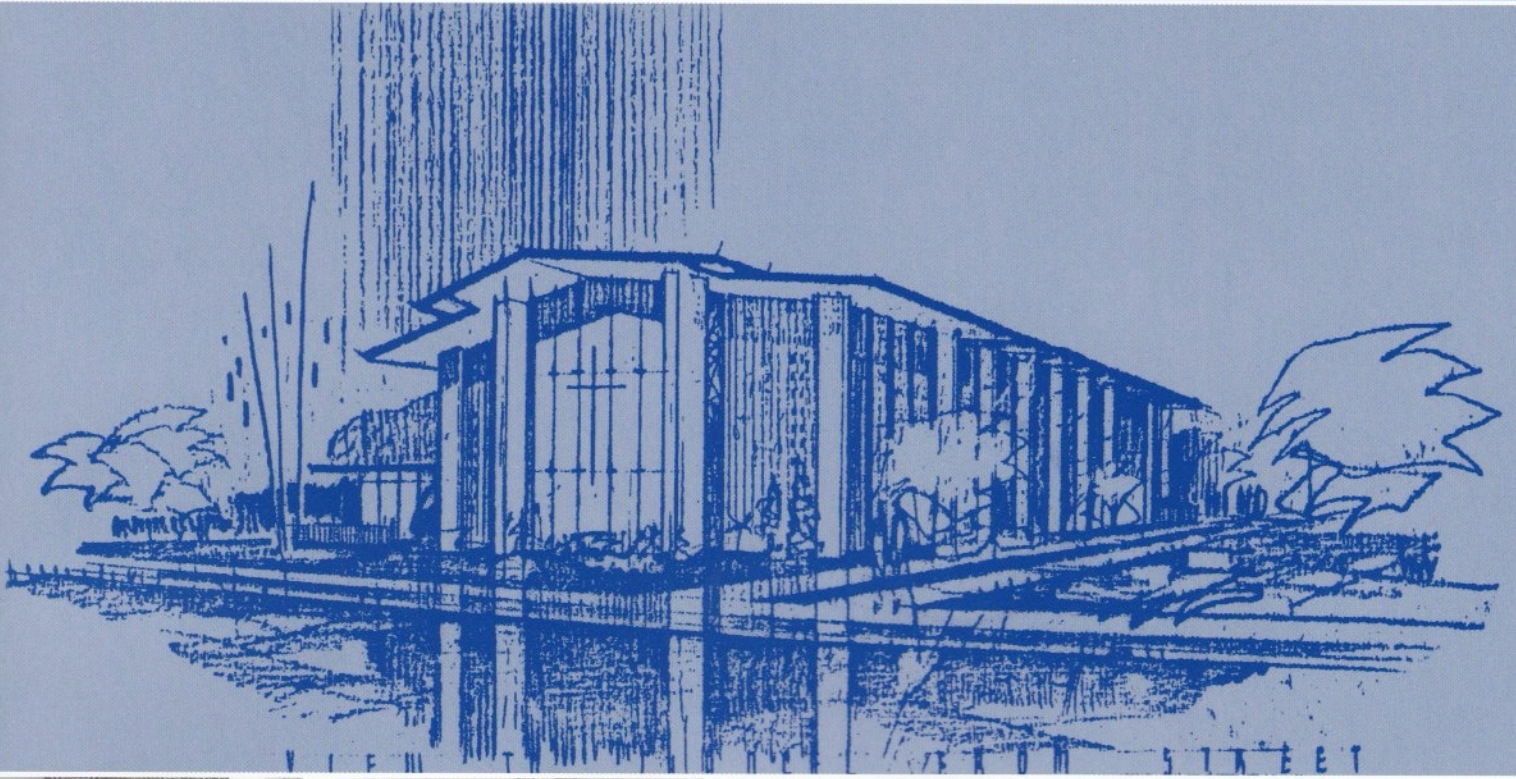


ST. MARK'S



50TH ANNIVERSARY

1951-2001



Preface

IN THE BEGINNING

What a great and challenging journey it has been, from our Sunday School classes meeting in homes and our adult worship in the “air conditioned” lathe house, to the St. Mark’s United Methodist Church of today.

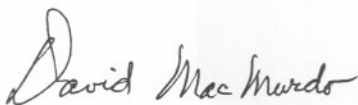
The mission began with District Superintendent Throckmorton and the Sacramento Methodist Union seeing the rapid growth of this Arden-Arcade area as a call to ministry. First Methodist Church of Sacramento supported the move in many important ways. David and Dorothy MacMurdo happily moved from Associate Pastor at First Methodist Church to be Founding Pastor of the new St. Mark’s.

We made the move July 18th, the hottest day of the millennium, into a nice two-bedroom house at 2660 Ione Street. The one-car garage became office and meeting room. Dorothy had a Sunday School class in the backyard, or in the converted living room. Many other families also had Sunday School classes in their homes. But that and more is told in this history book.

This opening page should highlight the remarkable work of so many people -- devoted, talented, sacrificial, Christian men and women who made it all happen. Very early, they dreamed of a church with one thousand members, working together to express love and gratitude, welcoming all to the fellowship, celebrating the awesome greatness of God.

May this 50th anniversary of the chartering of St. Mark’s serve as a reminder of a very proud past, and a future of even greater ministry.

David MacMurdo



Pastors

WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH OUR SENIOR PASTORS!



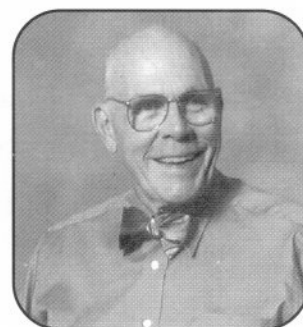
David A. MacMurdo
Dave & Dorothy
1951 - 1966



Robert W. Moon
Bob & Dorrie
1966 - 1974



M. David Wolf
Dave & Ruth Marie
1974 - 1984



Norman G. Calloway
Norm & Ardith
1984 - 1987



Donald H. Fado
Don & Jean
1987 - 2001



F. Faith Whitmore
Faith Whitmore and Frank Anderson
2001 - present

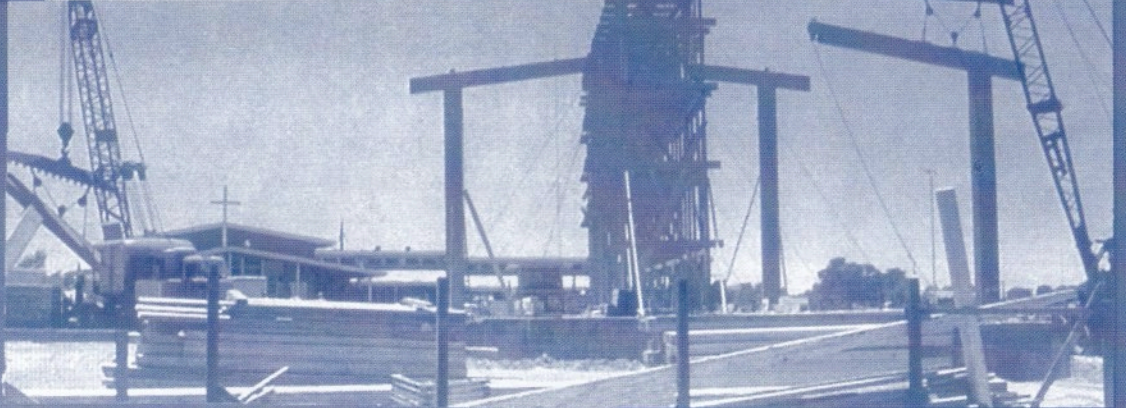
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1950s





1949-1959

**“ . . . FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON,
AND A TIME FOR EVERY MATTER
UNDER HEAVEN . . .
A TIME TO BE BORN . . .
A TIME TO PLANT . . .
AND A TIME TO BUILD UP . . . ”**
ECCLESIASTES 3

When people recount the early story of St. Mark's beginnings, many, in a winsome way, will think of organizational and Sunday School meetings at the home of the then appointed pastor, Rev. Dave MacMurdo. Or they might remember the building of a crude lath house, constructed for worship services in 1951.

In reality, the story begins a few years earlier when Rev. Dave MacMurdo was an associate pastor at First Methodist Church in downtown Sacramento. He was appointed to do preliminary planning and investigation for a new congregation in the undeveloped Del Paso Manor area. This area, before World War II, was mainly very rural with a few scattered farmhouses and some homes of people who were already yearning for suburban living rather than a life in the city. There was even a goat herder in the area whose herd grazed over much of the property which now surrounds St. Mark's. It was destined to become a typical concentrated suburb with predominantly three-bedroom homes and attached single car garages. However, at the time, it was simply a place with a huge potential for growth.

Dave had a multitask position in the formation of a new church, that of organizer, administrator, counselor, building planner, as well as philosopher and theologian to the membership that was in its infancy.

In June, 1951, Bishop Tippet announced Dave's appointment to this new undertaking by The Methodist Church. Dave was encouraged and thrilled by this announcement. He then proceeded to begin his work on what he felt was "God's call to the most important ministry of his life."

The site for the fledgling church had been selected and was described in early bulletins as being located south of El Camino Avenue between Watt and Eastern



Avenues. It was estimated that there would be a need for an expansive Sunday School since it was anticipated that the area would be populated with young couples with small children in large families. Much of the population would consist of veterans of World War II newly back from the service.

At this point, an interested member of the community, Will Chandler, compiled a list of 100 names of community residents, and presented it to Dave. Newsletters and face-to-face meetings were held in regard to this endeavor. Dave introduced himself by newsletter giving the following information:

The MacMurdos would move into their new home in the subdivision named Del Paso Manor. Their home would serve as a temporary meeting place and also a location for a Sunday School for children, all to begin

in August, 1949. Also included was the following information about himself and his family:

Dave MacMurdo, born in Colorado, 1916

Attended: UC Berkeley
Pacific School of Religion
Garrett School of Religion

Served churches in:

Eureka
Modesto
Sacramento

Dorothy MacMurdo, born in California

Graduate of UC Berkeley, worked as:
Counselor in a children's home
School teacher, Illinois
California Social Service
Welfare Worker

The MacMurdos had two children at this time:

Davy MacMurdo (7 years)
Deann MacMurdo (3 years)
Subsequently, in 1952 during their tenure at St. Mark's, they had another son, **Douglas**.

Plans were being made for a Charter Membership service which would be held on October 21, 1951. St. Mark's was now on the threshold of that new beginning which held such great promise for the future church.

PLACES OF WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On August 6, 1951, the first Sunday of an active congregation began with an enrollment of children and

youths at 2660 Ione Street (parsonage, church office and Sunday School). Eighteen children were enrolled at this first session. There was no formal service for parents that day. However, after the children's session there was a period for discussion between parents and pastor.

In September, the Carmichael Presbyterian Church generously invited us to use their chapel for services which were held in the evening. Meanwhile, a committee was formed to explore ideas for facilities where future meetings might be held.

By October 14, Sunday School classes were scheduled at seven different homes in the Del Paso Manor area. A great deal of planning and preparation went into this decision in order to simplify transportation to adjacent locations. By the middle of October, 1951, attendance was 77 children and by November it had peaked at 112.

October 21, 1951, will be remembered as Charter Sunday. On this date, 70 people stood on the bare ground of the property belonging to St. Mark's and were welcomed into this fellowship by both Rev. MacMurdo and Bishop Tippet.

CHARTER MEMBERS

A list of the Charter Members was taken from the Official Membership and Church Record which is shown on the following page:

Of the seventy Charter members, four are active church members in 2001: Dorothy MacMurdo, Bill Kamuf, Viola Kamuf and Irene Landin Martin. At the Quarterly Conference on October 24, 1951, the following chairmen were appointed:

- Bob West, Chairman, Commission on Worship and Evangelism
- John Landin, Chairman, Commission on World Service and Community
- J. W. Bibb, Chairman, Commission on Education
- Forrest Phelps, Chairman, Property and Finance
- Bill McAdoo, Lay Leader and Member of Annual Conference
- Harvey Banks, Chairman, Annual Building Fund

Harvey Banks, as head of the Building Committee, began work on initiating building plans. Partial Payment had been made on the one and a quarter acre building site. The total cost of the lot would be \$12,000. Monies from the 440,000 Methodist



HOUSE SOCIAL REFERENCE NUMBER	FAMILY NAME	FULL NAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	ADDRESS	CHURCH LITURGICAL REFERENCE NUMBER	FAMILY NAME	FULL NAME
1	Alexander	Mrs. Robert (Vera Alice)		2116 King St.	1	Kamuf	Mr. William
2	Anderson	Mr. Joseph		2511 Margal Dr.	2	Kamuf	Mrs. William (Viola)
3	Anderson	Mrs. Joseph (Phyllis)			3	Landis	Mr. John
4	Banks	Mr. Harvey O.		421 Ross Way	4	Landis	Mrs. John (Gene)
5	Banks	Mrs. Harvey O. (Mary)			5	Lowrey	Mr. Robert
6	Banks	Philip			6	MacMurdo	Mrs. David (Dorothy)
7	Banks	Robert			7	McAdoo	Mr. William
8	Beddow	Mr. Frank		3916 Lasuen Dr.	8	McAdoo	Mrs. William (Lair)
9	Beddow	Mrs. Frank (Charlotte)			9	McAdoo	Mrs. Della
10	Bibb	Mr. John		3131 Shasta Way	10	McLaughlin	Mr. Robert
11	Bibb	Mrs. John (Lenora)			11	McLaughlin	Mrs. Robert (L)
12	Bibb	Miss Jane			12	Mauro	Miss Alice
13	Bibb	William Jackson			13	Moore	Ray
14	Bisgard	Mr. Howard		4225 Annette	14	Oxley	Mr. Robert
15	Bisgard	Mrs. Howard (Doris)			15	Oxley	Mrs. Robert (L)
16	Braun	Mr. Robert		2508 Duarte Ct.	16	Paul	Col. Frank M.
17	Brown	Mrs. Robert (Marie)			17	Paul	Mrs. Frank M. (Ethel)
18	Callis	Mr. Bert		2214 Margal Dr.	18	Phelps	Mr. Forrest
19	Callis	Mrs. Bert (Betty)			19	Phelps	Mrs. Forrest (Marion)
20	Clark	Mrs. Orville (Wilda)		3420 Edison Ave.	20	Richter	Mr. Ray
21	Crull	Mr. George S.		2202 Meadowbrook St.	21	Richter	Mrs. Ray (Dorothy)
22	Crull	Mrs. George S. (Doris)			22	Ross	Mr. George
23	Cunningham	Mrs. Lucille		2416 Darwin	23	Ross	Mrs. George (Gis)
24	Fabretti	Mr. John (Bea)		2500 Hernando Rd.	24	Rucker	Mr. William
25	Fallon	Mrs. Lottie		Pt. 7 Box 1230	25	Rucker	Mrs. William (Irene)
26	Fox	Mrs. Louis		3333 Temwood Rd.	26	Sanders	Mr. Robert
27	Hess	Mr. Claude W.		749 4th Ave. Longvale, Calif.	27	Sanders	Mrs. Robert (Bertha)
28	Hess	Mrs. Claude W. (Jeanne)			28	Stenzel	Mr. William R.
29	Hickman	Mr. Harold		2224 Red Estates Dr.	29	Stenzel	Mrs. William R. (L)
30	Hickman	Mrs. Harold (Virginia)			30	Stingham	Mr. Joseph (L)
31	James	Mrs. William (Dorothy)		2150 Lane St.	31	Vaughan	Mr. Henry
32	Jenky	Miss Carol Ann		2427 Roslyn Way	32	Vaughan	Mrs. Henry (Mildred)
33	Jones	Mr. Ray		3470 Edison Ave.	33	Vaughan	Donald
34	Jones	Mrs. Ray (Bernice)			34	West	Mr. Robert
35	Jones	Miss Jane			35	West	Mrs. Robert (Janet)

churches across America were made available, with further help by local Methodist churches.

Assistance was also provided by a development organization, the M. J. King Company. Their assistance made it possible to double the land area at a cost of \$6,000, with \$4,000 given by M. J. King and Mr. Lusk.

A HUMBLE HOUSE OF WORSHIP

In the spring of 1952, a plan was suggested for a temporary structure for worship services and incidental purposes. It was aptly described as a lath-house and would be used for a short interim period of balmy weather. The work on the lath-house was completed rather quickly, with plans being furnished by the M. J. King Company. Within a few days, postholes were dug and 6 x 6 posts put into place; headers came next and a solid roof sheeting finished the project. The lattice sides allowed cooling breezes to flow through the rustic building. Mothers' Day 1952 marked the beginning of its use as a worship gathering place for the newly formed congregation.

SOCIAL HALL AND CLASSROOMS

Organizations were also being formed in the spring of 1952, even without a formal church setting in place. The Women's Society of Christian Service was being started. St. Mark's Methodist Men had its first "real" meeting on March 10. The Methodist

Youth Fellowship had even begun publishing their own newsletter.

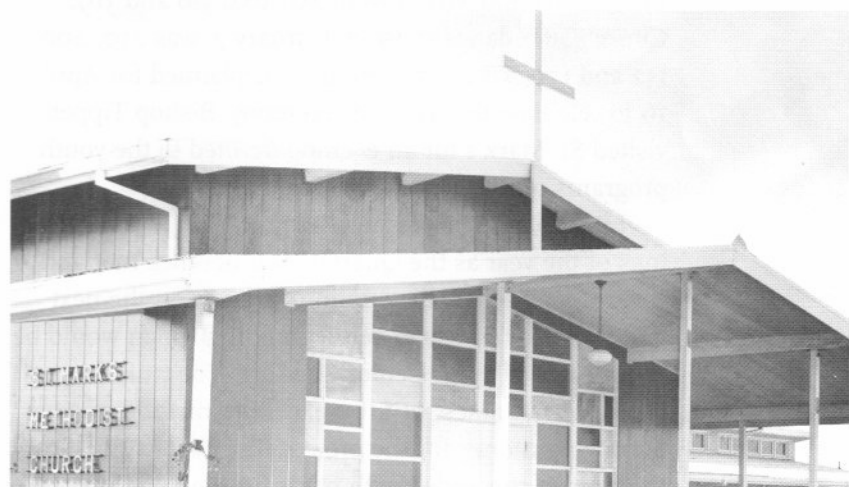
The architectural team of Rickey and Brooks was selected to do the initial plans for the first phase of the building plan which would consist of a Social Hall and classrooms. On September 7, 1952, a ground-breaking service for the beginning of construction of the Social Hall was held on the church property site. City officials, including the mayor, and visiting church officials took part in the ceremony. Turning over the first symbolic shovelfuls of earth were Rev. MacMurdo, Col. Frank Paul and Mr. Howard Bisgard. A local building contractor, Leland Boles, Jr. was selected as the building contractor.

