

Saint Mark Church
THE LEGACY 3 CAMPAIGN
2018 - 2021



WHY I GIVE
STATEMENTS

"Growing our Roots-Securing God's House"



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROY HOWARD.....	2
2. ABOUT THE LEGACY 3 CAMPAIGN.....	3
3. ALISON BENNETT.....	4
4. COLETTE RAMM.....	5
5. DICK PAVLIN.....	7
6. JERRY LOWRIE.....	7
7. JESSI AUSTIN.....	8
8. JOHN HAGNER.....	9
9. MEISIE ROBERTS.....	10
10. ODONNA MATHEWS SIMPSON.....	11
11. RAY Mountain.....	12
12. SHELBY ETHERIDGE HARASTY.....	13
13. STACIA FLEISHER.....	14
14. TAKE AWAYS.....	15



MESSAGE FROM CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Beloved of Saint Mark

We seek to be a community of Christian faith pursuing the love of God and neighbor, while honoring the gifts of all people. We welcome persons of every race and class, ability or sexual orientation, including children, families and persons with disabilities. Our hope is that together, through the grace of God, we may grow in our relationship to Jesus Christ and serve others in the Spirit of Jesus.

This has been our tradition from the beginning and it remains our hope that this will be our legacy for future generations. That is why we are pursuing this Legacy Campaign: to ensure that our facilities are maintained well for many years to come. This is a prudent, practical and possible venture that will benefit our neighbors as well as our congregation. We also want our legacy of service to continue which is why a ten percent tithe from our donations will be dedicated to service projects in line with the vision and mission of Saint Mark.

In this brochure you will hear testimonies from many of our members why they are giving to this campaign. I encourage you to read them. I believe you will be inspired and your heart will be filled with gratitude for what God is doing among us at Saint Mark.

Grace to you and peace

Pastor Roy Howard



Rev. Dr. Roy Howard
Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Saint Mark Presbyterian Church



Rev. Shelby Etheridge Harasty
Associate Pastor
Saint Mark Presbyterian Church



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BOUT THE LEGACY 3 CAMPAIGN

GOAL

To raise \$350,000 from members over a 3-year pledge period (2018-2021)

PURPOSE

- ✓ Restore \$350,000 of reserves used to pay Sanctuary renovation costs.
- ✓ Fund needed repairs and maintenance for Fellowship Hall such as HVAC and kitchen upgrades
- ✓ Support Saint Mark's mission and core values by continuing to provide free or below cost use of the building to community groups
- ✓ Create a financially stable, reasonably capitalized church so that we "live within our means"
- ✓ Provide additional funds for important local and global mission projects (10% of total Legacy campaign will go to mission)

TIMEFRAME

- 🌀 Launch – April 15, 2018
- 🌀 Conclude– May 31, 2018

THEME

"Growing our Roots-Securing God's House"

Our roots are in the community where our members live and where local human service agencies we support are located. God's House is our educational building and sanctuary, which we are called to make ready for God's work.

BACKGROUND

Since 1997, capital campaigns to 1) build the education building and 2) to renovate the sanctuary have raised a combined total of \$3.88 million over 15 years. As a result, we are debt free while providing our community with a remarkable facility for their use and ours as well as a lovely contemporary sanctuary.

OUTCOME

With \$350,000 from Legacy 3 and annual contributions from the operating budget, there should be sufficient reserves for the next 10-15 years to pay for repairs and replacements without borrowing or another capital campaign. In addition, we will have 10% or \$35,000 for local or global mission projects if we reach our goal.

