on this project include Grace Cathedral, Congregation Emanu-El, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, San Francisco Islamic Society, Metropolitan Community Church, Calvary Presbyterian, St. Francis Lutheran Church, St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church and the Interfaith Chapel at the Presidio. This second Interfaith Build in the US has already received enthusiastic response from the Mayor's office and several corporate and charitable sponsors. The family that will eventually live in the Interfaith house has already been selected and are already performing some of the "Sweat Equity" necessary to help build their new home. There was a terrific article in the March issue of 7x7 magazine about this exciting community project. It is posted in the narthex for you to read.

More details regarding volunteer days at the construction site will be announced soon. No construction experience necessary! Look for announcements in the Sunday Parish Announcements and on the bulletin boards in the Narthex. For more information, please contact Susan E. Stone and John Elford at ✉ socialministry@stmarks-sf.org. If you wish to make a donation or sign up as a volunteer, contact Denise Burpee at Habitat for Humanity, San Francisco, ☎ (415) 406-1555, ext. 111.

2005 AIDS Walk San Francisco Sunday, July 17

St. Mark's will be fielding a team in the 2005 AIDS Walk San Francisco. This annual event benefits the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and 36 other Bay Area AIDS services organizations. This year's 10-kilometer walk takes place Sunday, July 17 in Golden Gate Park.



Last year, the St. Mark's team raised over \$12,000.00. This year, let's shoot for at least \$15,000.00! The team leader for St. Mark's will be Mr. Dana Utz (a member of the Social Ministry Committee). If you would like to take part in the fund raiser as a team walker, contact Dana at ☎ (415) 586-7130 or utzdana@comcast.net. If you are unable to take part in the walk, but would like to make a financial pledge, you can contact a team walker. During upcoming coffee hours, we'll have a poster up and information on how you can make a pledge.

In July 1981, reports of a rare "cancer" among 41 gay men in New York and California signaled the beginning of a new disease. However, at the time few people imagined that an epidemic of monumental proportion was imminent. As of 2004 almost 22 million men, women and children worldwide have died of AIDS, and an estimated 40 million people are living with HIV. AIDS impacts people of all ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations.

The annual AIDS Walk helps raise urgently needed funds and sends the message that the AIDS crisis is not over. Participants in the event include individual walkers as well as members of more than 700 corporate and community teams. In its 19th year, the charitable event has raised over \$50 million dollars.

—Dana Utz

Our Sister Parish Cordero de Dios in El Salvador

Our Sister Parish, Cordero de Dios, in El Salvador, has recently sent us a thank you note for the contributions that we sent to them at year end 2004. In addition to donations from the congregation, our Sunday School Children donated their offerings for the year to the Cordero de Dios Sunday School. We are also sending the profits we make from our Fair Trade Coffee sales to the Sunday School there. They are very appreciative of these donations.

A second letter from Pastor Norma Noemi Castillo Jimenez of Cordero de Dios stated that the Lutheran Church at the national level in El Salvador is in a period of transition with some economical problems and that they are in consultation with a group of international consultants. This has affected churches at the local level there and Cordero de Dios has had to come up with some means of generating some money. One of their projects is to rent out their tables and chairs for special events. Please keep Pastor Norma and the Cordero de Dios parish in your prayers. We look forward to continuing to help them with our financial contributions.

Lenten Offering Boxes

Thank you from the Social Ministry Committee for donating your spare pocket change in the Lenten Offering Boxes. This a special collection each Lent for just one of the many missions that St. Mark's helps support. This year's offering will be sent to the Nelson Family. Drs. Tim and Holly Nelson are serving as ELCA sponsored missionaries in Cameroon, Africa. They will be visiting St. Mark's **Sunday, June 19, 2005**. They will be attending the 9:00 a.m. service and will be our special guests at the 10:00 Adult Forum.

Douglas J. Engmann and
Mrs. Barbara Engmann
Invite you to an

Extraordinary Evening of Music

Thursday, May 5, 2005
7:00 p.m.