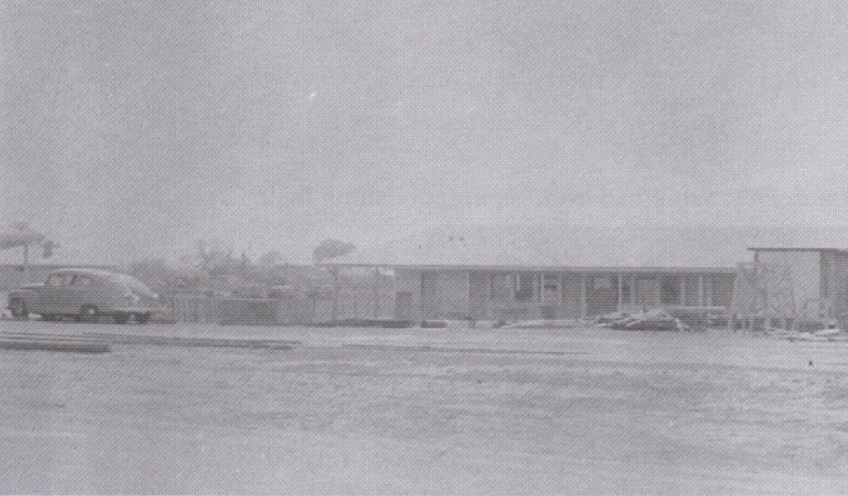
The first anniversary of the church saw the beginnings of the Social Hall, which would temporarily serve as a worship center. Finances were in good order with money and pledges coming in. The classroom wing was to be constructed at the same time. The entire project was under the supervision of Mr. Boles, with coordination of volunteer labor under the leadership of Lynn Roberts.

By January, 1954, the first worship service was held in the new main room with Holy Communion for all members and friends who wished to participate in this sacrament. Beginning January 19, 1953, the Arden-Carmichael School District contracted with St. Mark's to use the classrooms for public school students. A sum of \$100 per month for each classroom was agreed upon, with operational costs to be incurred by St. Mark's.

THE THEATER CHURCH

Because of the growth of the church and its large anticipated attendance for Easter Sunday, plans had to be





Youth Center

made for a larger gathering place. The manager of the Village Theater at Marconi and Fulton Avenues was approached and on Easter Sunday, 1953, services were held in this motion picture theater.

Meanwhile, as the church continued its growth in numbers, its Christian outreach manifested itself in many ways. Small women's circles were now being formed, youths were off to summer camps, vacation church school was held, and special music for church services was planned. Members were being encouraged to attend an area-wide lecture at the State Fair Grounds by Dr. Frank Laubach, who had organized the well-known program, "Each One Teach One," a method of teaching people to read.

By October 12, 1953, the Leland Boles organization was working on the foundation for the classrooms. Progress was quick and the rooms were ready for use by December 1953.

YOUTH CENTER BUILDING

The year 1954 was filled with much activity. One future leader of St. Mark's, the Rev. Robert Moon, was invited by the Men's Club to be a speaker at a debate. Sunday School attendance numbers for the last four Sundays in February and March were 251, 302, 318 and 319. Church attendance starting February 7, was 250, 206, 152 and 173. A Passover dinner was planned for April 16 to celebrate this ancient ceremony. Bishop Tippet visited St. Mark's for an evening devoted to the youth programs of the Sacramento region.

June 25, 1954, saw one of the most important meetings of the year as the Quarterly Conference met and voted unanimously to work immediately on the next big project. This was to be the building which would be known as the Youth Center Building. The trustees prepared to sell "notes" at \$100 each as a method of borrowing money for the project. The Building Committee proceeded with plans for the building to be used for much-needed Sunday School classrooms.

Every effort was made to have the architect's drawing available for perusal by the membership on July 10. The \$100 notes would pay 4% interest over a five-year period. The goal for this part, \$10,000 necessary for beginning the project, was met at a meeting of the Men's Club in August.

During the first week of August, volunteers donated 103 hours of labor. In the following weeks, many hours were scheduled for grading the elevation, preparing

Realizing the scale of the outreach of St. Mark's and its impact on the community, it is interesting to take a look at the budget for this part of the decade:

Salaries	'55 '56	56 '57
	Budgeted	
Proposed		
1. Minister	\$ 4,800.....	\$ 5,400
2. Secretary	840	1,800
3. Janitor.....	1,000	1,200
4. Choir Director	360	495
5. Organist.....	300	420
Property		
6. Utilities.....	1,000.....	1,100
7. Insurance/Taxes	360.....	550
Property		
8. Repairs/Improvements	1,000.....	1,625
9. Parsonage Payment.....	1,250	960
Program		
10. Church School	1,560	2,100
11. Office Costs	1,000.....	1,250
12. Minister's Travel	600	600
13. Music.....	250	250
14. Membership Committee.....	0	650
Conference Apportionment		
15. Ministerial Support.....	0	820
16. Administration	0	220
17. Campground Fund.....	700	80
18. Television Ministry	0	44
19. Church School Fund	0	55
World Service and Benevolence		
20. World & Conference	1,100	1,310
21. Advance Special.....	0	0
22. Sacramento Methodist Union.....	0	0
Grand Total	\$22,779	\$26,610

forms, pouring concrete, plumbing, installing the electrical system, and the painting of trusses. Though there were serious financial problems involving meeting payment deadlines with creditors, the project came to completion.

Plans were made for a third anniversary ceremony of consecration of the barely completed Youth Center. The ceremony was outside, just in front of the building, with 300 chairs in place. Bishop Tippet was again in attendance; two youth choirs joined in the celebration. District Superintendent Dillon Throckmorton was present and new members were received into the congregation.

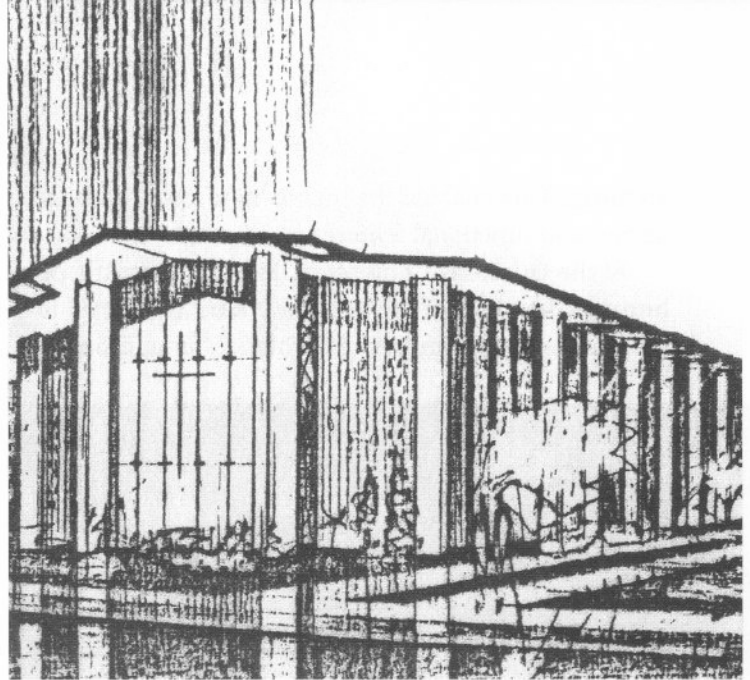
Church membership had now grown from the original 70 to about 300. Sunday School attendance had reached 350 in October and now presented serious problems of overcrowding. Consequently, it was decided that it was time to have two sessions at 9:30 and 11:00 A.M. October 31 was the date selected to put this schedule into effect. By December, a record attendance of 447 children was recorded.

Planning for a larger church building and expansion of existing programs was the theme of 1955. In a newsletter to church members, Dave wrote, "Our Sunday School now has about 800 and is growing each week. Those are lives, young and old, looking to you and me for help in building of Christian personality. Our church membership is over 300 persons depending on St. Mark's for spiritual nourishment, pledged before God to do his purpose. Our parish is tremendous . . ."

NEW BUILDING PHASE

By October, 1956, the church leaders, after much discussion and consideration decided it was the proper time to prepare for the sanctuary. A program was planned for the whole congregation. It was to be called Loyalty Dinner and would be held in Governors' Hall at the old State Fair Grounds. On Sunday, October 21, an enthusiastic group of people met in fellowship and heard of the plans for the new structure. A goal of \$150,000 was set even though a debt of \$30,000 was still "hanging." As of November 7, 1956, \$87,605 had been pledged.

An architect, Mr. Carlton Steiner, of Berkeley, California, was selected to present a master plan for the church sanctuary and a general concept of placement of areas that would augment the total mission of the church. He provided pictures showing various approaches to the Master Plan. The Education



Sanctuary Plan

Commission also met with Mr. Steiner to work out plans involving the education facilities.

By January, 1957, the 500th member of St. Mark's was received. The church at that time had sponsored a family for settlement in the United States from Indonesia via Holland. They were Mr. and Mrs. Mesman and three children. Every effort was made to help them acquire work and settle into a new life.

A very active program of church visitation was being organized and carried out by the Membership Commission. Many members of the church were involved in the visitation of prospective members. Sunday School attendance had reached an average of 524 per Sunday. Notices were sent out encouraging parents to send their children to the 9:00 A.M. session.

SANCTUARY PLAN

In a newsletter, Dave provided some of the details of the plan for the Sanctuary.

"The sanctuary will seat approximately 600 people with 450 on the main floor and 150 in the balcony which will use the space over the narthex. The first construction was not expected to include the side rooms."

FELLOWSHIP HALL PLANS

"Seating for 500 people will be furnished (350 people for dinner) in addition to a fine stage available for special programs. It will have a high ceiling (16 feet) and side windows facing a sunken court. Ultimately a fine kitchen will be provided."

The Building Committee planned to tour various churches in the Bay Area under the guidance of the

architect. This enabled the members to note essential design and functional features.

At the Quarterly Conference, May 22, 1957, the preliminary drawings of the sanctuary were submitted to the friends and members of St. Mark's for approval.



Mr. Jim Devine, Chairman of the Building Committee, then sought approval of the District Committee.

Women in the church consulted to discuss plans for the kitchen. Worship Committee members discussed chancel symbolism, lighting, windows, and other facets of the church architecture. With plans in the completion stage, it was now evident that construction could begin in late 1957. However, everything was contingent on payment of the existing debt and whether another loan could be approved.

In the spring of 1957, a surplus building from McClellan Air Force Base was made available to St. Mark's. For an investment of \$3,000, this building was moved and rehabilitated for use by Scouts, for classrooms, and for storage. Much volunteer labor went into this project that was a most welcome addition to the ever-growing Sunday School.

The Village Theater was still available for Easter services. Everything had to be well planned so as to vacate the theater for its afternoon matinee. The manager estimated the crowd to be 1,850.

In the fall of 1957, a new staff person was added as Director of Christian Education. Mrs. Oreal Titus, long-time head of the Department of Christian Education for the Sacramento Council of Churches, took on the part-time (one day a week) job which had as an important element the training of teachers.

When Mrs. Titus began her work, it was decided to have triple sessions: 9:00, 10:00, and 11:15 A.M. To emphasize how great the growth and importance of Christian Education had become, the Journal of the 361 Methodist churches in the California-Nevada Conference reported this information:

- Largest church, Palo Alto with a membership of 2,505 had a Sunday School attendance of 776
- Second largest church, Los Gatos with a membership of 671 had a Sunday School attendance of 508
- St. Mark's (437 members) was third highest in Sunday School attendance with 489.

By September, 1957, St. Mark's had paid off its mortgages on the church property. The check for \$2,125 plus interest was sent to the Building Fund Treasurer. This achievement was made possible by the weekly contributions for the pledges of the original loan of \$12,000. As a result, the terms of a seven-year loan were met within a five-year period.

January of 1958 saw further growth in Sunday School attendance. A total of 748 persons were in attendance on January 5, a new record. Efforts were made to have as many children as possible transfer to the 11:15 hour. A new Cherub Choir was formed of 61 boys and girls. Plans were made in conjunction with Methodist churches all over America for a friendly visitation of persons not yet members. The local effort was coordinated by Mrs. Dorothy Miller, who had chaired this kind of program in previous years. Again, Easter services were held at the Village Theater.

In April, definite plans to start construction of a large sanctuary were being realized. Blueprints and specifications were given to Mr. John Knapp who was preparing a cost estimate for the Trustees.

By May, St. Mark's was facing a critical decision. There was an urgent need for a full-time staff member who specialized in Christian education. By now, St. Mark's had the second largest Sunday School in the

Conference, second only to Palo Alto (2,250 members) with St. Mark's having 500 members. On May 21, at Quarterly Conference a request was made to the District Superintendent to secure the services of an assistant pastor for St. Mark's. In June 1958, St. Mark's hired its first full-time Director of Christian Education. He was Jun Jue, born in Canton, China, immigrated to the United States, a graduate of Stanford University with two years of graduate work at the Pacific School of Religion.

Dave was appointed to St. Mark's for his eighth year. During this time, membership had grown to 574 persons with property on three acres valued at \$185,000, now nearly debt free and ready for its next great step. Negotiations began in November for a building loan from the Bank of America. The Bank appraised the property and selection was made from among four contractors with the final selection awarded to the Lawrence Construction Company which submitted the low bid of \$236,455.

1959 THE SANCTUARY YEAR

Ground breaking ceremonies were held at high noon on February 1, 1959 for the beginning of construction. At this historic moment in the evolution of St. Mark's, the participants included Dave MacMurdo; Harold Hickman, Chairman of the Official Board; Harvey Banks, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Jim Devine, Chairman of the Building Council; and local dignitaries. A final loan from the bank was negotiated for \$190,000.

The spectacular excavation for the basement Fellowship Hall was noted by passers-by. The huge columns and beams were pre-cast at the job site and were hoisted in place with the use of a giant crane.

During the period of building the main sanctuary, plans were moving ahead for the office addition which was to be built on the east side of the Social Hall. Architect Carlton Steiner worked on these plans as well as those for the main sanctuary. The Women's Society pledged part of the cost of this wing. Much of the construction was done by volunteer labor.

A cornerstone ceremony was held on September 6, 1959. A copper box was given by Townsend and



Schmidt Masonry, the firm that erected the concrete block walls. In the box was placed a list of charter members and present membership, workers in the Sunday School, choir members, ushering staff and a copy of the 1959 Annual Report.

The glorious day of November 22, 1959, marked the first formal entry into the new sanctuary. There were two services, at 9:30 and 11 A.M. The choir, in new robes of mauve, sang the introit from the narthex and then proceeded down the aisle singing the opening hymn, The Church's One Foundation. Also invited to the congregation of worshipers were workmen who had helped construct the building, the architect, contractors, Methodist leaders and community leaders.

Dave summed it up well in this quotation taken from an earlier anniversary booklet:

"Seeing the building for which we waited eight years become reality, from the massive evacuation to the raising of the pre-cast concrete columns and beams, the installing of pews and the marble altar was exciting and deeply moving. Before the whole community stood a visible statement of our devotion to a great and wonderful God. The high ceiling spoke of the majesty of God and our experience of being lifted up in worship. The spacious entry-way declared our belief in the fellowship of worshipers as a vital element in kingdom-building."

That, indeed, was a very good decade!!



1960s





1960-1969

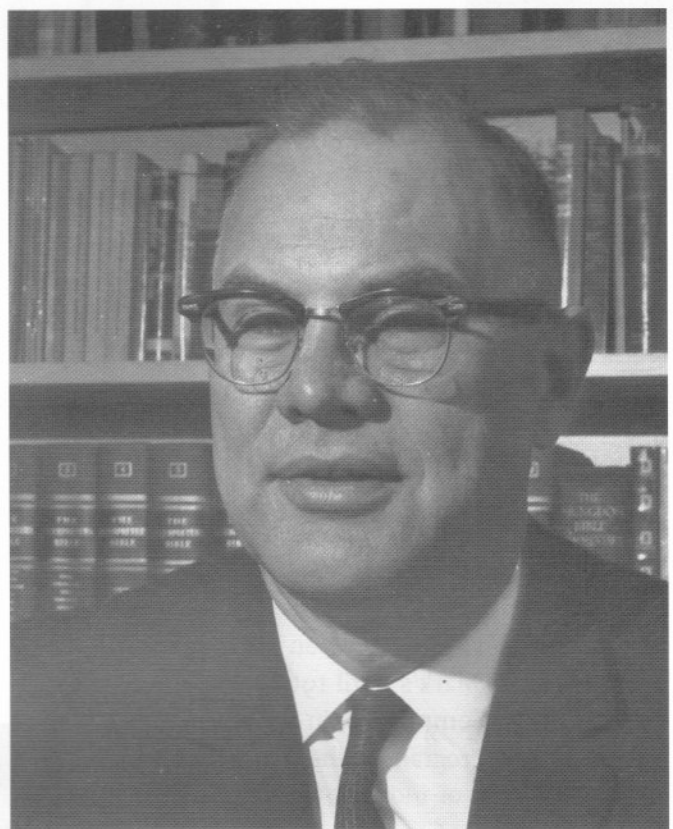
“Onward and Upward” must have been the utmost thought of the dynamic minister, Dave MacMurdo, and his parishioners as St. Mark’s moved into the ‘60s with a beautiful sanctuary that was the culmination of a 10-year dream. It was a giant step forward to have completed the sanctuary. When the new building was completed and services held in the spacious sanctuary, the congregation numbered 600 adult members and 1,200 children.

It seems so appropriate to apply this message from the 2001 church directory to that point in time: “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” When the church was started August 6, 1951, the minister and congregation must have had a hard time getting the necessary funds to do what they had done in such a short time. It stands to reason that God was first and foremost in their thoughts, and aside from each of the families’ needs, the church was their next thought.