CO-CHAIRS

Odonna Mathews Simpson

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Richard Pavlin

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LEGACY TEAM

Jessi Austin, Alison Bennett, Stacia Fleisher, John Hagner, Jerry Lowrie, Ray Mountain, Colette Ramm, and Meisie Roberts

Roy Howard and Shelby Etheridge Harasty, ex officio

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LISON BENNETT STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

When we completely remodeled our worship space we made it energy efficient. It is noticeably more comfortable, well lit, fresh and inviting with an emphasis on materials that relate to the natural setting. We accomplished the following environmental victories:

- ✓ Improvement of the thermal envelope with insulated glass and doors, removal of unnecessary windows, re-insulation of all exterior walls, insulation of the perimeter foundation for a thermal break, and 4" of rigid foam roof insulation.
- ✓ Passive solar heating through windows and a dark floor.
- ✓ Required the architectural team to be sensitive and conscious of the green/environmental use of products.
- ✓ Installed low-energy fixtures throughout the building as appropriate.
- ✓ Installed an HVAC system that is a state-of-the-art, energy efficient, gas unit that distributes air evenly throughout the space. The narthex received a new highly energy efficient space heater.
- ✓ Much material from the existing building was saved, or recycled, including all of the pews and pulpit furniture, which were donated to another church.
- ✓ The roofing was made from a recycled, 50-year rated composite material.
- ✓ Efforts were made to maintain the landscaping by careful planning.

These actions were completely in keeping with our role as stewards of the Earth. The 202nd General Assembly in 1990 stated, "Creation cries out in this time of ecological crisis: Abuse of nature and injustice to people place the future in grave jeopardy; Population triples in this century; Biological systems suffer diminished capacity to renew themselves; Finite minerals are mined and pumped as if inexhaustible; Peasants are forced onto marginal lands and soil erodes; The rich-poor gap grows wider; Wastes and poisons exceed nature's capacity to absorb them; and Greenhouse gases pose threat of global warming." By 2007, PC(USA) was calling on us to lead carbon neutral lives. Everything we have done in our sanctuary helps us toward our goals to care for our Earth. I support our continuing efforts to maintain and update our facilities in the most energy efficient ways to both save money for mission and to save our Earth – the only home we have.

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OLETTE RAMM STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

There are five main reasons why I personally give to Saint Mark Church. They are:

- 1) **Transparency and accountability** - when you give to Saint Mark church, you can be assured that you will receive full report on the amount of money collected and where it will go. That's important to me because I have a small non-profit organization (REVE Kandale) which has been operating in DR Congo since 2010. We work with local communities to plant fruit trees, build safer and viable classrooms and promote the empowerment of girls and women. Our success stems from the fact that we take pride in promoting transparency and accountability at all levels, in the use of project resources. So, it is good to have a home church like SMPC which models and shares these same values.
- 2) **Role of women and children in the life of Saint Mark church** - Saint Mark church is a champion in promoting women and children as key players in the life of the church. This is reflected Saint Mark church's ministries in terms of leadership and priorities. I am a mother of four young ladies. The positive impact this kind of environment has had on all of them cannot be overemphasized.
- 3) **Respect and welcoming attitude for diversity** – I used to watch a show called: "Cheers" Their Intro song was: "sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name..." For some of us living far from home, with a large and mixed family, it could be anxiety-provoking to be in an environment where you don't quite fit. Saint Mark church is different. As soon as we visited the church the first time when we moved to the area from England, I was amazed when we came back to church, Pastor Roy was calling us by our names already. That's a special and healing moment that I will always treasure about Saint Mark church, with joy and gratitude.
- 4) **It is never about how much you give** – What I love about giving to Saint Mark church is that, every amount that I can afford to give is valued and deeply appreciated. I have never felt pressured by the church to give and/or to give a certain amount. I really appreciate that about Saint Mark.
- 5) **Lastly, Saint Mark as a church** – Saint Mark church has provided a platform for my girls to grow and to strengthen their spiritual as well as emotional maturity more than I could ever have been able to accomplish home. The exposure from visits to homeless shelters, babysitting opportunities, singing in the choir, trip to rebuilt poor communities in USA, Sunday school, care packages and most of all our daughter's wedding at Saint Mark, are some of the small things that set this church apart from all others in my heart.

