

St. Mark United Methodist Church
550 Hwy. 72 By-Pass NW
Greenwood, SC 29649
<http://www.stmarkgreenwood.com>
Church Phone: 864.229.5416
Kids' World Phone: 864.227.2776

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Witness



Bypass Campus (BPC)



Rivers Street Campus (RSC)



The Coronaca Campus (TCC)

St. Mark United Methodist Church

www.stmarkgreenwood.com

Volume 9 Issue 12

January 2018



We would like to thank you for your support with the monthly fellowship meals. Your very positive comments are appreciated. If you have suggestions for improvement please let us know. The January 17th them with be "Italian Delite." Please read you bulletin on Sundays during January for a more descriptive menu. Come earl, stay late, bring a friend, meet a friend, or make a friend.

The St. Mark
Cooking Crew



St. Mark UMC Fellowship Meal

Wednesday, January 17th - 5:30pm, Wayne Goff Hall/ RSC

Cost: Children age 3 and under - Free, Children age 4-12 - \$3
Age 13 and up - \$5. No family pays more than \$15

RSVP (864.229.5416 or office@stmarkgreenwood.com) if you are coming.

Reservations are required by NOON on Monday January 15th!!!

Menu: Italian Themed Menu, dessert, & drink.

Wise Men Follow The Star In The New Year





Greetings to the Saints of St. Mark,

12 So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90

Could you imagine walking into a dark room you've never been in before? Would you be afraid . . . or excited? How about anxious . . . or confident? Well, that's exactly what we are doing on January 1st of 2018. But you say that you're not in the dark but can see exactly where you are and where you are going. Are you sure? We are creatures of time and space, and though you may be starting at the same space and with a familiar landscape, you and I are about to enter the new time of a new year. Every day will be different than it was in 2017 — even if you keep living in the same house!

It was Bob Dylan who first said, or at least sang, "the times they are a-changin'." And he's right on a lot more levels than he probably realized. Time changes things even when the geography doesn't. Of course, a guy named Heraclitus would beg to differ about that. He's the Greek philosopher who first said, "No one steps into the same river twice." Even standing in one place in a river, the water is not really the same. It changes by just its movement. And so do we.

The dark room we walk into is not so much geography as it is the whole cosmos around us made up of people, places, events, activities, thoughts, feelings, things, travels, and so many other things that will be a part of each of our days in 2018. We don't know what will happen . . . or when . . . or where. But God does. We don't have to walk into a dark room or even this year as if we are totally in the dark. Moses, who lived and wrote and knew a thing or two about God and life, says to ask God to "teach us to number our days" so we can live wisely. This isn't so much about arranging them in order or even how many there will be, but instead, it's about putting the right things into each day — the things that can make them count.

So how do we make each day count? By numbering God first in our lives. He is the only one who knows what's up stream. Jesus is the One who can see in the dark and is the Light of the World. How do we make God number One? Simple, make time for God and give Him room in our days, in our lives. This year, one day at a time, determine to look for God each day, talk to God each day, listen for God each day, thank God each day, and trust God each day. Maybe, write these guides on a 3 x 5 card to help remember. It helps to start our days that way — and finish them that way, too — but it also helps to do it a couple of times a day. Eventually, it will become a habit, a way of life. It will be a change to help with all the other changes — even those of a new year.

Change is inevitable but the right changes take effort. For Christ-followers the best is always yet to come. God is with us, so . . . Welcome 2018!!

*With Joy,
Steve*



WELCOME LITTLE METHODIST

• Congratulations to John Edward and Kayla Beale at the birth of their son, John Edward

"Tripp" Beale, III, on Nov. 20th. Proud grandparents are JJ and Lara Hudson and John and Beth Beale. Proud uncles are Dawson and Thomas Hudson and Zach,

The Pastors and congregation extend Christian sympathy to the following members of our church family.

- Steve Owings and his family on the death of his mother, Jean Kwist, on Dec. 4th.

Committee Meeting Dates for 2018

Worship
March 11th
Sept 9th
Nov 11th

All meetings are at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Classroom of the BPC.

Instruct
February 19th
May 21st
August 20th
November 19th

All meetings are at 6:15 pm in the Library of the BPC.

Sending Forth
February 18th
May 20th
August 19th
November 18th

All meeting are at 3:00 pm in the Library of the BPC.