In June of 1960, the total value of St. Mark’s church buildings and land approached \$500,000. Buildings and contents alone were valued at \$380,000. At this point, an office addition was desperately needed. The principal funds for this addition, approximately \$3,000, were supplied by the Women’s Society of Christian Service and a memorial gift from one of the church families. This new office space included a study for the minister and offices for the secretary and the assistant pastor who had recently been hired. There was also a meeting room that could be opened to the social hall for overflow gatherings.

The Women’s Society of Christian Service was the largest organization in the church with five circles and a general meeting each month open to all women of the church. Their emphasis was on missions, spiritual life and family life. In addition to serving a dinner to the Men’s Club each month, they provided meals for many church functions. They also assisted in family member visitation, filled bags for migrants and participated in all facets of church life, which included raising money to help church projects. Their group was a vital force at St. Mark’s.

The early ‘60s brought many changes. Throughout the years the church had supplied a home for the minister. St. Mark’s owned such a home at 2660 Ione St., which Dave MacMurdo and his family lived in.



Rev. Richard Lungren

However, churches throughout the area were abandoning the idea of a church-maintained parsonage. Instead, a housing allowance was granted in addition to the minister’s salary, and the family could then buy or rent a house of their own choosing. St. Mark’s decided to sell the Ione Street residence for \$6,026 in cash and a five-year note for \$1,000 bearing 7 percent interest. Income from the sale went into the building fund to meet capital outlay expenses.

In 1960, the greatest job faced by the trustees was meeting the bills for the new sanctuary and other capital expenses. Listed below is the total capital



sion of the Finster family to embark on a tour of service as missionaries to southern Rhodesia. William, Esther and their three daughters, Shirley, Janet and Connie, had been members of St. Mark's for five years. What an undertaking to leave friends and loved ones to go to such a place as Africa! In Sacramento they had a safe and secure haven, a church where they were much loved. Perhaps this decision to become missionaries came as a result of the warmth and fellowship they had found at the church. In their hearts they knew the church was behind them and praying for their success.

William Finster was 42, a forest land appraiser for the State Board of Equalization. In Africa, he would be a teacher at a Methodist school. Later on, after their daughters had returned to America to attend college, Esther also became a teacher. Mr. Finster said, "We are trying to live up to the responsibility of being Christians. I began thinking about this several years ago. Initially, I felt as long as there were people in the world who couldn't go to school and who went to bed hungry every night, we had a responsibility to help them." They continued their missionary work until 1983, and they presently reside in Nevada City.

With the community and church growing, it was evident that a visitation minister was needed. The Rev.

indebtedness as of May 1960:

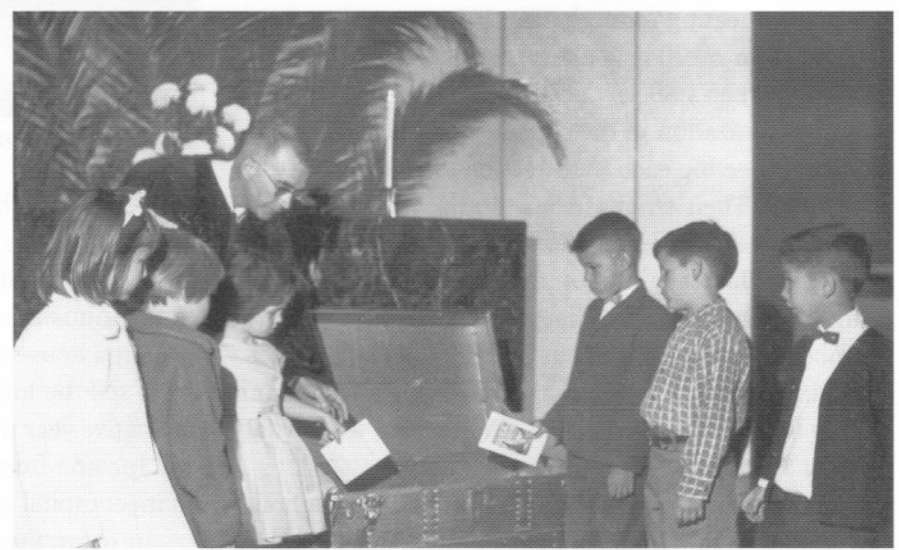
Bank of America	\$181,250.53
St. Mark's Building Notes	7,800.00
Supplemental Contract to Lawrence Construction	4,480.00
Architect	619.44
Crocker-Anglo Loan	3,460.00
Total	\$197,609.97

This was a lot of money at that time.

The church was growing and it was evident that a minister of education was needed. The Rev. Richard Lungren was invited to come on board, and he remained at St. Mark's until 1966.

The Education Commission in 1962 was the largest program of the church, with 180 or more workers helping to provide Christian Education for nearly 1,200 enrollees in the church school. The Vacation Bible School was another outstanding event in the education program. Support of missionary projects and overseas relief, such as Heifer Project International and UNICEF, were part of this commission. Dick Lungren and the chairman, Joe Stillwell, worked endless hours to make this program the success that it was.

Another major development at St. Mark's in the early '60s was the deci-



Lenten folders were mailed to 1,000 children and youth. Through this method, \$1,200 was contributed to St. Mark's missionary work.

Ralph Snyder was hired in 1962 and remained at St. Mark's until 1965. The Minister of Visitation was an official representative of the church. He or she visited the homes of new members, explained the life of the church and assisted them in entering into that life. The church family encompassed the nursery, women's groups, junior and senior high and college fellowships, the 49ers, Double Harness (for young couples), the Men's Club and the Forum.

It is interesting to note that in '64 and '65, the Christian Social Concerns Commission held a number of special activities about issues which remain pertinent today and which still have not been fully resolved. They included possible participation by county facilities in providing birth control, with four speakers including a Roman Catholic representative presenting their viewpoints. There was also a brief study of newsstand pornography. These issues remain important today.

In 1965 the following committees were initiated: Church Life, Member Training, Visitation, Reception Services, Records and Welcoming Newcomers. Major efforts were made to visit in the homes of all non-members on the church mailing list. In addition to monthly visitation by members and the Rev. Snyder, a special Sunday calling day was conducted in September, at which time 185 members spent Sunday afternoon making visits to the homes of church friends.

At the beginning of the church year the Commission on Membership and Evangelism revised the organization of church member families into 70 neighborhood groups called "SMACK" (St. Mark's Areas of Christian Kindness). These groups were encouraged to meet with each other to get better acquainted and to call upon new church friends in the neighborhood.

In 1964 and 1965 there were 660 children and 265 youth in the church, a decline from 1963 and 1964. However, the youth program continued to flourish and the youth took on increasing responsibility for district activities. Lenten folders were mailed to 1,000 children and youth. Through this method, \$1,200 was contributed to St. Mark's missionary work.

Lay leader Bob Bodley made these comments about what was happening at St. Mark's in 1965: "I believe the report for St. Mark's should be titled 'Strength and Unity'. By this is meant that during this past church year there has been a definite show of strength on the

part of the ministers and laymen of the church, especially during the controversial and stimulating civil rights legislation which came before the electorate." He felt the church had grown during the past year both spiritually and physically.

After nine years of planning and fund-raising, the St. Mark's building program was completed in 1965 as the Fellowship Hall and Choir Room were finished. A series of three dinners was held to celebrate this great event. Those who were members at that time knew what a major effort it had been to accomplish this goal.

During the '60s, Jack Carey was the director of music, Florence Paul was the organist and Donna Watters was the assistant organist. The three were talented musicians and presented many wonderful programs.

Major changes in the leadership of the church took place in 1966. An associate pastor, the Rev. Ray McElroy, was appointed and served for one and one-half years. In addition, Rev. Dave, as Dave MacMurdo had been called by many of his parishioners, was tired and was granted a sabbatical year to study and do counseling. This incredible man and his wonderful wife Dorothy and family, through much hard work and



Jack Carey was the director of music, Florence Paul was the organist and Donna Watters was the assistant organist.



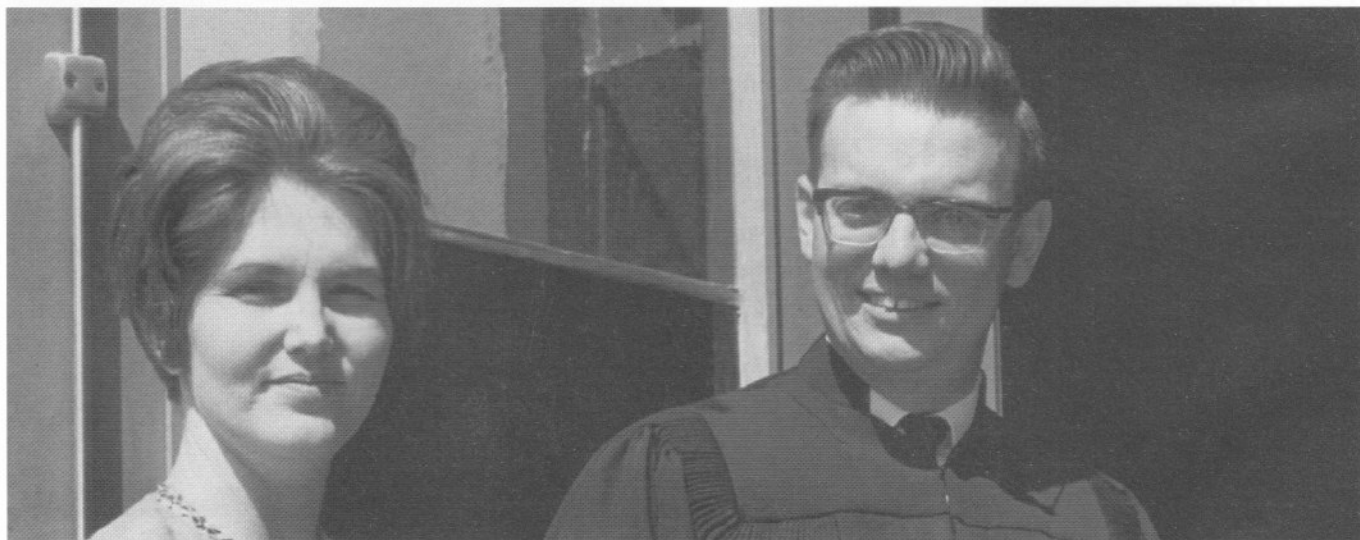
many prayers, had succeeded in getting a very vital church started. There is no way anyone can think of St. Mark's without thanking God for Dave, Dorothy and family. Dave had spent 15 years in dedicated leadership and service to St. Mark's and guided its growth from a charter membership of 70 to more than 1,200 members. His parishioners were of exceptional quality and real Christians, putting God and the church first in their lives.

Dave's comment about his life at St. Mark's was as follows: *"Come to think of it, each year was good! Never easy, often frustrating, never boring, always rewarding as you saw God work in persons and community. As your pastor in those wonderful years, I thank God for this remarkable opportunity granted to me. I also thank him for opening doors to new fields of service, primarily in fami-*

ly counseling. The change has been a blessing to me and my family, and for the church we love."

As Dave exited to begin his new career, another dynamic man, Bob Moon, arrived to become the new minister of St. Mark's. He would remain at St. Mark's until June 1974. What a loss to the First Methodist Church in Fresno, where he had been the minister! He had already distinguished himself as a preacher and leader on both the conference and national levels. His wife and helpmate, Dorrie, not only was a participant in many church activities, but embarked on a career in teaching at the secondary level.

Bob was a tremendous speaker, and, being a pacifist, he was also controversial. During his tenure, Bob had an impact on the community and the state that went beyond the activities of the local congregation.



Associate pastor, the Rev. Ray McElroy, was appointed and served for one and one-half years.

Through his writing and his speaking on the most controversial issues, such as the Vietnam war, he became “news copy” in the state’s newspapers.

Lester Kinsolving wrote for the San Francisco Chronicle and said, “Few clergy in California today have had as much of an impact upon the public as Bob did. There are few, if any, controversial social issues which Bob has not addressed and with such well-reasoned and extensively researched arguments as to assure maximum hostility.” Bob achieved this influence through his active participation and leadership in the General Board of the National Council of Churches, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the General Board of Christian Social Concerns and the Fellowship of Reconciliation, of which he was the national chairman.

In 1968, Bob shared his pulpit with a black churchman. “How,” Bob asked in the dialogue before his Sunday congregation, “can I test myself to determine whether I am a racist?” There followed a provocative debate which became the framework for a program that included a series of sermons and discussions on the community’s race relations. Bob also said he believes that those who use violence become brutalized and indifferent to the barbarity of weapons, and find it difficult to contemplate alternatives. His comments of yesterday are still pertinent today.

In 1967, a very bright and innovative woman, Mona Dyer, was appointed Director of Christian Education. She had previously served in a number of churches, including the First Methodist Church in Fresno, the Westwood Community Methodist Church and Trinity Church in Berkeley. She had also been the associate executive director of the Inter-Board Council for the Western New York Conference.

Through Mona’s many innovations and her spiritual strength, vitality was injected into the instructional program at St. Mark’s. Those who worked with her will never forget what an asset she was to the church; she left St. Mark’s in 1975. Mona instituted the first ADVENTure program, which included activities such as crafts, cooking, sewing, singing and delicious snacks at the end of the afternoon. This activity called attention to the beginning of Advent and is still held each year.

In 1967, a young couples’ group was formed called Mark Twains. This group is still active in the church, with some of the original members participating.



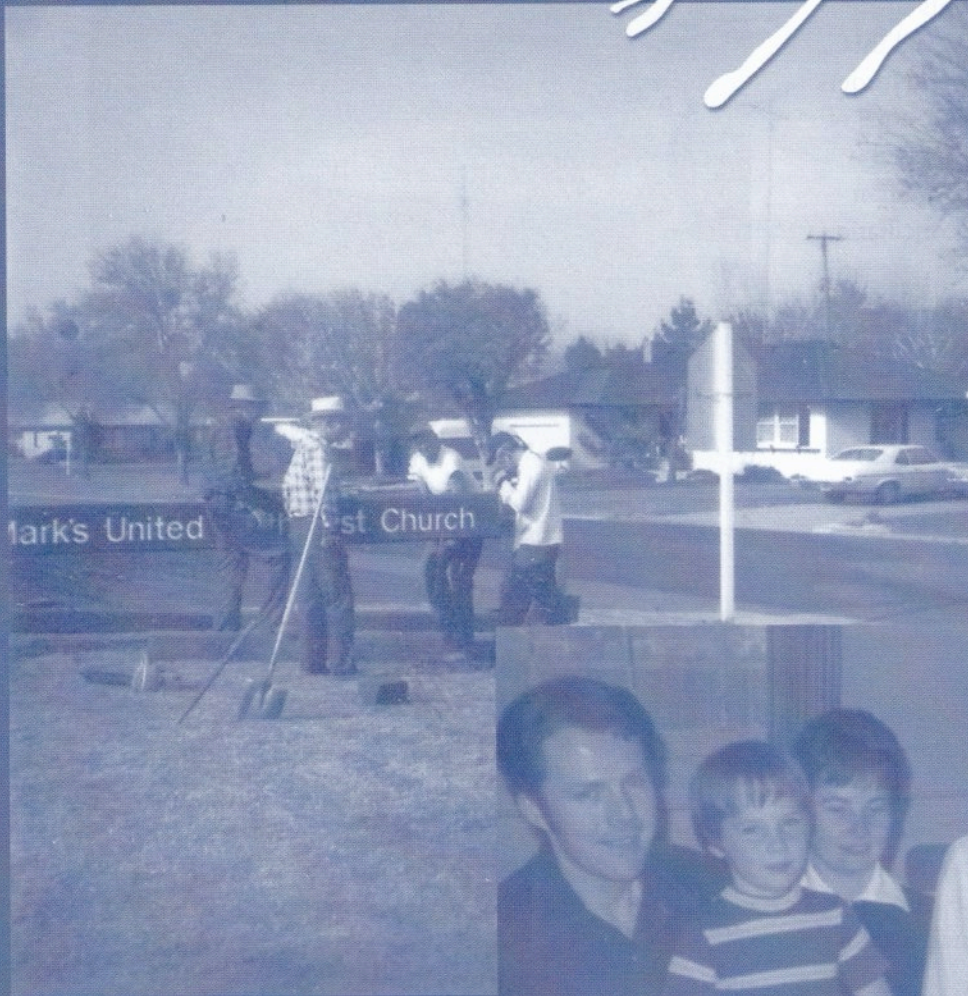
Mona Dyer, Director of Christian Education.

In 1968, The Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to become The United Methodist Church. In October 1968, the women of St. Mark’s Women’s Society of Christian Service participated in a charter ceremony to become a unit of United Methodist Women.

A major event in the history of St. Mark’s in 1969 occurred when 55 families made interest-free loans that enabled the church to reduce debt payments and pay off the bank loans on the property. The last of these member loans were repaid in September 1978, freeing the church of building debt and clearing the way for the dedication of the facilities. The loans in 1969 were another demonstration that the parishioners of St. Mark’s were very special Christian individuals. They worked hard and sacrificed to make St. Mark’s what it is today.

Onward and upward to the ‘70s.

1970s





1970-1979

The Reverend Bob Moon continued as St. Mark's pastor through June 1974 (refer to the '60s decade for background information). During his tenure, and especially in the early '70s, our country was facing many controversial issues and churches discussed and dealt with ethical matters and social concerns as related to our Christian faith beliefs. Bob's sermons and "Moon Dust" columns in the Markings shared his thoughts on timely matters of world affairs and ethics.

We are fortunate to be able to ask Bob Moon in 2001 to reflect on what was happening in our society during the years he was at St. Mark's and how it affected his ministry here. Bob writes:

"My favorite professor at seminary told us that one of a preacher's responsibilities is to 'strengthen the opposite of that which is too strong.' In leafing through all of the sermons I preached at St. Mark's, many of those sermons turned out to be modest attempts to fulfill that charge.

During those years, conservative and fundamentalist churches were vigorously influencing our community. It seemed appropriate to preach occasionally about the responsible use of the Bible in expressing our theological and ethical ideas. It is important for all of us to have some grounding for participating in conversation, in winsome ways, with our friends and neighbors on these matters; so our task is to enable people to take the Bible seriously, not literally.