Saint Mark has given me, and my family much more than we could ever afford to reciprocate. Saint Mark's generous contribution to REVE Kandale Foundation campaign in 2017 helped us purchase a Brick machine for my village, Kandale in DR Congo. I delivered the machine on October 20, 2017 and it is already paying some dividends (www.revekandale.org). It is with profound gratitude and humility that I give to Saint Mark Church.

DICK PAVLIN STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

Watching my Dad count the Sunday collection, looking at the small stacks of \$1, \$5, and the occasional \$10-dollar bills is my earliest church giving memory. Our church was working class folks of modest means. My Mom put some dollars in the weekly offering envelope – and gave me a quarter to give at Sunday School. Money was a source of conflict between Dad and Mom. They argued often about money but never about what to give the church. Perhaps Dad knew from counting the collection more donations were needed. Neither Mom nor Dad told me why they gave or why giving to the church was important.

When I entered seminary, I didn't hear much about giving – there were no courses in stewardship and tithing. There was ample theology, pastoral care and church history, but giving and how it was a spiritual practice were not in the curriculum.

Where I learned about asking, giving and generosity was as director of a non-profit service for disabled children and adults. When I took the job, I had little experience with asking and giving. The President of the Board was Rosemary Colston, a Saint Mark member, who taught me a lot about asking, giving and generosity. Her generosity with her time and her money were inspiring.

A prominent Jewish real estate developer who led our campaigns taught me what giving generously looks like. Carl Freeman believed giving was a mitzvah – a duty to one's community. He defined his community more broadly than just Jewish causes. He gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to our non-profit but didn't stop there. He asked others he knew to match his gifts, knowing they expected him to return the favor to their favorite charity. I learned courage often plays a part in generosity.

I also learned that humility is usually a character trait of generous people. The prominent TV spokesperson for Giant Food at that time was Odonna Mathews. Our non-profit service had little public visibility. Only the children and adults we served considered us a vital resource. However, when Odonna was asked to be our public spokesperson and appear in a TV spot, she was not too proud to lend her credibility to a small, little known service provider. Despite these positive role models, my reason for giving at the time was not to appear stingy to those around me. As I wasn't attending church, I wasn't hearing the Gospel that giving is a reflection of our spiritual state and our gratitude for all God has done for us. After I joined Saint Mark, I began to understand the whys of giving to the church and my non-profit – out of a sense of gratitude for what God was doing for me personally as well as in the world.

When our daughter was born prematurely, lapsed into a coma, then awakened despite a dire prognosis, I had plenty to thank God for. Today she is employed by Interfaith Works to find the homeless jobs and pays the mortgage on her condo in Bethesda. Talk about miracles – and gratitude! Now I give because I understand and recognize all God continues to do – not just for me, but for all of us. My giving is vital to my spiritual growth.

JERRY LOWRIE STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

When I chose Saint Mark as my church home, I accepted a commitment to provide support of its ministry in whatever way I can, including financial. I take this obligation seriously.

I, as I suspect do most of you, have fond memories of your first discovery of Saint Mark, a robust church that speaks to our individual needs in so many ways, many of them modest, some profound!

Over the course of my more than forty years of appreciating our church home, I have been forever touched by the communal feelings we share at normal times during sad times and on joyful occasions. In our Sanctuary, I have experienced the sadness of a memorial service for a dear wife and companion and then the joyful ceremony of marriage to a fellow Saint Mark member. To me it is a very special and sacred place.

We, as a caring congregation once more are needed to provide financial assistance beyond the annual stewardship campaign. I am confident we will meet this challenge.

The wonderful story about the small village in Italy where the War had destroyed both their church and the statue of Jesus just outside on the town square, comes to mind. Rebuilding the church was a difficult undertaking but they succeeded. Repairing the statue was the challenge. A few villages away dwelled a renowned sculptor. He was persuaded to take on the effort after they agreed to his demand that they assemble all the recoverable pieces of the statue and then build a temporary canopy in which he would work without prying eyes. On the day of unveiling the crowds gathered and were thrilled by what they saw until someone noticed that Jesus had no hands. They were despondent until someone pointed to the engraving on the base, which said:

“The only hands I have are yours”

For Saint Mark. That’s us!!!