Kids' World
January 16th
March 20th
May 22nd
July 17th
September 18th
November 20th

All meeting are at 5:30 pm in the Director's office.

Record of Our Faithfulness

Year-to-Date

General Fund Balance	\$196,477.48
Contributions Year to Date	\$915,576.18
Expenses Year to Date	\$864,987.13
Net	\$50,589.05
Obligations Report	
Apportionments	
Budget	\$116,146.00
Paid to Date	\$116,146.00
Sending Forth	
Original Budget	\$98,294.00
Revised Budget	\$30,802.00
Paid to Date	\$33,365.49

Food Bank Sunday is January 7th

Shopping carts are placed in the education wing at the By-pass Campus. A collection bin is located in the welcome area at RSC. Items can be placed in the carts. Below is the current list of food items needed by the Greenwood Food Bank. Any and all items are appreciated. Popular items are: Canned Vegetables, Canned Meats, Pasta of any kind, Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Canned or Powered Milk, Canned Fruit, Juice, Instant potatoes, Pop-Tarts, Manwich, Crackers, Soup of any kind, Dried Beans, Grits, Cornmeal, Cooking Oil, Applesauce, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Salt and Pepper, Relish, Salad Dressing, Flour (2 lbs.), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Sugar (2 lbs.) Vinegar, Water, Rice, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Oatmeal. No Egg cartons are needed.

The next copy of *The Witness* will be mailed on Thursday, Jan. 25th. Deadline to submit information for the monthly newsletter is Tuesday, Jan. 16th at 12:00 pm.

Prayers of the Church

RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Brookedale Retirement Center

(1408 Parkway Drive,
Greenwood, SC
Charlotte Koone

Emerald Gardens

(201 Overland Drive,
Greenwood, SC)
Mel Riley
Mary Ann Riley

Martha Franks

(1 Martha Franks Dr, Laurens,
SC)
Doris Fitzgerald

Morningside of Greenwood

(116 Enterprise Ct, Greenwood,
SC)
Betty Pierce

National Healthcare

(437 E Cambridge Ave,
Greenwood, SC)
Verna Kennedy
Betsy Powell

Wesley Commons

(1110 Marshall Road,
Greenwood, SC)
Dick Eyman
Doris Eyman
Louise Mannion

Shut-In/Homebound

Charlie Helms (864-227-6017)
109 Brookhaven Drive
Greenwood, SC 29646

Annell McManus (864.229.1596)
110 Northgate
Greenwood, SC 29649

Anne Snoddy
102 York Dr
Greenwood, SC 29649

Sara Sutton (864-223-7444)
450 Dogwood Drive
Greenwood, SC 29646

Jenny Valkenburg
(864-223-0987)
119 Creek Road East
Greenwood, SC 29646

Jenny Valkenburg
(864-223-0987)
119 Creek Road East
Greenwood, SC 29646

Jenny Valkenburg
(864-223-0987)
119 Creek Road East
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Greenwood, SC 29646

MEMBERS CONT'D

Traci Pruitt

MEMBERS' FAMILY

Nancy Crocker (Cyndi Bruce's
mother)
Jimmy Cobb (Ken Cobb's brother)
Howie Crocker (Cyndi Bruce's
brother)
Kenny Andrews (Stephanie Frick's
father)

MEMBERS' FRIENDS

Teri Savitz (Tracy Burke's friend)

MILITARY

(Please notify the church office
of any military personnel that
need our
prayers.)

J.C. Elmore - Army
Kolby Gantt - Marines
Quae Howard - Marines
Trey Kennedy - Marines
Caity White - Army
Parker White - Army

COLLEGE STUDENTS

(Please contact Paige in the
church office with the mailing
address of your college student,
the college name and their birth
date or if your college student is
not listed.)

Anderson University:
Aylah Burton

Appalachian State:
Abby Buckshorn

Aurora:
Hayden Harwood and Jacob
Stockman.

Clemson:
Alex Guareschi, Andrew
Patterson, Blake Lindler, Brig
Sparks, Chris Huss, Grant
Alexander, Grayson Glanton, Ja-
cob McLaughlin, Jessica Steepy,
Maddie Coyle, Mae Furman,
Mathis Brewington, Patrick
McGovern, Rachel Crawford,
Ryan Templeton, Steven
Crowder, Sydney Case, and Will
Bettis.

