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 Rev. Herbert W. Watson, Jr., Pastor

The St Marker

Happy New Year!

Special Edition

Dec 2020 - Jan 01, 2021

Vision
 Transform Our Lives
 Revitalize Our Faith
 Influence Our Community

Lights On The Lawn December 19, 2020

'Twas six nights before Christmas and there were "Lights On The Lawn," not a mouse was in sight so folk remained calm. Joy was in the air that night and all the little children kept Santa in their sight. There was candy canes and homemade cookies being passed around and steaming hot chocolate to wash it all down. There was no Angel Tree but St. Mark Angels brought gifts anyway. Gifts of all sizes neatly wrapped and stacked in the church hallway. The sounds of Christmas music floated through the air along with the smells of fish and chicken... ahh yes, the PKG truck was there. Christmas cards were neatly bagged and available for pick up, as were the collection envelopes cause..... the church runs on more than good luck. Santa was a big hit I really must say, even the old folk were seen running his way. Our beloved Willie Epps must've done something wrong cause Santa gave him a lump of coal then told him to go home.

Otherwise, it was a festive and fun filled night at "Lights On The Lawn." Thanks to all who organized and volunteered their time.

by H. E. Brown

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**Today will never
 come again.
 Be a blessing be a
 friend.**



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Drive -Thru Pantry



December 22, Pantry #16. It was a no rain no snow day. Cool but sunny. Perfect for the volunteers who diligently worked mostly outside providing a most needed service to the community. As usual there was a mixed box of fresh produce, a variety of canned goods, meats and poultry to include whole chickens. To the delight of recipients there was also over 400 family style prepared meals donated by Prino's Mediterranean Grill, Hanover, MD., and Tasty Creations, Pasadena, MD. Long lines prevailed from as early as 8:30am to 11:15am at which time folk trickled in until 12:00pm. In excess of 20,000 pounds of food was handed out to 203 families and 649 individuals. This was the last Pantry Day for 2020. Thanks to the AACOPD who were on hand throughout 2020 to control the traffic, the many volunteers who remained faithful in spite of the hard work and bad weather days. Thanks to coordinators Ramona Burnett and Diana Taylor and the AACO Food Bank, Maryland Food Bank and AACO Partnership for Children, Youth and Families for their sponsorship.

by H. E. Brown

Stewardship in The Life of St. Mark

The need for a Stewardship Committee has always been evident but the Corona Virus pandemic has amplified this need. As Disciples of Christ, we are called to serve and to give generously of our praise, our talents, our time, and our treasures. Many in our faith community as well as our physical community are suffering and need help. As a church, we have a lot to give. God has blessed the church and its members with various gifts and treasures, and we have a mandate from above, to be a blessing to others. The suffering from loss of loved ones, loss of job and financial instability, loneliness, illness is not unique to our community. What is unique is that we have never seen this much pain and suffering around us before and the church must take the leadership in healing, helping, and inspiring our community.

Five principles set the tone for the plan of action: (1) Pay attention to our mindset - Instead of living in survival mode with stress, anxiety, and depression we should be cultivating a culture of generosity and gratitude (2) Educate and prepare - We will focus on teaching stewardship principles and planning for ministry needs throughout the year (3) Strengthen our community - We are to be a congregation in which people feel welcomed, cared for, and connected (4) Focus on our vision and mission - If we show people what a great ministry the church is doing, they will be enthusiastic about providing resources that make a difference in people's lives (5) Be grateful and celebrate - Celebrate God who gives us comfort and strength to move forward. Express gratitude for those who are running the ministries and committees.

We invite each individual and every ministry within St. Mark to join in this exciting journey of Stewardship for 2021 and beyond. Together we can make a difference. Please don't wait to be asked to help but joyfully volunteer your praise, your talents, your time and your treasures. "For God loves a cheerful giver".

Please contact the Stewardship Committee at stmarksteward@gmail.com or call the church office at 410-859-5352 for further information.

Watch Night Dec 31, 2020 – Jan 01, 2021



St Mark Watch Night service was a little different this year. Due to COVID-19 there was no in house service. Instead it was listening via telephone from the comforts of your home (perhaps in your PJ's) while watching the hands on your clock heading toward "The Midnight Hour," (title of Min. Michael R. Simms, Sr., sermon). We were led in song by Gloria "Mumzee" Milligan, prayer by Florence Freeman, scripture by Rycourt Freeman, and testimony shared by several congregants. Min. Simms reflected on the traumas of 2020 and emphasized that "soon and very soon, we are going to see a change." We pray for this in 2021.

Rev. Herbert W. Watson, Jr., prayed us into the new year, followed by shouts of three little words we were waiting to hear*"Happy! New Year!"*