JESSI AUSTIN STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

I give because Saint Mark is a wonderful place for the community and the congregation. It brings friends, family and the neighborhood together to grow their relationships and bond with each other. Saint Mark is more than just a building, it's a home and family.



Mission Funding - \$35,000 will be set aside for special mission projects recommended by Local and Global Mission Ministry and approved by Session."

J OHN HAGNER STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church is an extremely effective and efficient organization for trying to do “God’s will” in our community and in the world. The Church has taken on so many good and pioneering projects that no one can remember them all. The talent and capability within the membership of this Church are astounding. It has never been an issue of whether Saint Mark can do something; it has only been an issue of building the necessary consensus among leadership and the members that it should be done. Once that consensus is created and the members collectively decide to do something, it gets done. The history and track record are truly remarkable and exemplary.

Saint Mark needs to continue performing at this very high level. In order to do that, Saint Mark must have: (i) committed, generous and engaged members; (ii) dedicated and talented pastors and staff; (iii) programs to perform our purpose, *i.e.*, “God’s will” and Saint Mark’s missions, while attracting, retaining and educating members and their children; and (iv) physical facilities that are functional, comfortable and meaningful to support the purpose and programs. Each of these elements is necessary for success. Saint Mark has all of these elements now. However, it needs to finish paying for its physical facilities by replenishing the reserves that were used in the Sanctuary renovation.

“Debt” is a four-letter word. It takes resources from the Church and limits its programs. We don’t want to follow the “spend now” and “pay-back much later” model practiced by our Federal government. That model is burdening future generations with so much debt that it impairs the economic health of our country. We need to keep Saint Mark “debt-free” in the future so it can continue to flourish and focus on doing “God’s will” rather than repaying debt.

We need to make Saint Mark a financially stable, reasonably capitalized church so it can plan for the future and focus on its mission. Saint Mark has always “lived within its means” with responsible stewardship. The Legacy Continues Capital Campaign 3 will accomplish this goal. Therefore, Ellie and I will strongly support the Legacy Continues Capital Campaign 3 and request that you do the same.

M EISIE ROBERTS STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

Ever since I opened the door of my heart to Christ when I was 16, I have been overwhelmed by God's mercy and grace. Together with Guy, we have been blessed and guided in our journey as Christians. One tangible and practical way of saying thank you to our Father has been sharing our money with the Body of Christ. We contribute to Saint Mark to do our small part in facilitating the Church to fulfill the growth and vision of the body. The Legacy campaign will help to keep our building and environment in good shape and to free our leaders to focus on our core values and winning hearts for Christ.



Kitchen Renovation - \$85,000 - \$100,000 is estimated to renovate kitchen equipment and fixtures to meet new code requirements and improve how kitchen functions.

O DONNA MATHEWS SIMPSON STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

I give to Saint Mark because I receive so much in return. I have found a place to celebrate God's gifts to me and my family and to find shelter and support in times of need. I grow spiritually from church services and Bible studies and enjoy the friendship of others.

So many events in my life have occurred in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall over the thirty-seven years I have been a member. I was married here, celebrated my son Tom's Eagle Scout ceremony here, and had my Mom's funeral service here. It was at Saint Mark that I announced that our family was going to Russia to adopt our daughter, Yelena. It was here that my children attended Sunday school and participated in youth programs. There are so many things I am thankful for at Saint Mark. So, when Roy called and asked if I would Co-Chair the Legacy 3 campaign earlier this year, I didn't hesitate a moment!

I give to Saint Mark because we are a community that is growing together and changing together. We have a church and Fellowship Hall that are now in good shape physically but they need to be maintained for the future. We need to build reserve funds to pay for expenses for these sacred buildings so we don't have to borrow money when repairs are needed. I support the Legacy campaign because I know it is important to maintain these buildings, just as I do my own home. And I also want to support our mission.