College of Charleston:
Brock Wilson, Harriet Ward,
Jacob Schultz, and Jessica Clark.

COLLEGE STUDENTS CONT'D

Columbia College:
Meredith Bledsoe

Creighton University:
Ele Geoly

Davis and Elkins:
Asa Stallworth

Embry-Riddle:
Harrison Marcengill

Furman:
Lizzy Coyle

Iowa State University:
Brett Kelly

Lander:
Caroline Carver, Hannah
Elmore, Jordan Lovett, Kendall
O'Quinn, Kya Brownlee, Madison
Tripp, Peyton Leopard, Taylor
Johnson, Trey Clamp, and
Thomas Dalton.

LSU:
Rylan Pitts

Mercer University:
Abbie Robinson

MUSC
J. C. Elmore

North Greenville:
Ryan Ebert

PTC:
Izaiah Holmes and Reed
Templeton.

Southern Wesleyan:
Brandon Pruitt, Emily Corriher,
and Haley McLaughlin.

The Citadel:
Blayne Garren, Jake Campbell,
Nick Long, and Sam Rice.

University of Georgia:
Drayson Youngblood

University of South Carolina:
Carson Strom, Carter Rhodes,
Gavin Henderson, Hunter
DeLoach, Jordan Bradley,
Robert Addy, Will Buckshorn,
Wesley Fender, and Zach Beale.

Winthrop:
Anna Grace McLaughlin and Sara
Grace Eaddy.

Wofford:
Leeann Pundt



Just Do or Just Be



This time of year many people start thinking or talking about some type of New Year's resolution. They are becoming resolved to have some behavioral modification in their lives. I too have made a New Year's resolution or two throughout the years of my life. The reality is as Christians we understand that we need and should see change in our lives as part of our faith and daily walk with Christ.

This need for change and growth sometimes is in extreme contrast with how we live our lives. The Nike slogan says, "Just Do it!" Which matches many of our actions and reactions to the busyness of our daily lives. Often times in my own life and many of the people around me, we tend to put forth the mantra, "get it done." We tend to put our head down and lean in with our shoulders and push or pull with great determination to "get it done" when life gets busy. We are a doing people. I understand that well, it is how I am personally wired this way, I like to see task completed, to have a finish line so I can say, "I achieved something." Anyone else feel that way? We are a doing society.

Recently, I have found myself pondering and wrestling with the spiritual ideas of doing verses the being. Even as I type that I feel an uneasiness roll through my emotions. Being, or abiding in Christ, that seems hard for many people, myself included. The reality is that if a person does not abide or stay connected to Christ there is no doing or no doing that will matter in the long run or eternally. A Christian that does not take time to abide or "be" there is no way for that Christian to change, grow or do what Christ desires. I am afraid that we are like a person just spinning their tires on their car. A lot of smoke, using up the car, tires without going anywhere.

I think we all need to grow in Christ, see changes in our lives, but it must start with our being. When is the last time you thought about being righteous, because God has made you righteous? How about forgiveness, grace, peace, hope or loving? Yes, I want to see people and a church that is doing things for the Kingdom of God. We must first allow our hearts; minds and souls to abide and be in Him. I am resolved to grow in my faith this coming year and it must start with my being in Christ. How are you doing? Is it from your own means and energy or is it because you attached yourself to Christ, abiding in Him that you are doing? Be then do.

Peace and Happy New Year
Pastor John



What is your dream for your church? To grow to by 10%? By 10 people? By 100 people? Simply to fill the worship space every now and then? Or perhaps it is to grow closer to God? To accomplish whatever it is that the Father wills for St. Mark? To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? How would you know when the world has become transformed? It's hard to really nail that down, but it is vitally important that we strive for it!

I'd like to do a thought exercise with you. I don't like to simply talk numbers for numbers sake, because "dollars and derrièrès" or "butts and bucks" or whatever euphemism you want to use – giving and attendance are not the end game. Changed lives are what we're after. However the numbers do tell a story. And because we're interested in the story, we are also interested in the numbers.