Steven Bourne, Cello
Jesse Faber, Clarinet
Daniël Kool, Piano

Three gifted young Dutch
musicians visiting from Holland;
Prizewinners of the Prinses
Christina Concours Competition

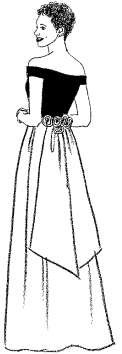
A reception with the musicians follows.

Families are welcome. There is no
charge for this special evening.
RSVP ☎ (415) 982-0788 or ✉



High Fashion High Tea

Saturday, June 4, 2005
4:00 p.m.



Women and girls are invited to a
fashion show of vintage clothing in the
Auditorium of the Urban Life Center.

Sip tea and champagne while
nibbling culinary delights prepared
by Chef Dean Atkinson. Stacy
Cullison will offer elegant music at
the piano as St. Mark's friends
model designs from many periods.

Sponsored by St. Mark's Hospitality
Committee and WELCA. Tickets are
\$10 for women; \$5 for girls.



Soli Deo Gloria and Orchestra Gloria present

The Dawn of Romanticism

Mendelssohn's Psalm 42 & Cherubini's Requiem in C minor

Saturday, May 21, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal, 600 Colorado, Palo Alto
Sunday, May 22, 3:30 p.m. at St. Gregory of Nyssa, 500 De Haro, San Francisco

General admission \$22, Senior/Student \$17 (order in advance and receive a discount). K-8 students FREE!
☎ (415) 982-7341. Group rate discounts are available. For more information, visit www.sdgloria.org or
call ☎ (415) 982-7341. **Tickets can be purchased from St. Mark's members Brent Bushnell, Lisa
Dahill or Mary Ritter.** Soli Deo Gloria is a Bay Area wide auditioned choir dedicated to the performance
of masterworks of the sacred repertoire in a concert setting. The choir performs four concert series
throughout the year performing in the East Bay, on the Peninsula and in San Francisco on a regular basis.
The choir's membership is drawn from six Bay Area counties and rehearses weekly in Alameda and Palo
Alto. SDG has been singing since 1975 and been conducted by Allen H. Simon since 1991. Dr. Simon has
earned acclaim from critics and audiences alike for his choice of programming, musical artistry and
direction. For audition information call ☎ (650) 424-1242.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is available for children three years old through 6th grade. Classes meet every Sunday through June 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in enrolling your child in Sunday School or have any questions, please call Gail Culp at (415) 647-0290. The last day of Sunday School before the summer break is Sunday, June 5.



Parents with Kidlettes



Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Parents with Kidlettes group meets each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall. Come and meet other parents in a friendly, supportive atmosphere which includes refreshments! We have several brand new parents in our community plus many seasoned parents which will produce lively conversation, sharing and reflection on the joys and challenges of parenting. We meet in Heritage Hall at the round tables. Come and meet new friends. Pastor Ekdale or one of the many parents in the small group facilitates each week our conversation together. For more information, please call Pr. Ekdale at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 230.

Tuesdays at 2:00 Bible Study



Bible Study, fellowship, conversation, sharing and goodies every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in the Brookie Lounge of Martin Luther Tower. Bring your Bible and your questions to this fun and stimulating time of learning. Classes are taught by Pastors Elizabeth Ekdale and Christian Jennert. **Everyone welcome!**

YABS - Young Adult Bible Study

Reading 1 Corinthians

**Sundays, May 1, 15 & 29; June 12 & 26
6:00-7:00 p.m.**

St. Mark's Young Adult Bible Study meets every two weeks on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. in the *Chapel of the Nativity* in the basement of St. Mark's. YABS will take a summer vacation during the months of July and August and will resume in September. We look forward to having you join us for stimulating discussions and fellowship. **Coffee, tea and snacks are provided.** No previous knowledge required! See you there! For more information contact Shauna and Brent at ☒ YABS@stmarks-sf.org.



WELCA

An Invitation to
All Women

**Tuesdays, May 10
& June 14**

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) ladies of St. Mark's and St. Paulus meet the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room of the Urban Life Center. Our Bible study for May 10 will be led by the Rev. Robert Jacobsen, a gifted theologian and educator. focusing on the parables. You will not want to miss these Bible studies and time of fellowship. Please bring a sandwich for your lunch. Refreshments and dessert will be provided.