Many of the sermons I reviewed dealt with what was sometimes called social justice and political issues, such as alcohol, gambling, capital punishment, concerns for the poor and the marginalized, and tribalism of race and nation that has been a major enemy of Christianity. If we do not master these tribalisms, our civilization will not survive.

Someone once asked me if I ever preached a non-political sermon. The more I thought about that the more I realized that a non-political sermon would not be biblical. It would betray what we have learned from Moses and the prophets and Jesus."

STAFF

Our ministers and Christian Education Directors:

The Reverend David Wolf began his ministry at St. Mark's on July 1, 1974. Dave Wolf, the self-professed "small town boy" (Redding) came to St. Mark's from

Holy Cross UMC in Stockton. Accompanying him were his wife, Ruth Marie, and three sons, Brian, Eric, and Gary. The major emphasis of Dave's ministry at St. Mark's was a dedication to enhance the search for meaning in people's lives and growth in personal faith. Small groups and retreats were organized to carry out this intent. Dave was very helpful in providing a summary of the ten years he served at St. Mark's and his comments will be integrated into the highlights of the various programs of the decade. To sum up his tenure Dave writes:

"The dynamics were in the hearts and the lives of the people, who made their witnesses, worked for justice, grew in understanding of the Christian faith.

There were no great causes we undertook en mass. But St. Mark's clearly made a loving difference in many lives here and around the world."

Mona Dyer continued as Director of Christian Education until 1975. Read about her innovative programs under Ministry with Children.

The Reverend Kimbrough Leslie was appointed as Associate Pastor in 1975. Kim and his wife, Denice,



were at St. Mark's until 1977, when they left to continue their ministry in St. Helena.

The Reverend George Clemmons was appointed Associate Pastor in July 1977. George and his wife, Mary, came to us from interim pastorships in Placerville and Colusa. Among their contributions were classes offered in Parent Effectiveness Training, with George and Mary being accredited P.E.T. leaders. George Clemmons left for a new appointment in June 1979.

Ginny Pearson was hired in 1977 as assistant to the Associate Pastor in church school planning and in September 1978 her position became Director of Christian Education. While at St. Mark's, Ginny announced that she felt the call for the Christian ministry and enrolled in seminary. Since becoming an ordained minister, Ginny has taken major leadership roles in the conference and has served in strong churches.

The Reverend Theresa Mason was appointed Associate Pastor in July 1979. She brought to us her experience in the dramatic arts and puppetry; was also a ventriloquist and used her many talents for communication of religious themes. Theresa created three large and unique Magi puppets that were used for many years at St. Mark's. Theresa served until 1983.

OTHER STAFF

Music: Organist, Florence Paul, retired in 1974 after serving for many years. After that Donna Tomiyama, Donna Watters and Merrill Davis were organists and in May 1976 St. Mark's hired Dorothy McKibben as lead organist. Dorothy reported she "likes a variety of music and feels that worship music should be an affirmation celebration of joys and sorrows of our lives."

Choir Directors through the seventies were Tom Douglas, Jim Mitchell, Donna Tomiyama, Joan Hynes and Esther Miller Sutton.

Office: Blossom Wood and Helen Dawes served as Secretary and Bookkeeper, respectively, until 1970. Beth Shoemaker began as Church Secretary in October 1970 and at the same time Carol Piper was hired as Secretarial Assistant doing bookkeeping and handling all of the office printing on the off-set press. She and



Pat Jackson, who began as Secretary and resident artist in 1977, created beautiful, multi-colored bulletin covers for worship services. Jo Ann Carey was Treasurer beginning in 1977.

Custodial: Dave Hill was hired May 1974 as custodian following the untimely death of Alex Montano. Mark Cromwell was hired as gardener in 1975 and served until his death in 1997.

MILESTONES AND HAPPENINGS IN THE SEVENTIES

Our Building: In November 1970, the Fellowship Hall patio benches were completed. The Markings said, "They were once beams in the old Yolo Causeway, are top quality redwood, well seasoned and rugged, no paint needed, will not warp and will last just about forever." Designed by Bob Metcalf and built by Stan Aldrich, with help from his son, Paul, and daughter, Patti.

A significant event in the life of St. Mark's was the mortgage burning ceremony, that took place during a celebratory service in our sanctuary on October 22, 1978. Bishop Stuart delivered the sermon and later urged everyone to applaud until every scrap of the mortgage was burned. Our minister, Dave Wolf, said he saw this time as a rededication and transition time in our history and the theme "Rooted in the Past, Alive for the Future" as a statement of fact. During that same month the social hall remodeling was completed.

The erection of the St. Mark's redwood sign situated on the northeast corner of the property was completed in

1979. The trustees had discussed having a sign, but were concerned about the cost. Noel Glasgow had friends who owned land near his cabin in Mendocino County. A large, 400 year old redwood tree was dangerously close to one of their buildings, and they had a permit to fell it, but no one to tackle the task. Noel and Dave Wolf went there and, using a chain saw, milled the wood for the sign. It was loaded on a boat trailer and towed to Sacramento. Roy Baker routed the name of the church on the redwood slab. A crew built the uprights and installed the beautiful sign, which still directs people to our church today.

OUR WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

In 1970 Bob Moon asked in Markings that the congregation help him with sermon topics for the next year. He asked that people write a statement starting: "My most important uncertain ethical judgments are..." or "A value issue which seems unsettled for me now is..."

In 1973 a student about to begin college stopped by to tell Bob she thought the dismissal he uses as worship benediction, taken from phrases in the New Testament, is a good message to young people on their way to college. "Go forth in the world in peace. Be of good

It cost the church \$35 per week. Our worship service was on TV, Channel 10 in June 1976.

In 1976 during Advent, a 9:00 a.m. contemporary worship service was held in the Social Hall with a guitar group accompanying hymns. Eighty people attended the first service.

Dave Wolf continued the approach of biographical sermons which Bob Moon had offered. Dave says that one characterization which was most meaningful to him was that of John Muir. One of the last outings he led during his time at St. Mark's was a day trip to the Sierra Nevada where the group stopped along the way and read selected writings of Muir.

A treat for the congregation during the summer of 1977 was the exchange of our minister, Dave Wolf, with Donald Ryan, a pastor from Wolverhampton, England. The five week exchange was worked out through the Methodist World Council.

By the mid-70s a variety of small groups was organized for spiritual growth. Ray and Joanna Ballard worked with Dave Wolf in creating this program and several groups were organized. In 1978 a new study group was started, The Power and Light Company, based on Ephesians was lead by Belva Skaggs.

OUR FELLOWSHIP

Sunday morning summer brunches began in June 1972. Council on Ministries voted to sponsor the activity. The price for brunch was 75 cents for adults, and 50 cents for children. Lori White was the first brunch coordinator and that year the attendance averaged 90 people per Sunday.

In October 1972, St. Mark's celebrated its 21st anniversary, with a dinner and program in the Fellowship Hall. The 20th anniversary had slipped by without a celebration!

The Middlers, a new adult group, was formed in 1975. It was for adults between Mark Twains and the 49ers in age. Middlers developed into several Galaxy groups in 1977, with John and Marion Dodd serving as the organizational leaders. A year later there were 115 people involved in Galaxy groups. Each group selected an



courage. Hold fast to what is good. Repay no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all persons. Love and serve the Lord. Amen."

During 1973 St. Mark's worship services were broadcast on KCRA radio at 6:45 a.m. Sunday for 6 months.



original name relating to our galaxy. (In one formative session, someone suggested that the group assume the name "Mars," after which Bob Moon opined that "Snickers" might be another possibility.) Also in the mid-'70s there was "Dinner with Friends". Reservations were called in to the church office, and diners didn't know what restaurant had been selected until they met in the parking lot to car-pool. In 1977, the Solitaires a group for the single, widowed and divorced was organized. About the same time, a social group was formed by people (mostly from Texas) who had played "42" a game played with dominoes. The program was launched in the home of George and Emily Joe Roberts with a dozen participants. One year later, more than 40 people came to the Social Hall for an evening of "42".

In summer, 1975, St. Mark's attended "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Music Circus; group rate was \$3.75 per ticket! On July 4, 1976, the St. Mark's family convened on the church lawn and celebrated "Bicentennial Fourth" with shared food and fireworks. During the



summer of '77, on four Wednesday evenings, St. Mark's families came together to "Meet and Eat".

Church Family Camps were held each spring in May. On Memorial Day weekend in '78, camp was held at Mt. Shasta, a favorite retreat spot of Dave Wolf.

MEMBERSHIP CARE

In a November 1974 Markings, Dave Wolf in his "Wolf Tracts" column asks for name suggestions for the newly formed church "emergency" help service. It was later announced that Evangelism Commission had chosen "Living In Friendship and Trust", or LIFT. Marian White and Betty Metcalf were the first coordinators.

The first pictorial directory was published in 1976. Also that year, the "Fellowship Friends" concept was introduced to help new members become assimilated when they joined the church.

In October 1976, "Come Celebrate" was the theme for St. Mark's 25th Anniversary.

On Palm Sunday in 1977 we had the first Arts & Crafts Show, spotlighting creativity. Members and friends were invited to exhibit their artistic work. This Show



was held annually for several years. Pat Jackson, Hazel Hart and Jim Reece were the organizers.

Neighborhood Groups were formed in February 1977. This was a major undertaking, organizing the congregation by zip code into 58 groups. Each neighborhood had a leader who kept in touch with those on their list. Some groups planned dinners and social activities

together. Heinz and Hope Heckerth were leaders in this effort and Marie Baker maintained a large area map with color coded pins indicating where our members lived.

In March 1977, St. Mark's lost a charter member and devoted lay leader. Col. Frank Paul worked in the beginning organizational work and continued serving St. Mark's especially in membership care. For many years before every Sunday service he greeted parishioners in the narthex.

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

For several years in the '70s the UMM Club held an Annual Graduate Breakfast honoring high school, junior college and college grads with a breakfast and



speaker. Often offering a special event relating to food, UMM sponsored a Mother's Day breakfast in '78. UMM had benefit pancakes breakfasts and in '77 proceeds went to the organ fund. In the early '70s UMM and UMYF sold 4th of July fireworks at Walnut and Marconi. Through the early '70s UMM held a yearly Dad and Daughter Dinner, and had an annual Lad's and Dad's Retreat. The UMM group had a paper bin at church monthly, for collection to "make some money and help ecology".



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

In May 1975, UMW had a fashion show, showing how clothing changed for women down through history, especially as women's liberation took hold. This was the beginning of "Fashion Memories", as it is now known, and UMW's large vintage clothing collection. The original organizers of this project were Kathleen Roberts, Roberta Rice, and Doris Vail. Lillian Parmley served as coordinator for many years. UMW has presented their "Fashion Memories" show to many outside groups, and continues to do so today.

UMW had evening circle groups that met in homes. In 1976 a Mom's Sharing Group was started, meeting two mornings a month. A popular UMW program was the book review group, where one of the ministers would review a book or two each month, encouraging discussion and sharing of books. It continues today.

It was observed in the Markings of 1974 that the UMW officers were listed as Mrs. and their husband's given name, not their own. By mid-70s that changed.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Council coordinated the youth program. For United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF), the junior and senior high school students met separately on Sunday evenings and came together for retreats. Counselors were parents or individuals from the church community. During this decade the youth program was active and varied: programs for fun and education, retreats, day trips to the snow, San Francisco, bake sales, paper drives and outreach service in various church supported activities.



In June 1975, the first group of youth went to work on the rehabilitation of Indian homes with the Appalachian Service Project which would later be known as Sierra Service Project (SSP). The SSP was officially organized in February 1977, with Dave Wolf as first Board President. Jim Roberts and Pat Jackson were among early board members.

St. Mark's became part of the International Christian Youth Exchange program in 1976, with Paul Hobbs as chair. The first exchangee arrived in 1977, a high school boy from the Philippines. He was hosted by the Pearson family. As a fund raiser, ICYE introduced the Christmas greenery sales in 1978 and in 1979 their first Auction/Luncheon was held. Jeff Bryan was the first exchangee from St. Mark's; leaving in July 1978 for one year in Iceland.

A church outreach to the youth of our community was St. Mark's Saturday Night Teen Center, which operated in the Fellowship Hall. It was started in 1967, with Bill Bryan and Mickey Hoffman taking major responsibility for coordinating the program. It ran for 4 years, closing in October 1971. John White and Lori



Wann volunteered at the center; their team work led to marriage in 1969. They are still working with our youth today.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

In 1972, Sunday School had "contract classes" for grades 3 to 6. Each contract of 3 months had workshops for the children. Sessions were two hours long. This concept was developed by Mona Dyer, Minister of Christian Education. Later it was adopted by other churches.

The 1973 Christmas pageant was "Spirit of Christmas Past (1873), Present (1973) and future (2073). The first Journey to Bethlehem was held in 1970, showing our children what life was like in Palestine at the time of the birth of Jesus.



Alternative Church School Activity was started in 1976. It was for elementary children during the 11:00 worship service, later called AWE (Alternative Worship Experience).

To help fill the vacuum left when summer schools were closed (after the passing of the Jarvis-Gann initiative) St. Mark's offered a summer of '78 program for grades 1-6 consisting of Arts, crafts, values clarification, learning activities and recreation. It was held Tuesday through Thursday, 9:30 to noon for one month at a cost of \$5 per child. Church and neighborhood children participated.



St. Mark's Nursery School was founded in 1969, and during the early 70s Ann Boltinghouse Livesay served as director. The earliest charge for preschool participants was \$1 per session.

MUSIC MINISTRY

We had a Chancel Choir which provided anthems for 11:00 service and a soloist for the 9:30 service each Sunday. They also presented special music for some programs, and occasionally joined another church choir to perform in concert. At different times during the decade there was a choir for children, youth and also a family choir.

By May 1974, the original St. Mark's organ was "a sick Hammond". Bob Jones spent many Saturday nights fixing it so there would be a working organ on Sunday morning. It was decided a new sanctuary organ was needed and Ed Hasbrouck chaired the committee to raise funds to purchase one. A Markings article asked, "Did you know that the sanctuary is designed for pipes?" The committee would have liked to install a pipe organ. However, in March 1976, the decision was made to buy the Rogers Organ, for a total cost \$24,600. Several events were sponsored by the committee to benefit a new organ including a concert series, parking lot sale, pizza parties and paper drives.

During the '70s, "New Wine" songbooks were used as a supplement to our traditional hymnals. Jim Strathdee

was editor of these songbooks, and the selections introduced the congregation to contemporary music for worship.

WITNESS IN THE WORLD - MISSIONS

St. Mark's can not think of world outreach without mentioning our involvement in the Heifer Project International (HPI). It was September 1974, when HPI was first mentioned as an "opportunity" for St. Mark's outreach. HPI was a presence at our church since the mid-50s, when the Sunday School classes collected money for purchasing chicks, ducks, pigs and goats. But it was because of a strong corps of volunteers inspired by the dedication and leadership of Ray and Dorothy Miller that St. Mark's became one of the leading church supporters of HPI in the country. Their first major effort was to purchase animals locally to take to the Heifer "Round Up" in Pleasanton in October 1976. In July 1977, the first Neighborhood Garage Sale was held for the benefit of Heifer Project, to buy "Perky Pig". The neighborhood groups were encouraged to have these sales "as a great way to get to know your St. Mark's neighbors, get the garage cleaned, have fun and fight world hunger." In June 1978 Heifer Project started the Sharing Table during the summer brunches. The profits earned from church people sharing their excess produce and baked goods was used to buy "Ms. Heifer", who was being raised by a local rancher. The first of the famous Heifer Project yard sales was held in 1978. The yard sales (10 total) got bigger every year and were huge undertakings that required a large committee that worked year-round in preparation. Other church sponsored activities benefitted HPI, including





Golf Tournaments. The tournament in May 1978, chaired by Cal Bollwinkel, had 28 participants who played in the rain!

During the '70s, as today, St. Mark's was a mission minded congregation. In the early days it was partly due to our relationship with and support of church members Bill and Esther Finster. St. Mark's helped the Finsters mission in many ways, by providing boxes of clothing (63 boxes in 1977), books, and other supplies as well as monetary gifts.

WITNESS IN THE SACRAMENTO COMMUNITY

The decade included outreach to Del Paso Heights Action Center and their Good Neighbors Child Care Centers. In 1974, UMW's Mama Marks Circle worked directly with the Del Paso Heights community and those in need in that neighborhood. At the time, Sally Weinland was coordinator. Because of the friendship between St. Mark's and Del Paso Heights Center, in December 1974 we were invited to be guests at a Christmas dinner there.

In 1971 the St. Mark's Housing Rehabilitation Committee was formed. Joann Bryan provided information on this project, saying that on many Saturdays, church members, including her sons, gave time helping families in Del Paso Heights by painting or doing minor repairs on their homes.

The Methodist Hospital, in South Sacramento, opened in October 1973 with St. Mark's Dr. John Cox as Chairman of the Board.

St. Mark's voted to sponsor two Vietnamese families and assist them by providing food, clothing and money to help them get established. A Refugee Task Force began work in June 1975, headed by Heinz Heckeroth. Funds to support this effort were raised in various

ways, including putting on a Vietnamese dinner, coordinated by Delberta Bass.

A BIT OF TRIVIA FROM THE SEVENTIES

There were many weddings at St. Mark's in the early '70s, an average of 48 weddings each year. Infant baptisms occurred sometimes 3 Sunday services in a row as well.

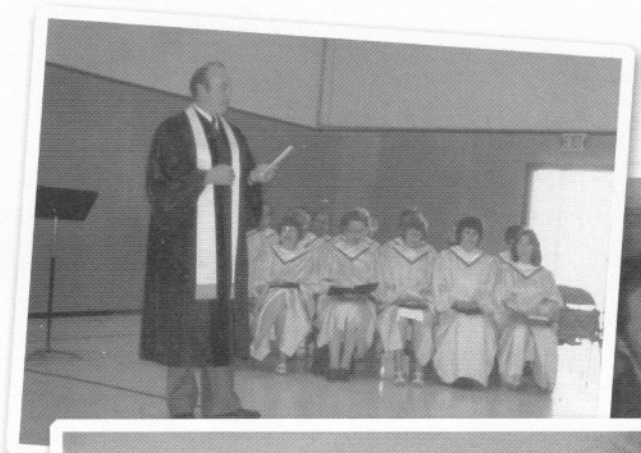
Bob Moon commented in his Moon Dust column in June 1973 that there is a significant increase in the number of women who are preparing for ministry. Half of those ordained as Elders in the 1973 Annual Conference were women.