St. Mark averaged 465 in Sunday morning worship in 2017 across our 4 services. I know because I meticulously entered attendance counts every week in my own personal spreadsheet. If you're curious how that breaks down across the 4 services, that is 150 at the 8:45 service, 61 at the 10:00 service, 120 at the 11:00 service, and 147 at the 11:15 service. Now I realize that adds up to 478, which is obviously higher than 465. That difference is due to the fact that many of our regulars attend different services from week to week. That drives the average for any individual service up while keeping our overall attendance the same. I hope you haven't fallen asleep yet! I laid all that out for you, not to judge or compare or "grade" our different services, but simply so that you have that information (the actual data and not anecdotal observations).

For the purposes of this thought exercise, let's focus on that number: 465. If we're interested in more changed lives, by the law of averages that number will have to be higher. So I ask the question again: What is your dream for your church? 500? 600? 1000? Let's just say 500. That would require St. Mark to average an additional 35 persons across the 4 services next year. That seems doable. That seems attainable. Now take that dream and multiply it by a million. We need to grow by 35 million people. How are you going to accomplish that? There aren't 35 million people in our state! In fact, it would take the entire population of South Carolina, North Carolina, AND Georgia to hit 35 million (35.421 million to be exact)!

We can't do that as "St. Mark." We can't even do that as the United Methodist Church! There are only about 7 million of us in the US, and only about 12 million worldwide! We cannot do that alone! And God did not create us to do it alone! "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us . . ." (Romans 12:4-6 NRSV) We need to be connected to other people. We need to be connected to other groups. We need to be connected to other churches, other denominations, other states, and other countries! ". . . you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." We cannot build God's Kingdom alone. We can only build it with God and with others. A Kingdom mindset starts at home, but extends "to the ends of the earth."

Peace,
Andrew



Staff Parish Relations Committee 2018:

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Wilson Bruce	Linda Hagen	Harley Moore
Andy Frick (YA)	Jay Adam Pearson	Gene Ouzts
Kristi Boggs	Fred Teeter	Denise Lollis
Ex officio:		
Lay Leader Brian Waldrep		
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Fred Latham		

Board of Trustees for 2018:

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Ken Campbell	Tommy Miller	Maree Anderson (F)
Derrell Gregory	Billy Lybrand	Keith Ashley
Jimmy Marcengill	Kim Sparks (F)	Angela Ebert (F)

Finance Team for 2018:

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Coleman Robinson	April Prince	Erin Layland
Brad Knott	Miriam Bickerton	Wes Rochester
	John Redfern (Chair)	
	Amy Ashley	
	Todd Dalton	

Lay Leader: Brian Waldrep
Lay Member to AC: Bill Lybrand
Chairperson Church Council: Chuck Strawn
Financial Secretary: Sandy Smith (without vote)
Church Treasurer: Frank Hill
Assistant Church Treasurer: Jim Brown
Chairperson Church Council: Chuck Strawn
SPRC Representative: Chosen by SPRC
Trustee Representative: Chosen by Trustee
Pastors

Nominations and Lay Leadership for 2018:

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Dena Campbell	Bob Roy	Fran Brown
Ann Staley	Mabel Templeton	Windy Chappell
Robby Lybrand	Stacie Westmoreland	Annette Peksa
Lay Leader: Brian Waldrep		
Pastor: Steve Brown		

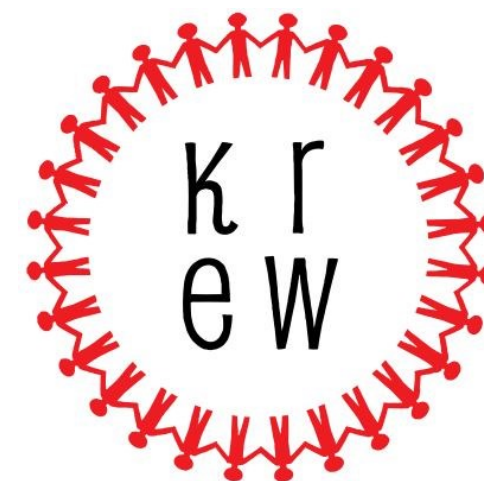
Copies of the January Birthdays and Anniversaries are located on the table outside of the church office.