Donna Dindia, President; Shirley Capp, VP
☒ WELCA@stmarks-sf.org

Summer Mini-School of Theology

**Tuesday Evenings in June
June 7, 14, 21 & 28
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Fireside Room**

**Allan Jones—*Re-imagining Christianity:
Reconnect Your Spirit without
Disconnecting Your Mind***

During the month of June anyone interested in reading the most recent book by Dr. Allan Jones, Dean of Grace Episcopal Cathedral, is invited to come to this mini-school of theology and have a refreshing book study on our Christian faith and tradition. Everyone is invited to dig deeper into the adventure of theology and the mystery of faith, to enjoy group discussions and learning together, and to share our experiences in the Christian tradition.

One reviewer writes, “Alan Jones has written a book that invites us to take ownership of the Christian path, which he describes as a living process rather than a proscribed set of rules. Our minds, our creativity, and our compassion are all tools for encountering Christ, and for a lifelong exploration of what it means to be Christian today, both in our fractured world and within our fractured Church. This is a book for people who are interested in commitment, community, and transformation, both internally and externally....”

Each Tuesday evening in June (7, 14, 21 & 28), 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. For more information, contact Pastor Jennert at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 226 or ✉ Jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

ST. MARK'S HOUSE MEETINGS RETURN MAY 9 & 10 AT 7:00 P.M.

The house meetings were so popular and well attended last fall that St. Mark's will offer two more house meetings this May. In previous house meetings we had the opportunity to hear each other's stories. The three most re-curent themes that were heard in people telling their stories are: accessible childcare, affordable housing, and access to (affordable) health care. In response to this, we may want to ask how can St. Mark's support and shape our ministry in response to these issues. If you would like to attend one of the two upcoming house meetings, please RSVP at your earliest convenience: Contact Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale for the house meeting on Monday, May 9 (☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 230; ✉ Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org). Contact Dean Atkinson for the Tuesday, May 10 house meeting (✉ atkinson@stmarks-sf.org). If you would like more information on what house meetings are, please contact Pr. Christian Jennert at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 226.

Mark your calendar!

Women of St. Mark's One Day Retreat

with the Rev. Glenda Hope

**Saturday, September 24
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
at St. Mark's**

Members and friends of St. Mark's meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 in the Fireside Room (in the Urban Life Center) and we welcome all to join in learning and exploring together. Coffee available. Our forums for the coming months are:

Discerning the Will of God

Lisa Dahill

May 1

Discernment of God's leading is at the heart of growth in Christian life. What does it mean to speak of discerning the will of God? What are the criteria of Christian discernment? How does a person learn to pay attention to God's leading, and to distinguish God's voice from other voices in one's life, heart, and experience? These sessions will provide an introduction to this important topic and the invitation to deepen one's experiences of God's presence and leading. In addition, you will receive worksheets and suggestions for further reading to take home.

Marked with the Cross of Christ Forever: Report on the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly

May 8

Voting members from St. Mark's --- Pastor Ekdale, Pastor Jennert, Margaret McLean, and Mark Hammitt --- will report back on the work of the larger church. Come and discuss resolutions which were voted on at the Synod Assembly, held April 29 – May 1 at the Oakland Convention Center, and learn about the wider ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Crisis in Organ Transplantation

A Lutheran Response

Dr. Margaret McLean

May 15

No, this is not a discussion of how to safely transport our new organ from Virginia to California! It is rather a conversation about the acute shortage of solid organs—kidneys, hearts, lungs—for life-saving transplantation procedures. A measure of this crisis is that many more people die each year languishing on the waiting list for a donated organ than receive the necessary organs.

Please join us to discuss the 2004 ELCA social policy resolution on organ donation and the concerns for social justice it raises, led by Dr. McLean, Director for Healthcare Ethics at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University.

The Gates, Central Park

Greg Jahnke

May 22

Christo's *The Gates, Central Park, New York City*. Was it art or grand public deception? Join Greg Jahnke, St. Mark's member as he shares his experiences of witnessing the largest public art project in human history that occurred in New York's Central Park in February of this year.