Saint Mark is a very special place to me and I want to keep it that way through a financial commitment to Legacy 3.



Repair/Replace Roof & Skylights - \$60,000 is estimated for our 10,000-square foot roof and skylights now 17 years old.

RAY MOUNTAIN STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

It is one of several ways I respond to God's call to us to display to the world how we are to live together. And to attempt to have Saint Mark to be part of the response.

Maintain Parking Lot and Lighting - \$10,000 is estimated to maintain asphalt, painting and lighting to insure safety/security for nighttime building use.



Enhance Driveway - \$4,000 is estimated to add lighting to improve visibility at the entrance to driveway from Old Georgetown Road.

SHELBY ETHERIDGE HARASTY STATEMENT

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

One Sunday at youth group a few months ago, I sat down on one of the worn couches in the youth lounge and started to get out my materials for the evening. One of the high school youth came in and looked at me and said, "you're in my seat!" I said, "we don't have assigned seats in youth group!" But they answered, "this is where I sit every Sunday during Sunday school... you don't even know!" After much laughter and some seat switching, we continued our discussion for the evening.

Working with children, youth and families I get to see all the ways that our young people feel at home in the church. I see them sink into the old couches and laugh and study scripture with their friends. I hear them on the playground, shouts of joy and happiness spilling out from behind the fence. I see them move around the buildings like they know they belong. They dance on the stage, they wander the halls, they hang out in the kitchen. They are comfortable, they are safe, they are home.

One of our families passes the church every day on their way home from daycare. Every time they pass the church, the little boy says, "hi church, bye church," and waves out the window.

The church is more than just a building. It's the people and the community and the Holy Spirit who brings us together. But the truth is that the church is also a building. I see the people who feel at home in that building, and I know that feeling of being "at home" in the church is something that they'll remember long after they have gone to college, moved away and begun an adult life of their own.

This is why I plan to give to the Legacy Campaign. I want their church to be safe, secure, healthy and warm. That way they'll feel at home for many years to come.

S **TACIA FLEISHER STATEMENT**

WHY I GIVE TO SAINT MARK CHURCH

Invest in the Legacy Campaign and Protect our Future!

In 2010 the Saint Mark congregation made the decision to embark on an endeavor to renovate the sanctuary. The extensive renovations were necessary to improve the heating/cooling system, roof, insulation, and sound system, as well as ensure a larger capacity to benefit our growing membership. The renovations also included an investment in the world around by using environmentally friendly products and low-energy systems. The renovations are complete, and I think we can all agree that we enjoy the beautiful sanctuary.

We now need to protect our future by restoring our reserve funds. The reserve funds will cover HVAC and kitchen repairs in the fellowship hall as well as other repairs that will be required for the next 10 – 15 years. As anyone with a home knows, something is always in need of repair and our church home is no different. Our church home not only serves to ensure our spiritual connection with God, but it also is a safe haven for community organizations with desperate needs. Can you imagine showing up to Sunday School only to find there is no heat or working toilets? What would happen to some of our community groups if the building wasn't available in a critical time of need? This reserve fund serves as that critical safety net allowing us to continue to serve our members and community as needs arise.

Saint Mark has a long-standing history of financial stability. In a society that "borrows on a dime", I'm comforted by the fact that Saint Mark takes an active effort to plan for the future. As a parent of two young children, I'm eager for my children to learn and grow with our church through Sunday School, choir, community service, youth group activities, and mission trips. I know that these activities require resources and I would be devastated if these activities had to be reduced because of our failure to plan for the future. For these reasons, I support the Legacy Campaign efforts to maintain a reserve fund for our infrastructure needs. As a church and community neighbor we bear a responsibility to ensure we can maintain and grow our current efforts to build a stronger community through spirit and service.

TAKE AWAYS

GOAL

\$350,000
from members
over a 3-year pledge period
(2018-2021)

**Thank
You!!**