

150
Saint
Mark's
Lutheran Church



St. Mark's Remarks

150 Years of "Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor"
1869 - 2019

1008 Franklin Rd. SW • Roanoke, VA 24018 • (540) 344-9051

February 2019

St. Mark's Anniversary Committee News

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150TH CELEBRATION IS COMING!!!!

The Anniversary Committee is planning a major celebration of St. Mark's 150th Anniversary Year for Sunday, Sept. 22, when Virginia Synod Bishop Bob Humphrey will preach. Other events are in the planning stage, starting with a visit by retired Pastor Fred Guy, who will preach on Sunday, March 31. New Jersey Synod Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, who served at St. Mark's from 2000 to 2003, has been invited to participate in the anniversary and other sons of the congregation are expected to join in the celebration. This is a year to reflect and celebrate a century and half of history and service of "Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor."

Records of St. Mark's history and ministries are being organized in the congregation archives on the 3rd floor. Many old pictures of St. Mark's members and activities are being sorted and will be on display during this anniversary year. We appreciate all the help provided by members of the congregation in organizing 150 years of blueprints, bulletins, directories, minutes, records, reports, history, and pictures. If you are interested in helping to complete organization of this history, or in identifying or adding pictures, please see Sandy Anders.

St. Mark's began 150 years ago this month

On a cold February day in 1869—exactly 150 years ago—Pastor Stephen A. Repass rode over from College Lutheran Church in Salem to meet with a small band of German settlers who wanted to start a Lutheran congregation in Big Lick—a village that became Roanoke 13 years later. They worshiped in a log schoolhouse in Rorer's Grover, site of the present Commonwealth Building, former main post office, on Commerce (now Second) Street.

No record of that meeting exists but history tells us that the Trouts, Terrys and Wertzes were among the families in the congregation, organized the next year. Some of them came from Zion, an older church located at the Brandon Oaks site, and Pine Grove, a union church once across from Tanglewood Mall. Five years later, the fledgling congregation finally dedicated its first building, one of the first churches erected in the village.

Pastor Stephen Repass, serving St. Mark's and College for the next three years, had an interesting career. One of nine children of Rufus and Sarah Repass, he was born in Wythe County in 1838. He entered Roanoke College but left to enlist in the Confederate Army. As a second lieutenant in Company I, 28th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Army of Northern Virginia, he was wounded at the 2nd Manassas battle in 1862. During Pickett's Charge in the Battle of Gettysburg the next year, Repass crossed the wall at the "Bloody Angle" and was captured by the Minnesota infantry. He was a prisoner of war for almost two years.

When the war ended, he returned to graduate from Roanoke College and then Philadelphia Seminary, finishing in 1869. After service at St. Mark's and College, he taught and served as president of Southern Theological Seminary on the Roanoke campus for 11 years and was president of the General Synod of the South. While also teaching moral and intellectual philosophy at Roanoke College, he was elected to succeed Dr. David Bittle Roanoke founder and president, when he died in 1876, but he declined.

After serving at Christ, Staunton, for two years, Repass was called to St. John Lutheran Church, Allentown, Pa., where he worked for 21 years. His ministry there was hailed by many as an unusual move for a former Confederate soldier to serve a northern church. He was board chairman and professor of Christian evidences at Muhlenberg College in Allentown.

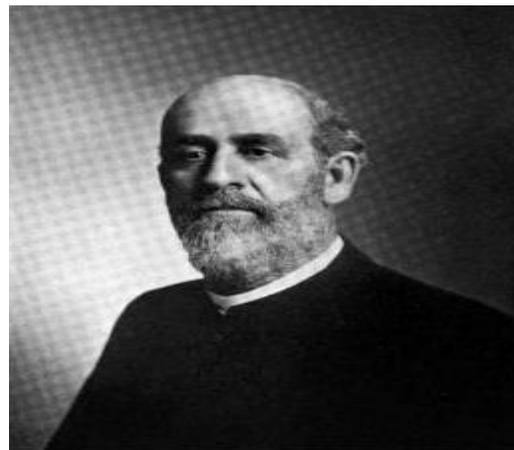
Some 34 years after the Civil War, Repass helped dedicate an Allentown monument showing a Confederate and a Union soldier side by side, holding an American flag. Historians said that, except for Gettysburg, the Allentown statue is believed to be the only memorial to Confederate soldiers north of the Mason-Dixon line.

When Repass died in 1906, an Allentown newspaper remembered the "Distinguished career of one of the foremost Lutheran clergymen and one of the most loveable Christian gentlemen of his time.. No man after the war did more to restore good feeling between the North and the South."