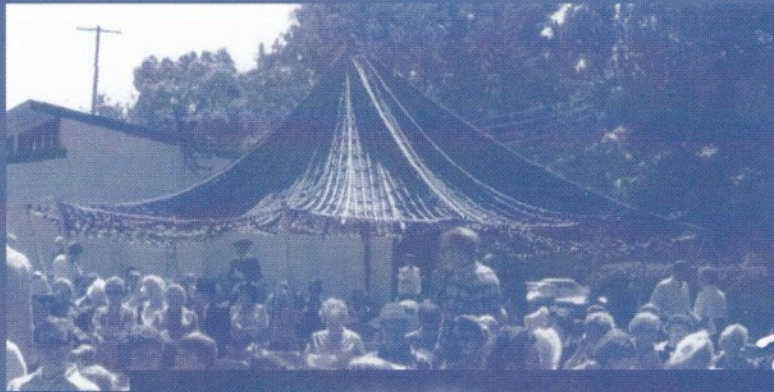
Survey results showed a profile of those attending St. Mark's on May 20, 1973: A typical person at St. Mark's on Sunday a.m.: female, married, 45-53 years old, with some college education, who has lived in the community 10 years plus, who participates by attending 3-4 times a month, is white and has a family income of over \$20,000.

We leave the '70s with a quote from the San Francisco Chronicle used by Bob Moon in his Moon Dust column. It says: "The Mission of the church is two fold. It is to nurture, sustain and instruct those already in its

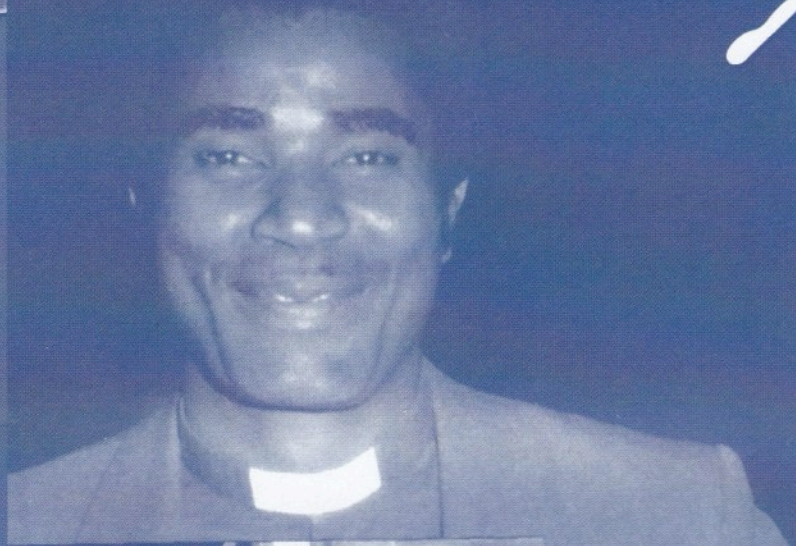


membership and it is to reach out with love and humility, and to render whatever service it can to the rest of humankind." All through the '70s St. Mark's committed to that role and found ways to make a difference in our community. As we head into the '80s we have a strong and vital church, ready to meet the challenge of change and the continuation of our mission.





1980s





1980-1989

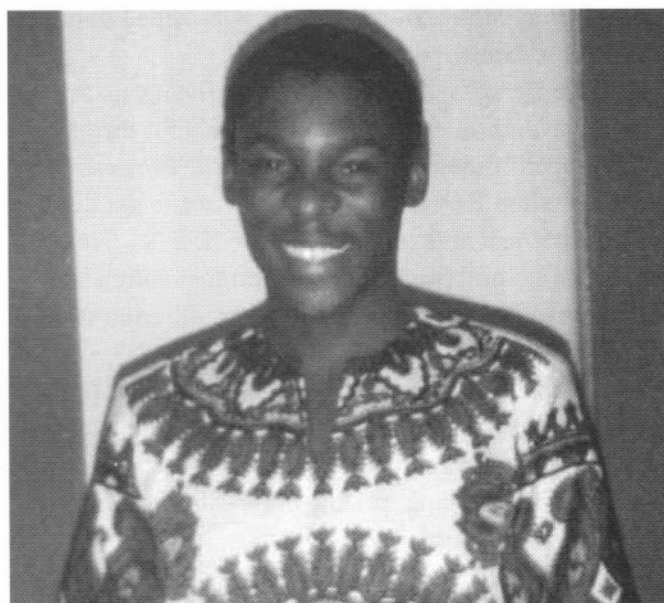
The St. Mark's congregation was ushered into the '80s by the minister who had come to the church in 1974, the Rev. David Wolf. The Rev. Theresa Mason was our Associate and Ginnie Pearson was our Christian Education Assistant. Dave's column in Markings was called "Wolf Tracks" and Theresa's column was called "Theresa's Teasers".

In 1982, the office staff was Beth Shoemaker, Pat Jackson, Carol Piper and Jo Ann Carey. Our custodians were Dave Hill and Mark Cromwell. Our choir director was Esther Miller Sutton and the organist was Dorothy McKibben. Sue Coddington Allen directed the Bell Choir.

Missionaries we supported who were church families were Bill and Esther Finster in Zimbabwe, and Mark and Bonnie Bollwinkel in Sarawak, Malaysia. Mark was on the staff of St. Mark's for a short time upon the family's return to the United States and is now a pastor in the California-Nevada Annual Conference. Bill and Esther Finster retired in Grass Valley and now live in Nevada City.

In October of 1982 Anna Jo Watson was hired as Educational Assistant. In 1983 Jeff and Kathyryne Snyder joined the staff. Jeff came as Associate Pastor and Kathyryne was hired for a half-time position (25 hours a week) with emphasis on the youth program, young adults and singles. Kathyryne became quite ill and was hospitalized, requiring many units of blood and blood products. The members of the church community were all praying for her recovery. It was a very emotional time in the life of the church. We had our first blood drive with around 50 donations. Kathyryne did recover.

Before the decade of the '80s Dave Wolf, along with Jim Roberts and others, helped create the Sierra Service Project, which is still going strong today as an independent organization. Youth and young adults find their faith in service to rural native American communities. In 1984, Volunteers in Mission, originally called St. VIM, began with service given by adults. One of the first projects was the visit to Round Valley Indian Mission for the repair and painting of the historic building. As VIM continued, more than 100 St. Mark's



St. Mark's had the opportunity to help a student from Zimbabwe, Pau "Prayer" Chimonyo, to attend college. Prayer lived with Jim and Neva Munro.

members worked on 33 projects in six foreign countries and several states.

Some of our members and others participated with Bishop Sparks in a community survey of the Cameron Park area in preparation of establishing the United Methodist church there.

St. Mark's continued its missions emphasis into all the world. One of the highlights and most meaningful experiences was the continued support of St. Mark's members Bill and Esther Finster as missionaries in Zimbabwe. In 1984 the Finsters offered St. Mark's the opportunity to help a student from Zimbabwe, Pau "Prayer" Chimonyo, to attend college. Prayer lived with Jim and Neva Munro.

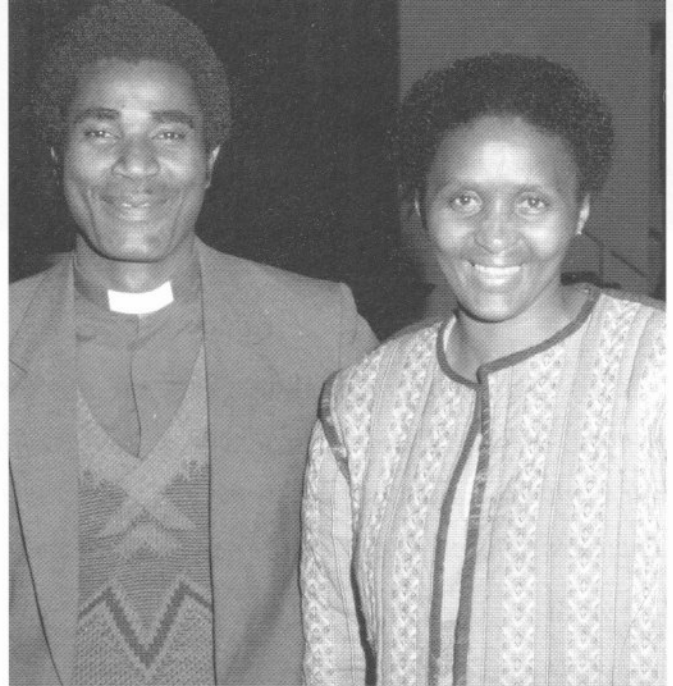
A Refugee Task Force was created in the early '80s. This committee, led by John Rehfus and Maureen

Work, and including Duane Morford, Jim Munro and John Lundstrom, worked with Conference Coordinator Shawn McSpadden and ultimately sponsored two refugees from Erithrea (formerly part of Ethiopia) Berhune Teclab and Fissaha Kiflohm. Our congregation increased their pledges to give the refugees a monthly stipend so that they would not need to be on welfare. Later, Fissaha's wife Teka came. Sally Weinland met her at the airport and helped by checking on such things as school enrollment.

In 1984 a Czech family appeared at the church office asking for help. Sylvia Hatfield, who speaks that language, happened to be in the office. She took them to her home. Many church members provided donations to the family.

On Jan. 5, 1989, The Rev. Lungisa Nyangane and his wife, Nondumiso, came to St. Mark's for three months from Butterworth, South Africa. They were sent by Bishop Bartmann of South Africa to get them out of apartheid and give them some "R & R". They lived with Ira and Mary Haberle, and the church was enriched with a different culture and a different expression of Methodism.

Participation in Heifer Project International (HPI) was strong and enriching to many at St. Mark's during this decade. Many members spent long, rewarding hours hauling, sorting, pricing and selling donated items for the yard sales to help Heifer Project. We

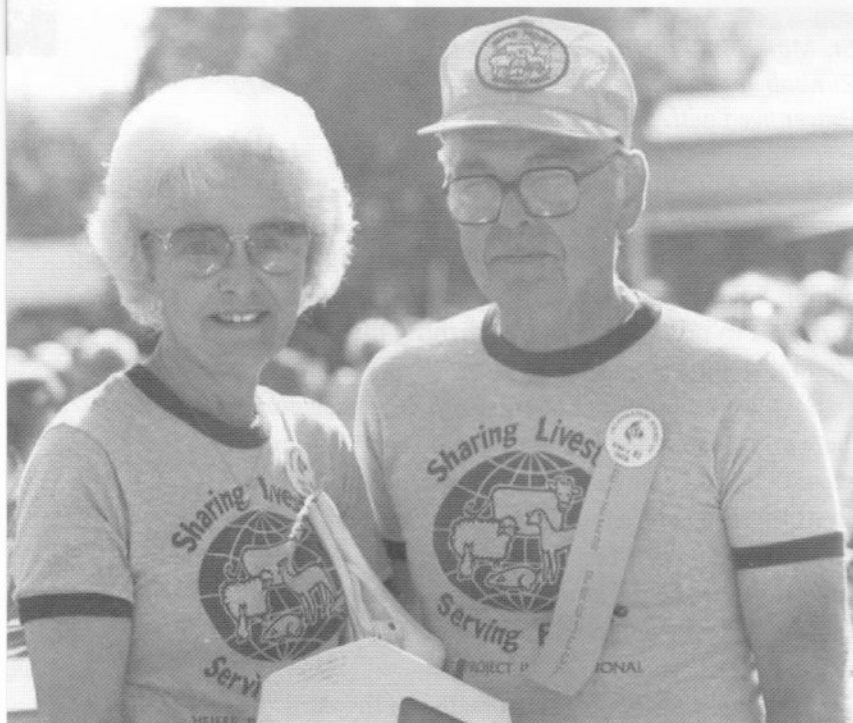


Rev. Lungisa and Nondumiso Nyangane

became a national leader for HPI, and Ray and Dorothy Miller, through their dedication, spearheaded the support. In June of 1986 a two-day yard sale yielded \$22,792 for Heifer Project International.

The ICYE (International Christian Youth Exchange) program continued strong all through the '80s, with many families participating. Sales of Christmas greenery and annual auctions provided funds to help send and receive exchangees, who came from countries far and near.

Marriage Encounter, ("Making a good marriage better") attracted more than 50 couples from St. Mark's to participate in weekend retreats in the Bay Area and Sacramento under the leadership of Glenn and Gwen Tilton. Later in the '80s Joanna and Ray Ballard led a group for engaged couples preparing for marriage. Our youth ministry continued, and there was a growing Sunday School. Boni Fields became our Sunday School Superintendent and still fills that position. We experienced wonderful and nurturing Vacation Bible Schools (VBS). Also, 1986 presented the Life of Moses in costume; 1987 was called Joseph's Journey; Lent brought the Jerusalem Marketplace; Christmas brought the musical pageant Arch the Angel using our junior choir and others. Ed McCollum's popular adult Bible class, which studied

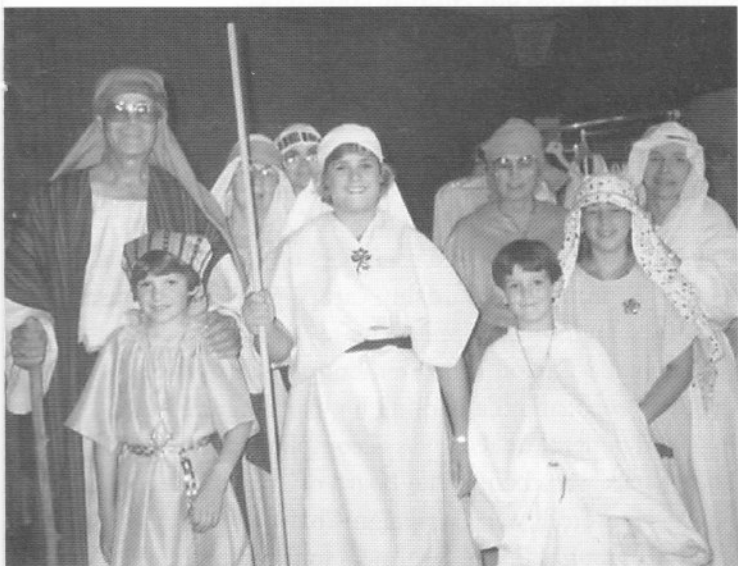


Dorothy and Ray Miller

the entire Bible, continued throughout the '80s.

Early in 1984, a start was made to develop a more specialized program for older members. This was called "Senior Ministries" and welcomed anyone over the age of 60.

Financial Planning Seminars were held in the '80s to help our members with their stewardship. St. Mark's



pre-school director was Linda Sparks. In 1987 Pam Bell assumed the duties of pre-school director. Ann Livesay and Carolyn Johnson Alexander also helped.

The church's afterschool program opened in 1988, with Susan Laudi as director. The program was an outgrowth of planning for several years by the Committee on the Status and Role of Women. Jeanne Barnett, Ellie Charlton, Doris Menezes, Carol Lipe Thomas, Cheryl Nativo and Betty Youngren were members of the group. Several weeks before the program was scheduled to begin in 1988, San Juan Unified School District cut back the bus route that served this area. Pledges were solicited from St. Mark's families to support the program, and an area Lutheran church donated the first van. Early in the program's existence, a children's concert with Judy Fjell was held as a fund-raiser. One church family also provided an interest-free loan for purchase of the red van that served the after-school program and church for eight years.

The United Methodist Women established "The Book Review" and other circles during the '80s as growth groups. The members of Fashion Memories presented many popular fashion shows. UMW gave \$1,000 to start a pre-school program in the Transkei,

South Africa area to support the work of the Nyanganis, our visiting pastor and his wife.

The United Methodist Men served pancake breakfasts that were great fund-raisers. This active group also had a paper bin for newspaper recycling.

May of 1984 brought a special "Camp Meeting", a bicentennial celebration of Methodism. This was a costume event that involved dressing as Methodists did 200 years ago. Bob and Doris Moon were Susanna and John Wesley.

All-Church Camp has been a longtime summer adventure. In 1982 camp was at an old historic gold mining camp in the mountains above Nevada City. It was very, very rustic! Most everyone slept in a large room with very old metal bunk beds. Emily Jaske and Emily Nichols attended in their infant seats. An old-fashioned shivaree was given to Theresa Mason and her new husband who were in their tent. The next several years saw us at Camp Ross Relles. The coast redwoods attracted us to Westminster Woods. Camp Sacramento was also a fun spot. Sky Mountain off Highway 80 at Yuba Gap had a lake that was enjoyed by many.

The farewell to Dave Wolf was in June 1984, and on July 1, the Reverend Norman Calloway and his wife, Ardith, came to St. Mark's. Carolyn Alexander Johnson became Coordinator of Special Ministries.

July 1985 brought the Rev. Frank Roberts to the ministerial staff of St. Mark's as Associate Pastor. His wife's name was Sandy.

Frank Roberts and Carolyn Alexander left the St. Mark's ministerial staff in June of 1986. July 1, 1986,

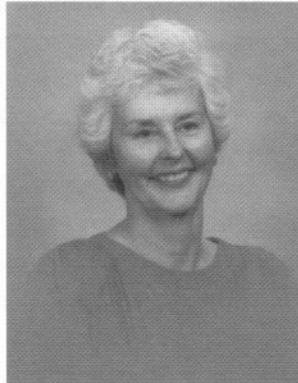


brought the Rev. Eileen Lindsay to St. Mark's as Associate. Her husband's name was Chuck McGinn. In July 1988 Mary McCollum, a member of St. Mark's, joined the program staff of the church as Director of Outreach Ministries. The Stephen Ministry program began, and many other helping groups such as the support group for caregivers to those with dementia and the elderly were started.

July 1987 brought the appointment of the Rev. Donald Fado to St. Mark's. His wife's name is Jean. In November 1987 JoEllen Fortenberry-Ford was our Seminary intern.

The celebration of St. Mark's 35th anniversary was commemorated by our own Bishop Leontine Kelly, the first black woman Bishop in Methodism. The event was held on Sunday, Oct. 19, 1986, with an anniversary dinner and program entitled, "The Best Is Yet to Be".