Beginning Again

**Healing Stories in the Bible
and the Christian Tradition**

Pastor Jennert

May 29, June 5 & 12

In this series we will take a closer look at some of the healing stories in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament with a special emphasis on the healing miracles of Jesus. How is the church following this tradition and offering healing and wholeness? Where do we find God in times of crisis and pain?

Meet the "Cameroon Nelsons"

Sunday, June 19, 2005

Meet and learn about the Nelson's first two years in ministry in N'Gaoundere, Cameroon. You have read their letters and—as members of St. Mark's—helped sponsor their work. Now is the time to meet them and ask all your questions. Dr. Tim (voted outstanding employee of the year by the staff) and Dr. Holly (now back in Pediatrics) along with their children, Spencer, Jenna and Maddie, will share their life and work in Cameroon.

Adult Forums will take a summer vacation and resume in September. If you have any topic that you would like covered, have a study that you would like to lead, or are interested in planning next season's program, please contact Suzanne Smith at [✉ AdultForums@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:AdultForums@stmarks-sf.org)

Strong Workers Needed

Saturdays, May 21 & 28

The Property Committee needs the help of 10 able-bodied and strong-backed volunteers Saturdays, May 21 and 28 to begin the process of tidying up for the Congregation's relocation to the Urban Life Center (ULC). May 21 we'll tackle the ULC at 9:30 a.m. to clear out spaces on the second and third floors. May 28 at 9:30 a.m. we'll do the same in the church to make way for movers! Some lifting and carrying will be required, but it will help work off the doughnuts that will be provided. To sign up or get more information, please contact George Irvin at ☎ (415) 459-1454 or ✉ property@stmarks-sf.org.

Simply Giving Makes Giving Simple!

Busy lives sometimes lead to forgetting to do certain things. *Simply Giving* is a help for those who would like their offering to St. Mark's to be regular but don't always have the time to do so. It is an electronic transfer of your offering directly from your bank account to St. Mark's. Consider *Simply Giving* as a tool to help you do the things you want to do. We currently have 45 families using *Simply Giving*—including both pastors, our treasurer Debra Varian and several council members! Forms are available in the church office. We will happily mail you one, just call the office at ☎ (415) 928-7770.

Evangel Deadline-June 10

Friday, June 10 is the deadline for the **July-August 2005** newsletter. Think summer—picnics and other outdoor activities—and don't forget Rally Day in early September! It's never too early to start planning. Please email articles and event notices—as plain text in the body of the email—to ✉ admin@stmarks-sf.org. If you do not have email access, please place a hard copy in David Zechman's mailbox in the church office. The Evangel is published bimonthly.

From the Treasurer

Year to Date General Operating Budget as of March 31, 2005

Budgeted Income	\$ 112,292
Actual Income	119,547
Income surplus vs. Budget	7,255
Budgeted Expenses	115,008
Actual Expenses	110,391
Expense savings vs. Budget	4,617
Actual Net Income through 3/31/2005 (Actual Income minus Actual Expenses)	\$ 9,156

On a year-to-date basis, members' givings to the General Fund were \$5,600 higher than this time last year. With respect to all givers that pledged towards 2005, pledgers giving more than their year-to-date pledge increased the General Fund by \$4,700. Pledgers giving less than their pledge negatively impacted the General Fund by \$13,300. Those who did not pledge towards 2005 gave \$9,300 to the General Fund. Thank you everyone—members, friends and visitors—for your financial gifts which support St. Mark's important ministries.