(Disclosure: Rev. Stephen Repass was a first cousin of my mother. George Kegley)

Captions: Commonwealth Building, site of St. Mark's first service in 1869.

Rev. Stephen A. Repass



Stephen A. Repass.

OUTREACH OUTLOOK

THE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of January, the Food Pantry distributed food to feed 94 individuals. Thank you to the January volunteers: **George Kegley, Sandy & Ralph Anders, Connie Watkins, Laura Bolton, Clara Chitty, Shon & Jessica Thompson, Caleb, Luke and McKinley Anders.**



Special Thanks to: George Kegley and Connie Watkins, & Jim & Wanda Rettinger for picking up 1075lbs of food from the food bank and delivering it to St. Mark's Food Pantry in January.



During the month of January the Clothes Closet provided clothing to a total of 11(2new) individuals. Thank you to the January Clothes Closet volunteers:

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Strong Start Envelopes:

Everyone is encouraged to use the Strong Start for Mission envelope to help our ministries have a great start at the beginning of the year. Our goal is to have 100, generous \$52 gifts.

We are reminded that regular use of offering envelopes assists the financial secretaries with their record keeping. Those who give electronically are reminded of the special offering envelopes throughout the year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE & CHURCH COUNCIL

The Finance Committee and Church Council will meet on February 12th. Finance at 5:45; Council at 6:45.

GENERAL INFORMATION & THANK YOU NOTES

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for March are due in the church office by February 20th. Please submit articles by email or in written form!



2019 Mission & Ministry Surveys

The Mission and Ministry Surveys are available for you to fill out and return. Paper copies are available at the church. They can also be completed online by going to the church website or scanning the QR code to the left with your smartphone or by following the link below.

link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeG4NT2VtVEqpyCAFaZZrjhiQhiRLsRGZFvQcKqewhCDYjNpg/viewform>

—Thank you to my St Marks family for your prayers and cards. ; to Pastor A. For his ongoing concern and support; to Kathy who keeps me connected with the Newsletter and Christ in Our Home devotions. To Cheryl Gordon my Home Mission Partner my profound gratitude for your support in my life ups and downs. Bless you all. Maggie Nelson

— Thank you to all the Newsletter Volunteers who help to prepare the Newsletter for mailing each month. Your help is greatly appreciated.

IN THE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

February Baptismal Anniversaries

We give thanks to God for the gift of new life through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. In February we give thanks and celebrate with:



2/2 Briana Merritt
 2/2 Haley Merritt
 2/6 Mark Heinlein
 2/7 David Burrows
 2/7 Jasper House
 2/13 Jonah Trout

February Birthdays

Members of St. Mark's family celebrating birthdays in February are:

2/8 Mary Sloan
 2/8 Margaret Stowasser
 2/8 Noah Trout
 2/14 Carly Altizer
 2/18 Andy Jones
 2/18 Matt Jones
 2/25 David Elliott
 2/27 Connie Parsell
 2/27 Nick Rodgers



PRAYER MATTERS

The following individuals and families were named in prayer in worship during January. Let us continue to keep them in prayer. We pray: O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants the help of your power that they may experience the healing power of your Holy Spirit. We pray for:

Mike and Brittani Pittman, Angela and Allison Dudley, Alma, David, Kenneth and Shawn Wertz, Ron and Judy Adkins, Sue Hayes, Nancy and Russell Dyer, Norman, Fran, Jonathan Ugochukwu, Sidney & Wanda Miller, Butch, Mo Nelson, Clark Swiers, Family of Cordie Nutter, LeighAnn Duncan, Joe Keaton, Steve Gordon, Dennis Childress, Jennifer & Scott Sutton, Teagan and Sutton, John Walker, Grant Ferguson, Mark, Glenn Shriver, Dan & Sheri, Carolyn Rettinger, Stephanie, Catherine, Betty Mae, David Lingerfelt, and Carolyn Anders through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship & Music Notes

Worship Leaders for February

Date	Acolyte	Crucifer	Communion Assistant	Lector	Greeters	Coffee Hour
Feb. 3	Ben Armentrout	Abby Trout		Nan Keenan	Don & Gwynn Derrick	Clara Chitty & Brenda Windschitl
Feb. 10	Jordan Bryant	Haley Merritt			Sharon Huff & Blake Medding	Sid & Gail Scott
Feb. 17	Jonah Trout	Eric Armentrout		Connie Parsell	George Kegley	Betty Jones & Denise Capito
Feb. 24	Chisom Ugochukwu	Caleb Anders		George Kegley	David Johnson	No Coffee Hour