The patio between the Sanctuary and the Administrative Building was funded and built in 1985-86 as was the fence for the pre-school program. The large puppets, commonly called "The Magi", were made during this decade under the direction and design of Theresa Mason. They have been used



Mary McCollum



Rev. Eileen Lindsay



extensively across our Annual Conference.

Dine-out groups and small groups called Galaxies were very popular and contributed to the life of the church. The groups met in homes for potlucks or went on outings to plays and recreation sites.

In November 1987, more than 500 people attended a free catered dinner prepared by Joe Moncrief. This was offered to friends and members of St. Mark's as a part of the annual stewardship campaign. The program was titled "We've Got Something to Share".

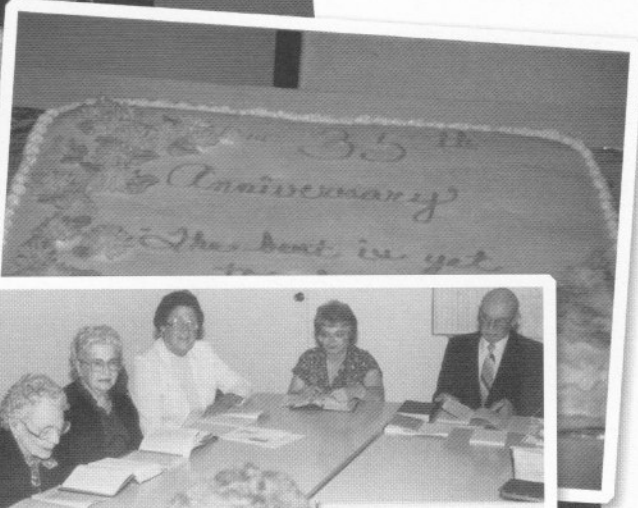
The 1988 Capital Improvement program which included repairing the parking lot, painting the buildings and general upkeep was accomplished. Fred Loutensock was chair of the Board of Trustees and Heinz Heckerth was Campaign Chair.

1988 brought Susan Summers to the church office as treasurer and Orrinda Stockton as half-time secretary.

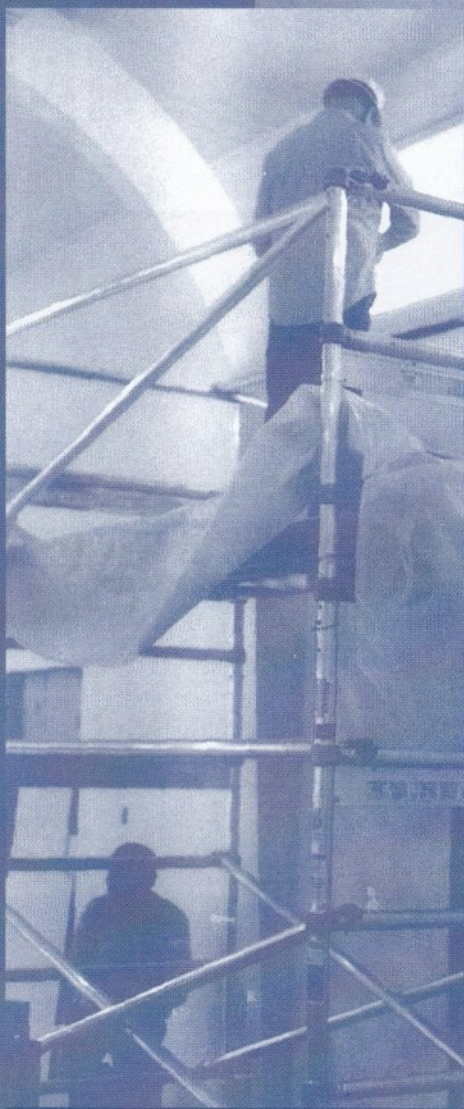
Also in 1989 new hymnals were purchased, and the new young adult group called "The Roaring Twenties" converted the storage shed and rooms into new youth classrooms.

During the '80s, lay people from St. Mark's entering seminary to prepare for the ministry were (Bill Beau) Bryan, Virginia Pearson and Carolyn Alexander. As the decade of the '90s approached we looked forward with anticipation to new spiritual and physical growth and opportunities of service to others. Items from text to be placed elsewhere in the history: Include in '70s: The exchange of our pastor, Dave Wolf, with the pastor from Wolverhampton, England, offered new experiences for the St. Mark's community. The English pastor, Donald Ryan, was enthusiastically received by the congregation.

The construction of St. Mark's redwood sign was another highlight. The redwood was machined from a redwood tree near Annapolis, Calif., that was approximately 400 years old and was to be removed because it was a hazard. The timbers were brought to St. Mark's on a boat trailer. Many members were involved in lettering and erecting the sign.



1990s





1990-1999

In the '90s our worship services were expanded and diversified, including our music programs. Our Sunday School program for children, youth and adults was strengthened, and attendance increased significantly. We built a modern, large two-story education building and remodeled our administrative wing and sanctuary. Our strong in-house programs and outreach programs were continued and enlarged. In this decade our membership did not increase, but there was an air of vigor in our expanded church community life. The staff for this period is listed at the end of The Nineties.

WORSHIP

By year 2000 we had transitioned our Sunday services to a traditional service at 9:30 and a contemporary service at 11:00. (9/96) During the summer, we switched to one service at 10:10. (6/98) We also added an informal, family-oriented service on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., later changed to a Friday night service that included dinner. (9/97) The sermons of our senior pastor, Don Fado, were unique and powerful. He tackled the key social issues of our times, and sometimes included biographical sketches of inspired individuals who blazed trails and set high Christian standards for our emulation. Our worship services continued to be the first focus and spiritual center of our church life. Attendance was high this decade. We were blessed with a deep backup supply of pastors on staff and in the congregation who assisted with Sunday services and other pastoral duties. A sacred dance group of high school girls performed every other month and at spe-



Sunday morning worshippers - Dan Wolfe, Jim Reece, Lori & John White & Gary Evans

cial events. We started the tradition of having a jazz group play during the Sunday service on Memorial Day weekend when the Sacramento Jazz Festival was in progress. Another tradition begun in the '90s, was recognition of members who had died during the year, on a Sunday near All Saint's Day. In 1990, Mary McCollum promoted the passing of the peace based on popular speaker Leo Buscaglia's emphasis on the need for human touch.



Belva & Bert Skaggs with worship banners

Many church members assisted with support services on Sunday. Members who needed transportation were picked up in the church van. Dorothy Pattison coordinated audio taping of morning services; duplicate copies were available to members for \$1. A committee of churchwomen provided floral and artwork displays for the altar. Each woman was inspired to create her own arrangements. First-time visitors were asked to stand and were given a long-stemmed carnation to help identify them. Large, long banners with artistic symbols and designs were created by members led by Belva Skaggs, and hung in the chancel

reflecting different church seasons and holidays. In 1992, we began using signers at one service to communicate the service to the hearing-impaired. Nancy Nos was our first signer. The last half of the '90s, we paid a signer, Terry Blanchard. Polly Wagner, a volunteer, also signed at some services. Personal public address receivers were available to those in the pews who had partial hearing loss. Jim Munro oversaw the installation of a lift during the sanctuary renovation for those needing assistance to get from the nave level to the chancel level. One might characterize the '90s as the decade of change for church ushers headed by Hank Taber. By year 2000, half of the ushers were either women or high school youth. In addition, four members greeted worshipers at the entrances at both services. Other volunteers served refreshments after each service. A Worship Commission, the ministers and the music directors oversaw the worship program.

MUSIC PROGRAM

St. Mark's was blessed this decade with a wealth of musical talent and leadership. Jim and Jean Strathdee, nationally known composers and performers, directed the music program. Their musical style fell in the



Chancel Choir

Christian-folk category, and they often included world music in the service. By mid-decade the Strathdees' main focus was the 11:00 (previously at 9:30) contemporary service during which they led the St. Mark's Singers. This group began in 1990 under the direction of Jean Fado. The Strathdees assumed the leadership when they arrived later in 1990. This choir was a more informal group and practiced Sunday mornings. An instrumental ensemble performed at this service also including at various times flutes, guitars, percussion,

trumpet, trombone, and electronic keyboard. Jim and Jean interchanged leadership of the choir and congregation with playing their instruments: guitar, mandolin, banjo, harmonica, drums and piano. A new grand piano was purchased in the early '90s.

There was no less musical talent in the first service. In the early '90s, the Strathdees led the choir for the traditional service. Then in '95, Norm Devol, a professional singer of operatic quality who was involved in numerous musical programs outside the church in the Sacramento area, was hired as director and part-time organist. This choir, which performs in robes, was known as the Chancel Choir. They practiced on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. Instrumentalists including violinists, a cellist, flutists and bells frequently supported the Chancel Choir. The organist in the early '90s was Ruth Northam. During the last half of the decade Dorothy McKibben, an outstanding musician and a leader in local organ guild circles, was the lead organist. In 1999, when she retired, a concert fund was started in her honor. Another professional organist, Jack Miller, followed Dorothy.

Other groups in the church furthered the musical program. Sue Coddington Allen led the bell choir through 1990. Carol Baltzell followed Sue as director. The Bells of St. Mark's performed every month or so at Sunday services and at special events. A children's choir performed occasionally at church services, led by Bette Moore, Michelle Carrier, Merri Sue Brown, Robyn Jovalis, and Flo Perry throughout the '90s. From 1997 to 1999 a small men's choir led by Dan Weeks performed at a few services. Beginning in 1997 a small combo called Ezekiel's Wheels performed contemporary church music at some of the Friday night Family Services and occasionally at the 11 o'clock service on Sunday.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

In the '90s St. Mark's members continued and expanded their traditional involvement in church originated outreach programs.

Missions: Support for the Heifer Project continued to be a top priority. Yard sales continued; later, some yard sales were held at the homes of those moving to retirement housing. In 1995 a new theme called for filling an Ark full of pairs of animals at a cost of \$5000 for 15



Sharing table – Dorothy & Ray Miller, Fred & Cecilia Stallcop

pairs. Funds came from Sunday School collections, youth group projects and the Sharing Table proceeds. Heifer Sunday was celebrated the third Sunday of May with video's, live animals supplied by Nancy Pitsch, and other activities. St. Mark's members were very active in supporting Hunger Attack, a community-wide, country-fair type event involving 112 churches through 1993 that averaged \$31,000 per year in donations. Virtually all of the Heifer Project activities continued under the tireless and creative leadership of Ray and Dorothy Miller. Fred and Cecilia Stallcop became national board members. In 1997 the Heifer Projects national quarterly magazine featured a photo of the St. Mark's congregation, which was also in their 1998 brochure. In January 1998, Bill Beck, Pacific West Regional Director of Heifer Project, reported that lifetime giving to Heifer Project from St. Mark's activities was \$272, 210.47!

Missionaries Supported by St. Mark's in the '90s: For several years, St. Mark's continued to support Lyda Pierce and Paul Jeffery, our missionaries in Nicaragua and Honduras; we continued to support the Rev. Lungisa and Nondumiso Nyangane, from Butterworth, Transkei, South Africa, after their extended stay here in 1989. We supported Global Partner Shimba Bulaya, who was the coordinator of women's work in Zaire. Shimba was the mother of Joel Bulaya, a member of our congregation. We welcomed home Bob and Hazel Buckner, missionaries to Nepal whom we had supported over the years.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

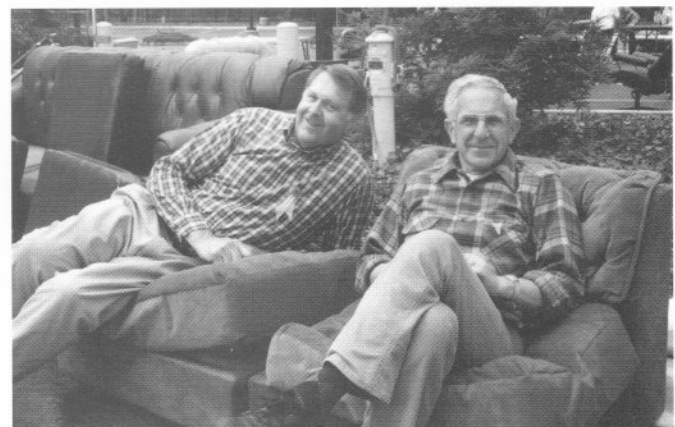
The program of Church and Society over the last decade was best defined by the mission statement of St. Mark's, from the words of Jesus in John 10:10b: I

came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. We sought, through our programs of education and outreach, under the leadership of an inspired staff and lay leaders, to help the members of St. Mark's and the larger community find a more abundant life. Two major emphases were works of mercy and works of justice.

In the '90s, we continued support of several local agencies: Loaves and Fishes with all its programs, Francis House, Downtown Food Basket, and Habitat for Humanity. As

homelessness increased, our support of housing programs increased to include Quinn Cottages, Friendship Housing, Sacramento Housing Alliance, and the Interfaith Housing Network. In addition:

- 1) We became charter members of Sacramento ACT. (See following section)
- 2) The Population and Environment task force, initiated by Dave MacMurdo, evolved into the Coalition for



Yard sale helpers - Hank Taber & Harold Garfield

Sustainability and courses were offered in Voluntary Simplicity, Deep Ecology, and Bio-regional Perspective, led by Dave MacMurdo and Bob Richards.

- 3) Dyer-Kelly projects were started by Jimmie Poxon and Lori Christiansen in 1997 to provide Dyer-Kelly Elementary School with items for special occasions. It grew to include a meal for the Back-to-School community gathering, and Christmas bags with school supplies and goodies for 260 students.
- 4) The Reconciling Congregation Task Force offered a study course, The Church Looks at Homosexuality, and was involved in the Holy Union of 1999. (See Special Events section).
- 5) Letter writing and petition signing tables, led by Ken



Loaves and Fishes sponsors Cynthia Lawrence and Bob Richards.

and Donna Fors, made it easy to express our views to policy makers.

- 6) The "Year of the Child" was focused on one year.
- 7) Sessions were provided to discuss ballot initiatives.
- 8) Bell ringers were solicited by Clarence Youngren and the Ecumenical Affairs subcommittee for the Salvation Army collection points at Christmas time.

In late 1999, Missions and Church and Society Commissions melded into one group to be known as Ministry in Action.

Area Congregations Together: In 1992, St. Mark's became one of the founding member churches in Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT). ACT was a faith-based, community-organizing endeavor concerned about the quality of life in the Sacramento Region. Beginning in 1992, ACT grew to a federation of 28 different churches and school-parent organizations representing over 25,000 families.

Accomplishments: ACT helped establish Sacramento START, an academically centered after-school program available at no cost in target schools. ACT helped the Sacramento Unified School District pass a school bond issue and helped the district start education reform programs improving the quality of student instruction. The reforms included a model parent-teacher home visit project that received national recognition. ACT helped move Sacramento County to improve the

Primary Health Care Clinic system and to address the needs of the uninsured. They did significant organizing in the Hmong Community and worked with the Search Institute on the needs of community youth. ACT was active in code enforcement for rental housing and urged the City Council to create incentives for low cost housing. St. Mark's clearly helped create a lively and important institution that connected the faith of the Christian community to the health, education and safety issues of the entire community. At the end of the decade, Howard Lawrence became president of Sacramento ACT.

International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE):

St. Mark's support of this program continued until 1997. A key fundraiser was yearly auctions of goods and services. Our church supported nine St. Mark's member exchangees who lived in six countries overseas, and 32 incoming exchangees from 16 countries who lived with about 26 host families, over 20 years. The exchangees usually worked five days a week as volunteers, receiving a small stipend, at agencies including the Easter Seal Society, Shalom School, St. Mark's Preschool, Habitat for Humanity, and Mustard Seed School at Loaves and Fishes. One exchangee said in a letter home to Jim and Neva Munro, who were active in ICYE: "I would like to see future generations have the opportunity to experience an exchange year as I have been able to do... Understanding each other is one of the important steps to improving the world we live in".

Trips: During the '90s, Sierra Service Project youth volunteers spent time every summer helping build and repair housing and relationships at various Indian reservations. In 1990 Janine Marshall was a member of the UM Festival Choir that rehearsed in New York and toured Europe. Erik Olson was St. Mark's ICYE exchange student to Poland (teaching English in Warsaw). In April 1991, nine St. Mark's folks became ST. VIMs (Short-Term Volunteers in Mission) to Puebla, Mexico for Give Ye Them to Eat, helping to build, repair, and furnish housing. This trip was repeated in March 1996 with nine St. Mark's workers led by Eileen Lindsay and Bill Hughes. In 1992, Carol Lipe Thomas traveled with 15 other United Methodist VIM members to Zimbabwe. January 1998 saw Jan Dahl returning to Oaxaca, Mexico, for a follow-up to her

1996 study trip there, while August 1998 found Ira and Mary Haberle on a VIM project at Amelia Trust Farm in Cardiff, Wales. Jim and Jean Strathdee, Jan Dahl, and 12 others visited Havana, Cuba, for the World Mission Conference in May 1999. And to finish up the decade in style, Jim and Jean Strathdee led a community building musical tour to flood-ravaged



VIM volunteer Noel Glasgow

Honduras with six other St. Mark's members in November 1999. Throughout the decade, Don and Jean Fado led tours abroad to Eastern Europe (1990); the Holy Land (1992 and 1998); New Zealand and Australia (1993); and South Africa, including a visit to the Nyanganes in Butterworth (1995).

Men's Club Eye Glass Project: The collection of used eye glasses was a yearly project of the California-Nevada Annual Conference. Glasses collected in local churches and brought to Annual Conference in June

were sent to various agencies for distribution. Since 1997 the glasses were sent to the Philippines. People at St. Mark's, led by Jim and Neva Munro, did the selection, sorting and packing.

Refugee Task Force: In the early '90s, the Refugee Task Force was reconvened. St. Mark's sponsored a Ukrainian family, the Romassos. Soon relatives came, the Beneduyct family, and ultimately two other families. For about two years St. Mark's conducted weekly language tutoring sessions. Teachers included Norm Eade, Jim and Neva Munro, John Lundstrom, and Linda Klamann. St. Mark's provided start-up aid to two families, the Bulayas, who became valued members of St. Mark's. John Lundstrom and David Brown, among others, hauled furniture to the refugees' apartments.

Interfaith Service Bureau (ISB): During the '90s, the main involvement of St. Mark's in the ISB was two annual events. One was a musicale on the first Sunday in February, which featured performances by music groups from different faith congregations and was held at St. John's Lutheran Church. The other was an Interfaith dinner in the Fall. Lois Halcomb, Ellen Wood and Doris White were the St. Mark's representatives in the '90s.

Sacramento United Methodist Union (SUMU): SUMU played an important role in helping with the establishment of St. Mark's in the early 1950's. This bond continued for fifty years, including St. Mark's hosting the SUMU Spring Festival in 1997, 1998, and 1999. Harry Miller represented St. Mark's.

Just You and Me Kid: This group was formed in 1985 as a single parent support group. It continued in the '90s when Eileen Lindsay, Mary McCollum, Ann Livesay and Anita Magures staffed it. The group ended in the mid-'90s.

Mother's Day Out: This group also continued from the 1980s and provided social, emotional, and spiritual support for parents of young children. A spin-off group, Ties That Bind, picked up the spiritual support and met alternately with Mother's Day Out. It ended in the mid-'90s.

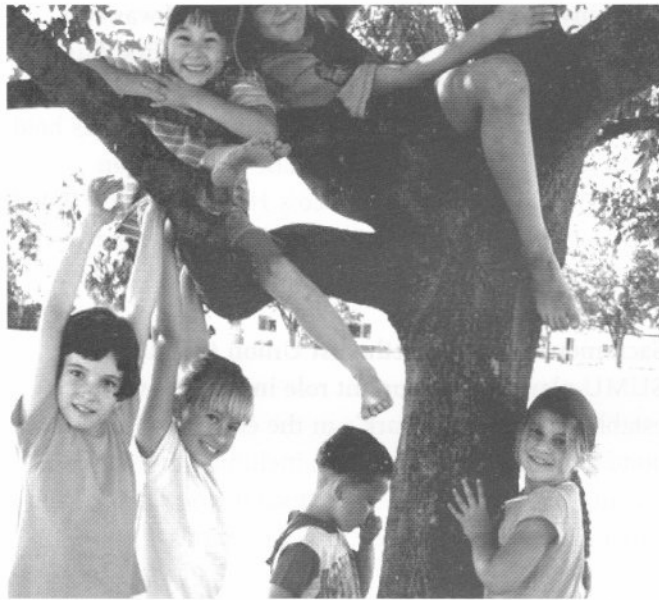
Community Use of Facilities: The St. Mark's buildings were occupied every day of the week, not only for St.

Mark's activities, but also for wide use by other groups in the community. Ira Haberle and Jim Reece coordinated building use.

United Methodist Women: Many of the circles worked on outreach projects. (See UMW section).

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Preschool Program: The preschool moved into the new education building in 1992 and built the playground nearest the new building. It continued to be a cooperative program with families working as staff six to nine times a semester. The preschool parents helped with daily maintenance of the building and some redecorating. The preschool worked closely with the church Education Commission that oversaw the program. The curriculum focused on socialization, cooperative play,



Children in the Tree of Learning

and fostering Christian attitudes toward one another. Many St. Mark's children and adults were involved in the program through the years. Pam Bell headed the preschool beginning September 1987. The administrative assistant was Debora Petlow beginning July 1993.

Afterschool Program: This program continued from the '80s through the '90s. The Afterschool program purchased a new van in March 2000 and used the van to pick up children not served by school district buses. On weekends, the church used the van as well. The Afterschool program also purchased the multi-colored

play structure for the playground, when the new education building was completed in 1992. By year 2000, the program served eight schools in the area, had an enrollment of 49, and served several families whose child care costs were subsidized by Child Action. The children received care before and after school during the school year, and full-time care during the summer and holiday periods. Children enjoyed field trips, trips to Cottage Park pool for swimming, and wheel days (with bikes or roller blades) on the back parking lot during the summer. During the school year, children received homework help, enjoyed fun art activities, and played games both indoors and outside. Many of the teaching staff were studying to become teachers at area colleges. They were thankful for all of St. Mark's help and support in the Afterschool program. Pam Bell became Director of the Afterschool program in 1990 and Debora Petlow became administrative assistant July 1993.

Sunday School - Children and Youth: During the 90's, Sunday School grew in program, new facilities and attendance. The Cokesbury curriculum was used until the late 90's when Janice Dahl, Director of Christian Education, started writing the summer and Vacation Bible School curricula. In 1992 the new education building provided long-desired and needed additional modern classrooms for the Sunday School classes.

Sunday School for children included classes for all ages from Teddybears (age two) through high school. There were separate classes for each grade level for kindergarten through sixth grade. The Education Commission oversaw the Sunday School program. The Superintendent was Boni Fields, and her assistants were Chet Fields and Marsha Jaske.

The Education Commission also oversaw some special events in the '90s. The Sunday School teachers arranged a Halloween party that provided a safe environment for the children. It included games, crafts, costumes and goodies. In the late '90s two different intergenerational Easter programs were presented in alternate years. One was a Jerusalem Marketplace held on Palm Sunday. The Fellowship Hall was turned into the town of Jerusalem where crafts, games, animals, stories and food of the times were experienced. Many were in period costumes. The other program was Walk With Jesus, which focused on the last week of Jesus'

life. A play was presented where everyone played a part. The program included craft projects to remember the life of Jesus.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) included topics on Creation, Peace, and Jesus 2000, with many hands-on activities. The Strathdees led the music program and wrote many new songs for us. One special focus was begun in 1998. We agreed to support the education of two boys in Oaxaca, Mexico, through the non-profit program, The Street Children of Oaxaca. This not only included financial help for the boys so that they could attend school, but also fostered an exchange of letters and pictures with them.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

An Adult Education Committee in the Education Commission oversaw this program. For much of the '90s, Mike Jaske chaired the committee. Classes were provided under five general subject categories: Bible study, spiritual growth, relationships, social action and mission activity.

Around 1990 Eileen Lindsay, Mary McCollum and Orrinda Stockton attended a weekend training session in San Jose, to start a Disciple Bible Study program. Each of them taught Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, the first year. Over 30 students worked through 80% of the Bible in the 34-week course. The program continued in the '90s, offering Disciple I, II, and III for students who longed for a deeper understanding of God's word. Well over 100 members attended these courses.

The longest running class, 20 years, that continued through the '90s, was Faith Pilgrimage facilitated by Mike Jaske. It fell in the area of spiritual growth, and consisted of reading and discussing a book over a two- or three-month period. Class members selected the books.

Members of St. Mark's who joined in the late '90s remarked about the unusually rich schedule of adult courses available, often four or five meeting on a Sunday morning. During the decade, at least 100 different classes were offered with numerous leaders - a significant aspect of St. Mark's in the '90s.

YOUTH PROGRAM

In the '90s St. Mark's youth program was greatly expanded and enhanced. Our first full time youth director, Christy Stoughton, was hired in 1992. As a



Heifer Sunday, Noah, John Phillips, Noah's wife, Nancy Pitsch and junior high students

result, a wide variety of activities, events, programs and support were available for youth and their families.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF): UMYF was an important part of St. Mark's youth program throughout the '90s. Junior and senior high youth met on Sunday nights for a variety of activities and programs. In the mid-'90s, each youth was assigned to a small group. Sunday nights included some small group time with the sharing of highs and lows for the week. UMYF included activities such as Banana Night, Movie Night, Scavenger Hunt, Parents Night, Over the Wall, Make your Own Pizza, Personality Types, Small Group Night Out, Wallyball, Big Game Night, Brain Drain, Gak Night, Rock Talk, Career Night, Egg Night and Small Group Olympics.

Events/Trips: A variety of events and trips were available to youth such as Day at the Lake, snow trips, Great America, conference youth events, backpacks, Bodega Bay, comedian Cary Trivanovich's at St. Mark's, and lock-ins. Fund-raisers were an important part of the youth program. Spaghetti dinners, including the Spaghetti Meet Ball and the annual Mother's Day Luncheon were among them. Youth Sunday occurred several times in the '90s, with the youth planning and leading the worship services.

Dance: The Sacred Dance Group, started in the '80s, continued in the '90s. The dancers were in several worship services each year, providing spiritual expres-



Sacred Dancers 1995

sion though movement with a variety of music. Dance practices included time for sharing, choosing and interpreting music, and choreography.

Confirmation: Confirmation classes for 8th graders and older were provided each year in the '90s. Each confirmand wrote his or her personal creed and read it to the congregation on Confirmation Sunday. In 1995 the Great Confirmation Adventure began. Curriculum adapted from Cokesbury provided the basis for a 10-to-12-week program, including weekly study sessions, retreats or lock-ins, a service project, and an adult mentor for each youth. On Confirmation Sunday the worship services were planned and implemented by the youth director. Confirmands participated in all aspects of the service.

Sierra Service Project (SSP): Each summer in the '90s one or more groups of St. Mark's youth, accompanied by hearty adult volunteers, traveled to a Native American community to be a part of work teams with youth from other churches. The work teams participated in home improvement projects for Native Americans such as roof repair, deck building, and painting. Sites visited included those in Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Northern California. In the later '90s, youth sold "stock" to raise funds to cover the costs. Purchasers of "stock" were guaranteed a letter from the youth from the work site as well as a free ticket to a church dinner or brunch prepared by the youth. The

program included presentations by the youth on their experiences at SSP.

Service Projects: The youth participated in a variety of other service projects and fund-raisers including the Planned Famine, UNICEF, Christmas Stocking Project, Heifer Project and Adopt-A-Family.

Youth Leadership Team (YLT): In the mid-'90s a group of youth and adult sponsors formed the YLT. They met monthly to plan and implement activities. Interested youth then had an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and to provide input regarding the content and direction of the youth program.

YOUNG ADULTS PROGRAM:

Near the beginning of the '90s, the need for a young adult ministry was identified, and after conversations with college students home for the summer, a Roaring '20s group began. This evolved later into TNT (Twenties and Thirties), which was the precursor to the current Crossroads. The Young Adult ministries program focused on getting young adults involved with all areas of the church program, music, committees, teaching, etc.

MEMBERSHIP CARE PROGRAMS:

Stephen Ministry: In July of 1989, Deborah Conard, Morgan Vail and Mary McCollum took a two-week training course to administer Stephen Ministry. The first group of lay persons was commissioned Stephen Ministers, after completing 50 hours of training from the leadership team, in October 1990. This program recognized the need for trained lay persons to be the people of God in a deeply Christian care-giving man-



SSP participants — 1999

ner. In Stephen Ministry, a commissioned caregiver was assigned to any person who was known to need a Christian friend to accompany them weekly through a period of crisis in their lives. The program continued in the '90s, with new Stephen Ministers trained each year, and many members served. In the late '90s Carolyn Hinshaw, Assistant Pastor, was assigned to this program.

Caregiver Group: This group, came to St. Mark's in 1992. It was organized for those giving the care, who faced many personal reactions that affected their own health, stamina and mental well being. The people they were caring for had a wide spectrum of illnesses: stroke, heart disease, diabetes, dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's etc. The group had the same fine counselor since the late '80s, Gerald Fry, M.S., who met with the group once a month. The meetings were open to the public, and participants came from as far as Stockton. Bernice Hobbs led the group since the mid-'90s.

Health Ministry: An organizing meeting for St. Mark's Parish Nurse Program was held August 29, 1995. Pat Worthington-Morozumi, RN, took the Parish Nurse training and served as Parish Nurse for about three years. Blood pressure testing was offered some Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. A Health Fair was presented, representing the many resources available in the community. Since 1998, the Health Ministry Team organized health related education programs and an end-of-life seminar, provided health-related articles in Markings, and organized several blood banks at the church on Sundays. Fred Landenberger led this ministry, followed by Carolyn Hinshaw, Assistant Pastor.

Living in Friendship and Trust (LIFT): In the '90s this on-going group provided and served food after memorial services. It was started by former minister, Dave Wolf, and coordinated by June Chrysler.

Summer Brunches: Held in the Fellowship Hall, the brunches provided time for food and fellowship following church. Mary Roehr, Kathleen Roberts, and Shannon Breckenridge coordinated them. At brunch time, Heifer Project had a sharing table with garden produce, books, and other items for sale.

Wedding Coordinator: St. Mark's and its pastors held six to eight weddings per year. During most of the '90s, Dorothy Gimblin coordinated the weddings. Following Dorothy's untimely death, Pam Roberts became the new coordinator.

Library: When the new Education Building was completed, the Library moved there from the Social Hall. Ruth Custer became the librarian in 1990. It continued to grow with new information and references during this decade.

Historians: Noel Glasgow and Peggy Randall and their committee maintained the historical records of St. Mark's. Their big project, begun at the end of the '90s, was to organize a booklet describing the first fifty years of St. Mark's in preparation for a celebration in the Fall of 2001.

Photo Directories: Directories were published by the Olan Mills, Inc. in 1992, 1995 and 2000.

Miscellaneous Activities: In the '90s, the Membership Care Commission oversaw an increasing number of activities in addition to many of those listed above. Some of those supported Sunday services including: van transportation, flowers for new members, greeters, and fellowship hour refreshments. Carol Stoughton provided fellowship friends and Markings biographies for new members. The Commission also oversaw childcare, church camp, membership records and ADVENTure coordination.

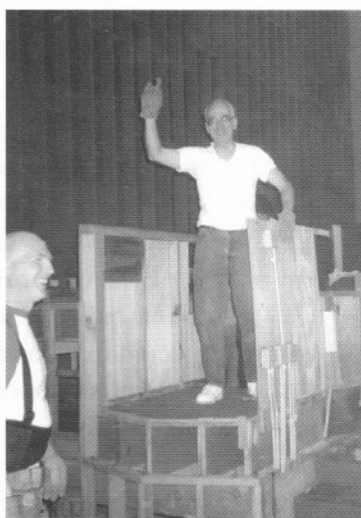
Building Program: In 1990 a master plan was begun to lay out a building program for the next decade. A planning architect, CoDesign, Inc. of Davis, was hired to get input from members, and to propose alternative new building layouts. After members selected a layout, a design architectural firm, Eatough and Borges, was hired to complete detailed construction plans for a large new education building, our first priority in the master plan. It would fulfill a pressing need to provide up-to-date classrooms and meeting rooms. Concurrently a comprehensive fund-raising plan was carried out to finance the construction. Ground was broken March 29, 1992 and the building was opened for use January 6, 1993. This building was extensively used after completion and frequently praised by church



Dave MacMurdo, Don Fado, Bob Moon & Jim Strathdee – groundbreaking ceremonies

members. Part of this phase of construction included trading a house the church owned on Lusk Drive for some land and parking space easements with the Short Center just south of the church property. An increased parking area was required in order to obtain a building permit. Clark Carrier chaired a hard-working Building Committee, and Heinz Heckeroth spearheaded planning activities and the fund drive. In the second phase the existing Social Hall and offices were remodeled. The Borges Architectural Group was hired again to do the design. The Social Hall, which was the original church sanctuary, was converted into modular office space. Under a massive volunteer effort headed by Heinz Heckeroth, volunteers doing much of the remodel work saved at least \$100,000. Richard Johnson provided exceptional construction expertise and equipment, and Charles McCarty oversaw electrical work. The staff moved into the new offices in May 1995. The second part

of this phase, also designed by the Borges firm, was to remodel the church sanctuary from chancel to narthex. The chancel floor was raised one foot higher; the railings, pulpit, choir risers and organ pit were removed. An extensive new sound system was installed, based on recommendations of acoustic consultants; brighter lights and spotlights



Chet Fields and Don Fado helping with chancel demolition

were added. A wheelchair lift was placed by the chancel. Again, a generous and large volunteer effort saved the church members thousands of dollars. The redesigned chancel allowed much more flexibility for different types of programs and services. Roger Stoughton chaired the Building Committee for the remodeling phases. Key roles were played by Marion Dodd, who kept financial records; Dan Power, who provided extensive construction oversight; Steve Kepler, who oversaw sound system work; Paul Breckenridge, who headed a painting and furniture subcommittee; and Fred Loutensock and Hank Taber, who headed the construction volunteer efforts. John Dodd chaired the Board of Trustees during this decade, and was intimately involved in the entire building process. At the end of the second phase in 1999, a planning committee concluded that the master plan was still valid, but that the church should concentrate on paying down the Education Building loan debt for a few years before beginning another structure.

United Methodist Women (UMW): St. Mark's UMW local unit was part of a worldwide organization with a \$10,000,000 budget that helped women and children. There were 15 circles and activity groups with varied interests at St. Mark's. Service projects included: Assistance to Mary House, Wellspring, Dyer Kelly School, Castori School, cakes for Juvenile Hall, wedding receptions, Christmas Promise, Least Coin, lap robes, prayer chain, Francis House, Quinn Cottages and others. Special events included Fashion Memories Gaslight Dinner, Bridal Fashion Show, The Other Twelve (play), spring talent presentation, English tea, luncheons and Nativity carol sing. Presidents in the '90s were: Mildred Scott, Madge Peterson, Jean Fado, Ruth Custer, Marie Baker, Marsha Jaske and Helen Porter.

United Methodist Men (UMM): In the '90s UMM had an active constituency of about 60 men and an average monthly meeting attendance of 30, mostly men 50 years and over. Like most church groups composed of active families, younger members were hard to attract. UMM met monthly for dinner and a program, except in the summer. Delberta Bass and her helpers prepared the dinner until 1997 when they "retired" as volunteers. After that, dinner was prepared and served by a kitchen crew in training from the Salvation Army, arranged by Jim Vaughter. The Club continued the



Bethlehem Circle and speaker Dave MacMurdo

tradition of Christmas and Valentine Programs to which the ladies were invited. Members volunteered for projects around the church, including heavy involvement in the building remodeling work. They served three church pancake breakfasts annually, coordinated by Harry Miller. Stan Aldrich coordinated collection of aluminum cans. Newspapers (\$15/ton in 1990) were collected until the County's recycling program was implemented. These activities were to raise money for community charities and special church projects.

SOCIAL GROUPS:

Prairie Home Companions: This group of young couples, begun in the late '80s, met monthly for social activities, but dissolved in the mid-'90s.

Mark Twains: This group was started as a young couples social group and has been active since 1968. In the '90s, singles were invited to join the group. Members were mostly in their 50s and 60s by the '90s. A rotating steering committee of six people planned and arranged the monthly events. Activities included: carol sings, game nights, video viewing, attending plays, progressive dinners, barbecues, sports, parties and celebrations.