Church Council Members for 2018

Chairperson: Chuck Strawn
 Vice Chairperson: TBD
 Recording Secretary: T. J. Strawn
 Lay Leader: Brian Waldrep
 Finance Chairperson: John Redfern
 Trustee Chairpersons: Ken Campbell and Tommy Miller
 Staff Parish Chairperson: Jay Adam Pearson
 Church Treasurer: Frank Hill
 Assistant Church Treasurer: Jim Brown
 Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee Representative: Robby Lybrand
 Lay Members to Annual Conference: Jim Conley, Fred Latham, Fran Brown, Bill Lybrand, and Brian Waldrep
 Alternate Lay Members to AC: Dodie Conley, Dubie Brown, Bud Search, Paula Prince-Burton, and Kay Elmore
 Worship Chairperson: Tracey Burke
 Instruct Chairperson: Dena Campbell
 Nurture Chairperson: Margaret Martin
 Growth Chairperson: TBD
 Sending Forth Chairperson: Cathy Trevino and Christy Stevens
 Native American Coordinator: Jim Conley
 UMW President: Cathy Trevino
 UMM President: Wilson Bruce
 UMYF President: Brenden Sparks
 Historian: Ann Staley
 Young at Heart Co-chairs: TBD
 Servants of St. Mark Chair: Toni Ross
 Pastor: Steve Brown
 Parish Pastor: John Elmore
 Associate Pastor: Andrew Vickery
 Church Staff: Ex Officio:
 Julie McLaughlin—Minister of Children and Youth
 Paige Holley – Administrative Assistant and Membership Secretary
 Carol Jones—Music Director (without vote)
 Sandy Smith—Financial Secretary (without vote)
 Matthew Miller – Pianist/Organist (without vote)
 Jennifer Lybrand – Assistant to the Minister of Children and Youth
 Debra Robinson—Assistant to Pastors and Staff
 Susan Fennell—Director of Kids’ World (without vote)
 Kenny Price— Director of Contemporary Worship (without a vote)

Church Council Members at Large:

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Jimmy McGovern	Miriam Bickerton	Hugh Camp
Ray Price	Tommy Miller	Dayne Pruitt
Sue McFarland	Bob Templeton	Carolyn Travis
Billy Lybrand	Grover Christian	Fred Latham
John Sparks	Teresa Christian	
Gray Stallworth	Jonathan Creswell	
Taina Redfern	Jonsie Alexander	
John Boerger	Tim Keppler	



KREW !!! Join us Sundays from 5:00-6:30!
JANUARY at KREW!

Join us Sunday, January 8, from 5:00-6:00 for the **KREW KICKOFF Soup Supper and Registration party!** Parents, drop in any time between 5:00 and 6:30 to register your kids for the new KREW session, and enjoy a hot homemade bowl of soup with your family on a cold winter day. While you register them, the kids can play on the indoor inflatables. KREW will not meet January 14, but will resume a regular schedule January 21st!

1/7/18	FAMILY FELLOWSHIP AND REGISTRATION KICKOFF - inflatables - soup supper	
1/14/18	NO KREW - SCHOOL HOLIDAY	
1/21/18	Pizza	
1/28/18	Breakfast for Supper	Wear a shirt or costume of your favorite super hero!

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!!! January is a great time to start Sunday school, and we have the perfect class for your child! We use the Deep Blue Kids curriculum, and the children LOVE it! Join the DEEP BLUE kids in their treehouse, and see what they have to teach and share!

Contact Julie for more information, or just stop by any Sunday morning at 10:00!
K2-K4—The Wee Gathering Hall
K5-3rd Grade—The Gathering Place
APEX 4th-5th Grades Room 107



EPIC RESUMES JANUARY 7! WE WILL HAVE a HOMEMADE SOUP SUPPER and INDOOR INFLATABLES!! WE HOPE to SEE YOU THERE! BRING a FRIEND!



EPIC JANUARY!

EPIC meets Sunday nights from 6:30-8:00! All 6th-12th graders are invited! Bring a friend!

7-Jan-18	EPIC/HSX	Kickoff - Soup - Chili, Potato, Chicken Noodle
14-Jan-18	NO EPIC/HSX	MLK weekend and Senior trip
21-Jan-18	EPIC/HSX	Soup Kitchen service night
28-Jan-18	EPIC/HSX	Prayer Stations

The HIGH SCHOOL EXTRA BIBLE STUDY for high school students meets 8:00-8:45 immediately following epic. All high school students are encouraged to become a part of this small group environment. 9th/10th graders meet with Todd Philcox in The Attic. 11th/12th graders meet with Julie in the High School room. HSX resumes for 2018 on January 7!