Administrative expenses have stayed low during the year and helped to contribute to a net budget surplus for the year so far.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Varian
St. Mark's Treasurer
✉ treasurer@stmarks-sf.org

**St. Mark's and Martin Luther Tower
Senior Ministries
May – June 2005**

**Jack London State Historic Park
in Sonoma County
Tuesday, May 3
10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

The grapes on a score of rolling hills are red with autumn flame. Across Sonoma Mountain wisps of sea fog are stealing. The afternoon sun smolders in the drowsy sky. I have everything to make me glad I am alive. I am filled with dreams and mysteries. I am all sun and air and sparkle. I am vitalized, organic. —Jack London

(Please note the date change to Tuesday, May 3!) Enjoy this trip to beautiful Sonoma County and visit the famous Jack London State Historic Park and the museum. Jack London State Historic Park is a memorial to writer and adventurer Jack London. We will explore Jack London on this 1400 acre Beauty Ranch and visit the museum. A lunch will follow in Glen Ellen. Don't miss this beautiful trip to beautiful Sonoma County!

**Stinson Beach and
Scenic Drive along Highway 1
Wednesday, June 1
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Stinson Beach is rich in history! The history of Stinson Beach revolves around its geography. Beginning in the 19th century, ranches used the rolling hills to raise milk cows. White Gate Ranch was part of the Throckmorton tenant ranches; only a grove of eucalyptus on Panoramic Highway marks it's location. Don't miss out on visiting one of the most beautiful beaches in the North Bay. Lunch will be provided for a small fee.

**Shopping Trip to the
Vacaville Premium Outlets
Friday, July 1**

You are invited to Vacaville for shopping at the premium outlets Friday, July 1. At 120 stores with famous high quality name brands, one can find savings between 25 and 65% off the regular retail price! Lunch is available at several locations in the mall. Check weekly Parish Announcements for further details.

All tours and trips start from the lower (Ellis Street) parking lot unless noted otherwise. The trips are open to residents from Martin Luther Tower and seniors from St. Mark's Lutheran Church and on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your seat, please sign up at the MLT office or call Barbara Bock at ☎ (415) 928-8639.

**Senior Luncheons
Wednesday, May 18 and
Wednesday, June 15**

The St. Mark's/MLT Senior Center luncheons are offered **Wednesday, May 18 (Heritage Hall)** and **Wednesday, June 15 (Auditorium/ULC)**. The luncheons start at 12:00 noon and conclude with a program. The cost for each luncheon is \$4.00, and the food will be prepared by our own master chef Dean Atkinson! Each luncheon will serve 60 people. Sign up at your earliest convenience to reserve your seat! Sign-up sheets will be available at the MLT office or call Pr. Jennert at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 226.

**Seniors working with and
for others... and enjoying it!**

SMART— ST. MARK'S ADULTS 'ROUND TOWN

May and June

SMART Dinner at *Betelnut* Friday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Join SMART at *Betelnut Pejju Wu* located in San Francisco's popular Cow Hollow District. *Betelnut* brings the best of contemporary Asian cuisine to the West Coast's finest city. *Betelnut* (named after the areca nut that's wrapped with betel leaf and chewed for its exhilarating lift) is modeled after the *pejju wu*—or *beer house*—found throughout Southeast Asia. Opened in September 1995, it was one of five nominees for the James Beard Foundation's Best New Restaurant Award. *Betelnut* also was voted "Hottest New Restaurant" by the San Francisco Chronicle and "Hottest Restaurant in the Country" by the Boston Globe. See you there May 27!

SMART's Summer Ferry Ride to Tiburon/Marin County Saturday, June 25

Between Mount Tamalpais and the Bay lies Tiburon, with restaurants, stylish stores, unique shopping centers, and historic landmarks, set among redwood groves, winding trails and waterways. A short walk from the ferry landing is an outdoor shopping and dining complex with bay views. An old western-style street of stores filled with antiques is just West of the Ferry Terminal. Join SMART for a summer ferry ride to beautiful Tiburon this June. Enjoy an afternoon with nice folks in Marin County and dinner at a local restaurant.

All events are open to members, friends, guests, partners and spouses! For further details, check your *evites* or call Pr. Christian at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext., 226. If you are not on the SMART group mailing list yet, subscribe at StMarksSMART@yahoo.com.

Nursery News

Nursery care is available every Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Millie and Elvira are our wonderful, professional child-care attendants. Parents are welcome to stay with their child in the nursery until she/he is comfortable. Infants through children of nine years of age are welcome throughout the morning. Parents, please remember to sign in and sign out when you drop off and pick up your child. And please take your shoes off when you enter the nursery! The nursery is located underneath the sanctuary in Heritage Hall.