Super Seniors: The seniors of St. Mark's held a monthly potluck supper and program and also have experienced interesting trips since the 1980s. Dave MacMurdo founded the group. Those who have served as chairpersons during the '90s included Erma and Marrel Johanson, Ward Hunt, Agnes Hackett, Sylvia Hatfield, Madge Peterson, Toni McCarver and Frances Phillips.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Robert W. Moon Lectures: Making Our Ethical Concerns Effective: The Robert W. Moon Lecture Series was established to bring vital speakers and authors on this subject to the Sacramento community. The Rev. Moon, former pastor at St. Mark's, and his wife, Dorrie, made a commitment to endow this lectureship series through the contribution of their Camp Sierra property. Until that event, ticket sales and other contributions were used to bring noted speakers to the attention of the community. Since its beginning in 1994, the series sponsored lectures and dialogues featuring: Bishop John Shelby Spong, Episcopal Bishop and prolific writer; the Rev. Philip Wogaman, Foundry UMC pastor in Washington D.C., university professor, and writer; the Rev. Harvey Chinn, Legislative Director of California Council on Alcohol Problems; the Rev. James Lawson of Los Angeles, long-time colleague of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Professor Marcus Borg, leader of the Jesus Seminar, university professor, and writer; Bishop Leontine Kelly, retired UMC bishop for this conference; the Rev. Leonard Sweet, seminary president and author; and Mike Farrell, actor, film director and death penalty abolitionist.

All-Church Dinners: In the fall we continued to have All-Church Dinners in conjunction with our annual pledge campaign. During the decade, these dinners were held at the Scottish Rite facility four times and in our own Fellowship Hall once. In 1996, we held Fireside Gatherings. We ended the decade by having an All-Church Dinner in the St. Ignatius Catholic Church facility, served by Congregation Beth Shalom Synagogue, an exciting ecumenical event. Speakers for these events included: in 1991 - our own Jim Roberts, the U.S. environmentalist of the year, along with a performance by The Soviet Refugee Ukrainian Christian Choir; 1992 - Dr. Leontine Kelly, the first black woman Bishop of the UMC; and in 1994, Robert Short, author of *The Gospel According to Peanuts*.

Special Offerings: During the early '90s the Finance Committee and Administrative Board began authorizing the collection of special offerings as often as once or twice a month. These collections augmented the pledge contributions and recognized changing habits of giving for the younger generations. These collections included funds for local food closets, UMCOR, Native



Church Camp — 1996

Americans, the Sierra Service Project, Peace With Justice and the signer for the Sunday service, etc.

Talent Turn-On and Scrip: In 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997, everyone at one Sunday service was given \$10 in cash. A total of \$4,000 was given out one year. Members were challenged to use the money creatively to increase it and return the \$10 plus their profits to the church in a couple of months. This resulted in a deluge of crafts, baked goods, and services offered for sale, some quite unique. The total amount of cash returned was increased several fold. Another unique fundraiser handled by Betty Youngren for several years was the sale of scrip for use at the Raley's/Bel Air grocery stores. The church received 5% of the face value for the church general fund.

Church Camp: Church Camp was held at the end of each summer throughout the '90s. Camp was held at Sky Mountain until 1995 when the location was changed to Diamond Arrow Christian Conference Center outside Nevada City. All members and friends of St. Mark's were invited, and attendance was always over 100. Both program time and relaxation time were included in the weekend.

St. Mark's Foundation: St. Mark's Foundation held its first organizational meeting on September 26, 1996. The Board of Directors consisted of nine members, under the leadership of David Hinshaw, Executive Pastor, and Marion Dodd chair. The Foundation was the successor to the old Wills and Estates Committee. The Foundation maintained its own funds separate from St. Mark's. The Foundation was responsible for:

1) funds designated to the Foundation for long-term investment from which only the income was used for unbudgeted programs of the church; and 2) memorial gifts whose use were designated by the family or left undesignated to be used at the discretion of the Foundation. Since its formation, the Foundation supported many projects of the church including the Friday night worship service, health ministry, Sierra Service Project, other youth activities, small group ministries and new chairs for the narthex.

ADVENTure: Usually on the afternoon of the first Sunday in Advent, members of all ages gathered in Fellowship Hall to work on a flurry of Christmas craft projects. This event continued through the '90s.

Engagement and Marriage Encounter: Members of St. Mark's continued to help organize Marriage Encounter weekends through the '90s. In January of 1998, more than 20 couples from throughout the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church met at St. Mark's with national United Methodist leaders to develop a Re-vitalized Marriage Encounter weekend to provide more appeal to couples. Morgan and Ann Staines of St. Mark's, were on the National Board of United Methodist Encounter and lived in Southern California when they challenged the Marriage Encounter board in our conference to start the Engaged Encounter program here. That became a reality in 1994. One Sunday in February, Marriage Encountered couples helped with the service and participated in a wedding vow renewal ceremony after the last service. Ray and Joanna Ballard and Glen and Gwen Tilton provided ongoing leadership, including national involvement, for Marriage Encounter.

Holy Union: In 1998 our senior pastor, Don Fado, honored the request of members Ellie Charlton and Jeanne Barnett to conduct a Holy Union ceremony recognizing their partnership of 15 years. Conducting this ceremony was in conflict with sections recently added to the UMC Discipline, which Don felt were unfair and prejudicial. He chose not to conduct the ceremony at St. Mark's because of the controversial nature of it and the variety of views within the congregation. On January 15, 1999, 94 other ministers, mostly from this conference, joined Don in blessing the union. The event provoked great interest, so the ceremony was held in the

Sacramento Convention Center Auditorium before a full house. St. Mark's members made many of the arrangements: the Strathdees led the singing, and the Sacred Dance group of junior and senior high school



Charter members, Viola and Bill Kamuf, at memorial for Merle Shoemaker – September 1998

girls performed. The event gained national attention. In January 2000, a large first anniversary celebration was held in the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. One of the noteworthy events was the first registration of same-sex partners so they could obtain new benefits as a result of a law just signed by Governor Gray Davis.

Exchange with Beth Shalom Synagogue: In June 1999, arson was committed at three Jewish synagogues in Sacramento. This occurred during the UMC Annual Conference, which immediately took up a collection and gave it to the Jewish community. An all-community gathering in the Sacramento Convention Center Auditorium at that time also showed the support of the local church, governmental and ethnic communities for the Jewish community. Soon afterwards, a collection was taken at St. Mark's. Don Fado presented it in person to the synagogue closest to us, the Beth Shalom congregation. During the presentation he offered an apology for the hateful words and acts by the Christian community toward the Jewish community over the centuries. This is what inspired the Beth Shalom members to serve the dinner at our All-Church dinner in 1999. Within a few months the congregations invited each other to their worship services in further efforts to reach bet-

ter understanding of each others' faith and to create bonds of friendship.

New UMC Ministers: St. Mark's has been the launching pad and support base for several new ministers. Those supported in the '90s included Bill Bryan Jr., Mary McCollum, Tarah Trueblood and Janice Dahl.

40th Anniversary: Celebrated August 4, 1991. A copy of the original lath house was built.

Memorial Garden: In 1990 the Trustees first discussed provisions for the ashes of St. Mark's members to be buried on the church grounds. Since that time numerous burials have taken place and each person was memorialized on one leaf of a brass plate tree on a large plaque in the narthex.

Staff: The diverse and vibrant program described above would not have been possible without a staff that was inspired, dedicated, creative and hardworking. The last year of the '90s, St. Mark's was served by the following staff: Senior Pastor, Donald Fado; Executive Pastor, David Hinshaw; Assistant Pastor, Carolyn Hinshaw; Christian Education Pastor, Janice Dahl; and Associate Pastor, Kathy Kerr-Carpenter; Directors of Music, Jim and Jean Strathedee; Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Christy Stoughton; Organist, Jack Miller; Chancel Choir Director, Norm DeVol; Bells of St. Mark's Director, Carol Baltzell; Joyous Voices Director, Flo Perry; Director of Preschool Program and Director of Afterschool Program, Pam Bell; Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Lawrence; Bookkeeper, Patti Evans; Office Technician, Orrinda Stockton; Office Assistant, Lori White; Custodian, Dave Hill. Staff who served earlier in the '90s included: Associate Pastors, Eileen Lindsay and Mary McCollum; Organists, Ruth Northam and Dorothy McKibben; Director of Bells of St. Mark's, Sue Coddington-Allen; Office Managers/Secretaries, Joyce Liggett, Jo Sains, Karen Dera, Paula David, Rose Wesley, and Dee Parker; Financial Secretary, Carol Piper; Treasurer, Susan Summers; and Gardener, Mark Cromwell.

On December 31, 1999 the congregation and staff of St. Mark's United Methodist Church celebrated the end of a decade, a century and a millennium, wondering how the new millennium would unfold!

2000s





2000-2001

Remember all the damage the "2000-Bug" was going to cause? January 1st was to see the world's computers fail, to see airplanes left stranded in the sky, to see clocks stop, and to see... well, you name it! But...Rejoice, This is the day the Lord had made! None of those dire forecasts came about.

2000: WHAT A YEAR THAT WAS! 2001: WHAT A DECADE IT PROMISES TO START!

We entered the last year of the second millennium without a hitch and we are successfully on the way to the first year of the next millennium. Each of us can look back at the year 2000 in many ways, but let's focus on seven areas, some possibilities, some realities: a new organ, outreach, study, camping together, clergy activities, youth, and our Bishops.

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC: A NEW ORGAN?

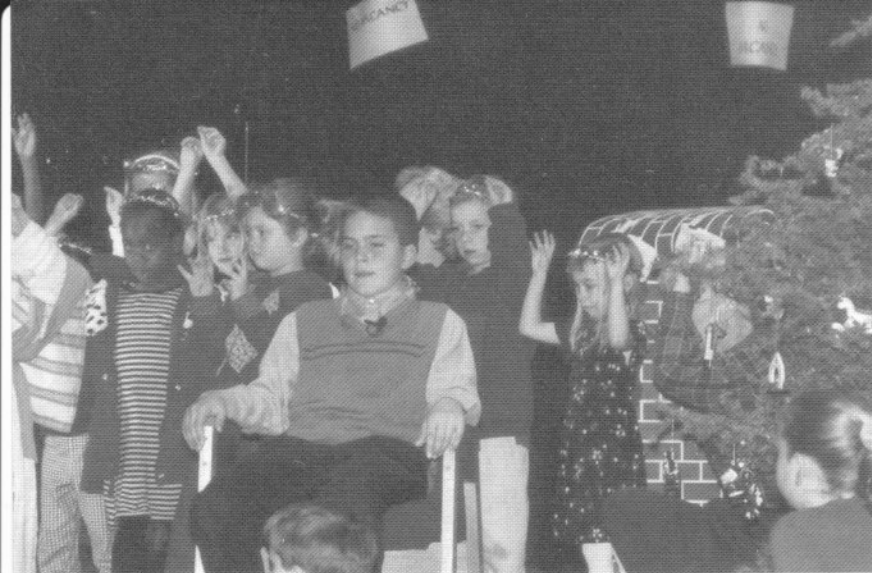
"New Blue Hymnals!" was shouted from the choir room, thanks to an anonymous donor! Then in February we celebrated the Strathdees' twenty years at St. Mark's with music and a special offering for the people of Honduras whose country was so devastated by Hurricane Mitch. The Dorothy McKibben endowment fund gave us the lovely violin music shared with us at the concerts by Hong-Ying Ho and the glorious music by pianist Lee! We have been graced every Sunday by the music of both of our choirs! And something new is on the horizon! After continuing hard work by a committee formed in March 2000 to explore the possibilities of obtaining a new-to-us organ, and a number of congregational meetings to learn about the opportunities, we voted at an all-church conference in September to purchase and install a used-but-not abused pipe organ, contingent on raising the necessary money in January 2001. We made it! On March 7th the Church Council approved a budget of \$212,000 to have Hupalo Organ Pipe Company install a pipe organ with some used and some newly constructed parts!

OUTREACH

The St. Mark's family continues and expands its outreach programs from ACT to Heifer! Early in the year



we received a plaque from the Salvation Army for leadership and success in our bell ringing efforts in 1999 and we were happily ringing again in December 2000 and you can bet we will back ringing in 2001! The Thank-you's from the students at Castori and Dyer Kelly Schools are still ringing in our ears for our gift bags. We even had a chance to "stuff" some of those bags of gifts for the 2000 Christmas Season when the participants in the November 30th Annual Church Conference shared with Dave Bennett, our District Superintendent, as we stuffed more than 50 bags. What a wonder-filled hands-on experience for all of us! And of course there is the Heifer Summer Project: sharing tables and the loving efforts of a dedicated Heifer Project Committee led to 2 flocks of chickens, 21 hives of bees, 2 flocks of ducks, 2 trios of rabbits, 2 flocks of geese, 2 pigs, 2 goats, 2 llamas, 1 dairy heifer, and 250 seedling trees being placed in the "Ark for Today's World". What a successful way to celebrate our 24th year of involvement with



Heifer Project International! It can truly be said that members of St. Mark's Family ACT on their beliefs. We are an active participating church in Sacramento Area Congregations Together acting to make this a better community for our youth.

STUDY

In January 2000 we learned together about the needs for clothing and school supplies when Jonathan Yav Munung from The Congo shared the pulpit. In February Jimmy Creech, speaking at the Moon Lectures, spoke on The Gifts of Gay Unions. Rabbi Matt Friedman, of Temple Beth Shalom, joined with Don for both services on February 27th as we readied ourselves for the Lenten Series which focused on Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong's *This Hebrew Lord*. Later, in March, nearly 100 of us joined with our brothers and sisters in the Lord at Temple Beth Shalom to expand our learning and sharing. Then, in November we met Bishop Spong in person again when he spoke at the second Moon Lecture of the year,

stretching the minds of more than 950 people in two nights as he presented *The Beauty of Human Life: From Original Sin to a New Being* and *The Christ Not as Rescuer But as Boundary Breaker*. Furthermore, we all learn together when we meet each Sunday to share the Word carried to us by our wonderful pastors! We are fortunate to have such gifted leaders!

"CAMPING TOGETHER"

Not all our camping was in the woods. Many of our members celebrated Jubilee 2000 together with over a thousand Methodists from our Conference in Sonoma in August. Don Fado chaired the planning committee for the Jubilee! The learning, signing and sharing together were highlights for all. From August 25th to 27th we family-camped together at Diamond Arrow Center near Nevada City to end the summer and to get ready for the new school year. But we also shared together in our Vacation Bible School in June where the theme was Jesus 2000, and we were building together on the First Sunday of Advent when we came together to "Make and Take". Wonder how many grape wreaths graced our homes at Christmas? And we are really sizzling as we assemble the Church Cookbook as part of our 50th anniversary celebration. I wonder how many recipes are from the lovely luncheon we had on Mother's Day? Yes, we do like to eat together and "camp" together.

CLERGY ACTIVITIES

The year 2000 may have seen partial closure of a nagging issue: the question of whether the United Methodist Church will sanction Holy Unions between couples of the same sex. No, that decision was not made at the General Conference. On the contrary, it did become clear from the results of the hearings held in February in Fairfield, CA, and attended by many from St. Mark's. There the California-Nevada Annual Conference supported the position of the 80-some pastors who co-officiated at the service of Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton in January 1999. It was equally clear that the issue was not supported at the General Conference in May. But when the Western Jurisdictional Conference participants adopted the statement "We Shall Not Be Silent!" it was a strong declaration that the church must not accept discrimination against anyone for their sexual preference. The issue has not been resolved, but the year 2000 may someday be remembered at the year the healing began...





YOUTH

"I continue to be awed by our youth in their annual Youth Sunday Service". Don said it for all of us! St. Mark's is blessed with a marvelous youth program built by Christy Stoughton and many supporting families and youth. The comedian Cary Tripanovich provided an evening of fun for everyone! Our youth survived a 30 Hour Famine and raised \$1300 for World Vision. A dozen youth were confirmed on March 26th. And several van loads of youth and their adult compatriots were off to the Clearlake Rancherias in July for Sierra Service Project. They even survived the Youth Lock-in and went on to form a Youth Choir and sold greens that graced so many of our front doors and mantels during the Christmas Season. We have reason to be in awe of our youth!

OUR BISHOPS AND SENIOR MINISTERS

Finally, the year 2000 saw a change in our Bishop. On September 1st we said "goodbye" to Melvin Talbert who served us all well, particularly in the last few turbulent years, in which United Methodism has been tested by a



wide range of issues but primarily the issue of Holy Unions. As we enter the new millennium we welcome Bishop Beverly Shamana. With her background in choral conducting, she will have plenty of opportunity to conduct the California-Nevada Annual Conference back to unity. It is a dream worth sharing and one in which we can all take part!

2001 will be remembered as the year Don Fado retired. After fourteen years serving the St. Mark's family, Don and Jean will literally head off into the sunrise in their RV to see more of the United States, spend time with family, and get ready for his next career. He has seen, and brought, many changes in St. Mark's during our time together. Just as our previous excellent staff members, he has made a difference for us as well as for the United Methodist Church. In July



2001 we welcomed Faith Whitmore as our new senior minister. She comes to us highly recommended as a pastor who can lead our congregation into the second millennium with grace and a growing faith in our ability to continue to serve our church, our community and our world...

The years 2000 and 2001 have been full years! Everyone has different "special memories" from each year. Take a moment to remember what was special to you in 2000 as you look back at it and look back and forward at 2001. We ended the year 2000 and began the year 2001 by helping Dave and Dorothy MacMurdo, our first minister and his wife, celebrate their 60th anniversary on December 31. What a fitting celebration for our church as St. Mark's entered its fiftieth anniversary year!

Welcome to the New Millennium!

Dedication

DEDICATION

Over 50 years of growth and change have carried St. Mark's into the 21st century as an outstanding contributor to our community and to our world. But none of this could have happened without the ongoing efforts of countless persons who served -- with or without pay -- our church and its many areas of outreach.

If the names and accomplishments of all these were included in this book, many more pages would be required.

So this anniversary book, however limited, is dedicated to all those who in any way, large or small, contributed to the making of the history of St. Mark's Church.



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2391 ST. MARK'S WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95864
CHURCH OFFICE: 916-483-7848
FAX: 916-483-7840