SAVE THE DATE! The 7th—12th grade LOCK IN is Friday, February 2, from 7:00 pm—7:00 am!



St. Mark gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:



- To *The Good Samaritan Fund* in loving honor of **Tim Keppler** by Mr. and Mrs. Bud Search.
- To *The Organ Fund* in loving honor of **Wanda Hill** by The Charles Poore Sunday School Class.
- To *The Organ Fund* in loving memory of **my mother, my father, my brother, and my nephew** by Margaret Kennerly.
- To *The Organ Fund* in loving honor of **Carol Jones, Matthew Miller, and The Chancel Choir** by Mr. and Mrs. Homer Sears.
- To *The Organ Fund* in loving honor of **Carol Jones and Matthew Miller** for their tireless efforts with the music ministry of St. Mark by Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Arnett.
- To *The Organ Fund* in loving honor of **Jim Wheeler** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The Organ Fund* in loving honor of **Janice McMahan** by Charlotte Koone.



Young at Heart News

CALLING ALL THOSE YOUNG IN HEART (50+)

Start the year off right on Wednesday, January 10th, by coming to the Young at Heart luncheon meeting at 12:00 PM in Founders Hall at the BPC. This will be a covered lunch, but if you are a first timer you do not have to bring anything but yourself or a friend if you don't want to come alone! If we don't know you, we'd love to meet you and get to know you. AND that is what our program will be all about – we'll play a game – it may end up funny or informative or who knows what. **COME OUT AND DON'T MISS OUT!**

WE'RE DOING A **BETH MOORE** BIBLE STUDY!

DO YOU KNOW YOUR DESTINY?

Starting January 16, 2018
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
The Connection Fellowship Hall
Work costs \$17.00

Contact Kay Elmore at kayjelmor@gmail.com if interested



The Coronaca Campus is offering a preview of the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class on January 9 at 6:30 PM. The class is loaded with Biblical principles, ideas and techniques to help you gain control of your money.

Do you feel like you just aren't making progress in paying off debt? Are you afraid you won't have enough money to get you to the end of the month? Or maybe you fight with your spouse when the credit card bill arrives.

All your struggles with money will change when you apply the principles taught in the class. You CAN win with money! You will walk step by step through a proven plan that gives you confidence in your money decisions and freedom for your future.

It's time for you to feel confident in your money decisions. It all starts with enrollment in the Financial Peace University class. Please contact Paige (864.229.5416 or office@stmarkgreenwood.com) in the church office to register. The classes will meet at The Coronaca Campus.

The first session on Jan. 9 will give a Preview of the class and provide a sign-up opportunity. Nine sessions will follow. The classes will be an hour and a half in length. The class will start at 6:30 PM. and end at 8:00 PM. Bud Search, member of St. Mark, will coordinate the class.

January Worship

Sermon Series – “Best Steps to Take for a Great Year”

Where we step determines our direction and as we step into a new year, what are the best steps we could take to make it the best. During the four Sundays of January, we will be looking at what these steps might be. We hope this series will be encouraging and helpful as we seek to make 2018 the best year of our lives.

January 7 – “Best Steps to Take for a Great Year: Step toward God”

Communion at all campuses
Pastor Steve at Bypass 8:45 AM and at Rivers Street 11:15 AM
Pastor John at Coronaca 10:00 AM
Pastor Andrew at Bypass 11:00 AM

January 14 – “Best Steps to Take for a Great Year: Step Away from the Past and toward God”

Pastor Steve at Bypass 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM
Pastor John at Coronaca 10:00 AM and at Rivers Street 11:15 AM

January 21 – “Best Steps to Take for a Great Year: Step with God”

Pastor Steve at Bypass 8:45 AM and at Rivers Street 11:15 AM
Pastor Andrew at Coronaca 10:00 AM
Pastor John at Bypass 11:00 AM

January 28 – “Best Steps to Take for a Great Year: Step for God”

Pastor Steve at Bypass 11:00 AM
Pastor John at Coronaca 10:00 AM
Pastor Andrew at Bypass 8:45 AM and at Rivers Street 11:15 AM



St. Mark UMC FOCUS Team

Most of us realize that a church is really people – and St. Mark UMC is no different. Though we gather together as a church at four different times each Sunday as well as worshipping and serving across three different campuses, we are still the people known as St. Mark. The struggle we are currently wrestling with is the uncertainty of a common vision or understanding of “who we are” as a church that could unify and shape the life and ministries of our church together. We need to discover how St. Mark can express our life together as a church through common values, strategies, measurements and mission in such a way that unites us together and moves us effectively and purposefully in our life together and ministries to our community.