Saintly Lutherans Under Delusions of Grand Excursions



SLUDGE hikes are scheduled every month or two, so if you're interested in joining us, contact Tom Benson to be placed on the SLUDGE email/phone list. Hikes are announced in advance at Sunday services and in weekly bulletins. For more details, email Steven Krefting and Tom Benson at ✉ SLUDGE@stmarks-sf.org.



The Stitchers of St. Mark's create projects for needful friends. If you knit, crochet, needlepoint, embroider, or tat please join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall.* Bring your own project or pull up a chair and work on a community project already underway—baby blankets, wash cloths, hats and other items needed by domestic crisis shelters. Drop in for socializing, learning needle-working skills (we'll gleefully teach you), refining your techniques, sharing ideas and celebrating the joy of creativity. We are a part of the Social Ministry of St. Mark's. * Beginning Sunday, June 19, Stitchers will meet in the Urban Life Center, room to be determined. Watch the weekly Parish Announcements for details.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m.** HOLY COMMUNION with Children's Time in the Sanctuary followed by refreshments in the Narthex.
- 9:30 a.m.** Children's Sunday School beginning in the Sanctuary [through June 5]
- 9:45 a.m.** Confirmation Class in Sunday School rooms, ULC [through May 8]
- 10:00 a.m.** Adult Forum with coffee in the Fireside Room [through June 19]
- 10:00 a.m.** Parents with Kidlettes in Heritage Hall
- 11:00 a.m.** CHORAL EUCHARIST followed by Coffee Hour (12:15) in Heritage Hall.
- 12:30 p.m.** Junior Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary [through June 5]

Childcare provided
the entire morning.

Note: Beginning Sunday, June 19, worship and childcare will take place in the Urban Life Center.

Why We Are at St. Mark's

We introduce to you active young adults from our community. If you are a young adult and interested in St. Mark's or the different programs and ministries in our community, contact Pastor Christian Jennert at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 226 or ✉ Jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

Brent & Debbie Bushnell

Ages: 41 & 35.

Birthplaces: Minnesota and El Salvador.

First Time we attended St. Mark's:
August 2002 and April 2004.

What impressed us most: The welcoming feeling we felt the first time we visited St. Mark's.

What could St. Mark's do even better: Outreach to improve our ethnic diversity. We should meet together as a community more often, perhaps once a month or so. With two different services, it sometimes feels like we have two different congregations, but we both really enjoy those times when we all meet together.

Where we are involved in this community: Weekly worship, Young Adults Bible Study, SMART, SLUDGE, Evangelism Team.

Why we stay: Because worshipping at St. Mark's speaks to us and because of the people. The quality of music and fellowship are other important factors to us. One of the easiest decisions we've made as a couple is that we will continue to be active at St. Mark's as long as we live in the Bay Area. We will probably combine our households this summer, most likely in the South Bay, but we plan to spend our Sundays at St. Mark's.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving on behalf of the following members who celebrate their birthdays in May and June.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mark Andersen
- 2 Nolan Stieg
- 3 Rodney Gehrke 🎁 Margy Glasner 🎁
Carol Landale
- 4 Mawo Tominaga
- 6 Gerhard Weber
- 7 Clovis Curl
- 8 Robert Rickun
- 9 David Finley 🎁 Gordon Stevenson
- 10 Christopher Lull
- 12 Michelle Coulter 🎁 Zachary Lloyd
- 14 Jack Heiter 🎁 Sharon Seliga
- 16 Katherine Lam
- 18 Thomas Brickley 🎁 Shirley Capp
- 19 Joseph Liu 🎁 Connie Nahnsen
- 22 Andrew Sallach
- 24 Deborah Burdulis
- 25 Louis Tullius
- 26 Aaron Bohrer 🎁 Ramona Jacobsen 🎁
Brian Richards
- 27 Mila Sall
- 29 Quinn Armentrout 🎁 Mark Mayland
- 30 Bruce Bollman 🎁 F. S. Hall
- 31 Jason Jennings 🎁 Stewart Perryman 🎁
Peter Seliga

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 William Bowman
- 4 Deborah Halladay 🎁 Arthur Michel
- 5 John Varian
- 7 Marcy Bahr
- 8 Ema Hidy
- 9 David Hutton 🎁 Jack Lundin 🎁
William Morris
- 10 Scott Jordan 🎁 Cynthia Moyer 🎁
Malia Peterson 🎁 Zachariah Peterson
- 12 John Human
- 14 Joleen Caron 🎁 Jonathan Moeller
- 16 Adrienne Nelson
- 17 Bill Primozić
- 21 Tayte Sall
- 22 Angelina Gomez 🎁 Fred Wentker
- 23 Susan Sall
- 25 Marie-José Baum 🎁 Bryce Hidysmith 🎁
Loretta Litke 🎁
- 27 Natalie Engmann
- 28 Mark Hammitt



Sacred Acts at St. Mark's
March – April 2005

Wedding/Marriage

Affirmation of Vows—
Brent Bushnell and Debbie Sandoval—
Sunday, April 3, 2005.



Baptisms

Olivia Claire Hanna—daughter of Alison and Shane
Hanna—baptized Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005.

Alexandra Caitlin Peahl—daughter of Jonathan and
Amy Peahl—baptized Sunday, April 17, 2005.

First Congregational Church Begins a New Chapter

In May 2001, First Congregational Church of San Francisco moved into the Urban Life Center after selling their old downtown sanctuary. We were happy to use the auditorium of the Urban Life Center for our worship services and the third floor for office space. Meanwhile, we are completing our move to Polk Street, where will watch our new church building take shape before our eyes at the corner of Polk and Bush Streets. It is not a move into a new church, but into office space in the Leland Hotel, in our new neighborhood.

We hope that we can reach out better to our new neighborhood. We want to provide a place for community, reflection, growth, caring, health and spiritual guidance. Hopefully we will break ground this summer and start to build in the fall. We anticipate moving into our new church in 2007.

We are very thankful for the last four years here in the Urban Life Center. We experienced great hospitality and friendship over the last few years with staff and members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. I am glad that our new church is only a few blocks away; hopefully we can continue our friendship with each other.

Blessings to all of you
Reverend Wilfried Glabach
First Congregational Church/UCC San Francisco

St. Mark's *Evangel* ONLINE

To receive the newsletter via email instead of snail mail, please email your request to admin@stmarks-sf.org. When the *Evangel* is published, you will receive an email with a link to the new edition on our website (www.stmarks-sf.org). The *Evangel* can be read, downloaded and printed as an Adobe PDF. Be among the first to read it and save paper, postage, copying and trees! You will need the Adobe Reader which you can download free from www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html.

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

St. Mark's is one of over 285 congregations, 22 synods and 12 organizations across the ELCA and ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that lesbian and gay people are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community. For more information, please contact Steve Krefting at ☎ (415) 826-3124 or krefting@stmarks-sf.org or contact Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 230 or Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org. Also visit the Lutherans Concerned RIC website at <http://www.lcna.org/ric.shtm>.

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

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ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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☎ (415) 928-7770 ♦ Fax: (415) 928-8534

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

www.stmarks-sf.org

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St. Mark's is a growing Christian community rooted in tradition and open to new expressions. Responding to God's compassionate love, we reach out in service to the community and the world. With openness of heart and spirit, we welcome all.



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The Rev. Christian Jennert, Associate Pastor.....	Jennert@stmarks-sf.org.....	x. 226
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Duc Huynh, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, x. 222		
Carl Storey, Weekend Custodian		
Liu Liulaumea, Property Monitor		
Gail Culp, Sunday School Coordinator		
Elvira Markov & Mildred Orellana, Nursery Assistants		
Mary Beth Weaver, Teaching Parish Student		
David Hettlinger, Teaching Parish Student		

Sister Parish: Cordero de Dios (Lamb of God) Lutheran Church,
Soyapango, El Salvador, Central America

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

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. David Mullen, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod
The Rev. Daniel Solberg, Dean, San Francisco Conference