The framework for our focus comes from a book called *Church Unique* that offers us a process to rethink our thinking about our church and uncover the commonalities. In turn, this will help us discover the “heart of St. Mark” that can draw us closer together, unite us in our vision and ministries, and enable us to better follow God’s leading for our church. The premises of the book is each church is unique because it is made up of this people (as opposed to other people who are part of other churches) that are living during this time period (right now, not forty years ago) that are located in our particular location (as in Greenwood, not elsewhere) and within our particular context (our community in the 21st Century). To be unique also means we are to hear Christ’s call and follow His ways, not by trying to copy everything other churches are doing but living and serving God out of who our church is. This awareness and understanding of our church means that God has gifted this people – St. Mark – with the talents and resources in our people while calling us and moving through us in particular ways and passions so we might serve and meet the needs of Greenwood in the best ways our church can.

This process is being undertaken under the leadership of our FOCUS Team. They began meeting in November and hope to finish their work in May of 2018. But as we are all part of this church, we will all have opportunities to be involved. There will be a survey sent out by the FOCUS team to the whole church in January. Along with individual responses, the FOCUS team will be conducting interviews with this survey to the various groups of the church. This information will be used by the FOCUS Team to help them discern the particulars that will guide their thinking and discernment. There will be other opportunities for each of us to be engaged in this process during the coming year.

The FOCUS Team is made up of the fifteen persons listed below:
Amy Ashley, Richard Ball, Wilson Bruce, Tracey Burke, Mary Durden, Angela Ebert, Pastor John, Robby Lybrand, Peter Manning, Faye Reighley, Teresa Roy, Chuck Strawn, Bob Templeton, and Brian Waldrep along with Pastor Steve who serves as the facilitator

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to talk to a FOCUS Team member or Pastor Steve.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office is closed 5:30 Westside AA	2 6:00 Women's AA	3 6:30 Men's Discipleship Study 9:30 Proctor Circle 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 4:00 Pastors Meeting 6:30 Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 MOPS Set-up	4 9:00 MOPS 5:30 Westside AA 6:00 Hispanic Bible Study 6:00 MOPS	5 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:15 Wayne Goff Hall (WGH) in use	6 8:00 WGH in use all day
7 3:00 Hispanic Worship Service 5:00 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	8 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 Westside AA 6:00 Davis Circle 6:30 Cub Scouts	9 2:00 Good News Club 6:00 Women's AA 6:00 Parkinson's Support Group	10 6:30 Men's Discipleship Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 12:00 Young at Heart 4:00 Pastors Meeting 6:30 Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	11 5:30 Westside AA 6:00 Hispanic Bible Study	12 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	14
14 3:00 Hispanic Worship Service 3:30 Church Council	15 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 Westside AA	16 Information for the newsletter is due to the church office 2:00 Good News Club 6:00 Women's AA 6:30 Women's Bible Study	17 6:30 Men's Discipleship Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 4:00 Pastors Meeting 6:30 Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 MOPS Set-up	18 9:00 MOPS 5:30 Westside AA 6:00 Hispanic Bible Study 6:00 MOPS	19 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	20
21 3:00 Hispanic Worship Service 5:00 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	22 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 Westside AA 6:30 Cub Scouts	23 2:00 Good News Club 6:00 Women's AA 6:30 Women's Bible Study	24 6:30 Men's Discipleship Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 4:00 Pastors Meeting 6:30 Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	25 9:00 Newsletter Labeling 5:30 Westside AA 6:00 Hispanic Bible Study	26 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	27
28 3:00 Hispanic Worship Service 5:00 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	29 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 Westside AA 6:30 Cub Scouts	30 2:00 Good News Club 6:00 Women's AA 6:30 Women's Bible Study	31 6:30 Men's Discipleship Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 4:00 Pastors Meeting 6:30 Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study		Worship Services are: Traditional: 8:45 am & 11:00 am Blended: 10:00 am Contemporary: 11:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am	Church office hours are: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm