

# capital campaign update



**WE  
WILL!**  
Build in Faith

## We Thank You, Lord

By The Rev. James B. Cook, Rector

This fall I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Kenya for mission work with our partner parish and to visit the French Riviera for vacation with Karen and my sons, Nate and Colby. After nearly three weeks away, I returned to the U. S. and St. Mark's so grateful to call this place "home." We are so blessed here, and I am so grateful to God to be a citizen of this nation and this community of faith.

As we gather for Thanksgiving, I hope that each of us appreciates our many blessings. I pray that we continue to share those blessings with others by trying to leave the world a better place than when we arrived. In thanking God for providing us with such abundant resources – and for minds to think and hands to work – we are reminded that our purpose is to serve as stewards of blessings and not merely consumers of God's goodness.

Here at St. Mark's, we have so many reasons to be thankful. Just look at our campus! We see God's hand at work through ministries big and small. And, much of that ministry is being done in new facilities made possible through your recent gifts. I'm so grateful to you for the \$4.9 million that have been contributed so far in the WE WILL! Build in Faith capital campaign. The youth center and gym are filled day and night. The new administration building offers us a much-needed front door to the campus. Our children and visitors are safe and sound inside secured buildings. And, the Peace Chapel—with its exquisite stained-glass windows and prayerful presence—sits open day and night inviting all people of all faiths to a place of prayer and peace.

The next phase of our building project is St. Mark's Hall. This two-story, multipurpose facility will be the center of our daily



church and school lives. It will house The Great Hall, a sub-dividable performance hall, lunchroom, and meeting space. When configured as an auditorium, it will accommodate an audience of 450, perfect for Christmas and Easter programs, school band and choral presentations, and other special events.

Sunday morning breakfasts and after-church socials will be served from a fully equipped, professional kitchen. And it will be a lovely venue for wedding receptions and other special occasions. And for those rainy days, there is a covered drop-off area!

St. Mark's Hall also includes music and art rooms, a chorus room, computer lab, and meeting rooms.

But, we need your help! Our goal is to raise another \$2 million in pledges before moving ahead. We hope to start building again in late-spring 2013 for completion of the new St. Mark's Hall by fall 2014. Construction, however, cannot start until the additional funds are raised.

If you have not yet made a pledge, please make one now. If you have already contributed, please consider an additional pledge. Your gifts can be made over five years, so you'll be amazed how a small gift made regularly really adds up!

St. Mark's needs you! And, remember: sharing our blessings and giving from our heart is the hallmark of faithful people who truly thank God for all things.

May you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

### Michaela Kennedy joins St. Mark's as Director of Development



As part of its long-term strategy, St. Mark's Church and School has brought its development work back "in house" with the hiring of Michaela Kennedy as director of development. She is responsible for managing the WE WILL! Build in Faith capital campaign for the campus redevelopment plan, which is entering its exciting third phase—building St. Mark's Hall. She will eventually oversee all

resource development for the church and school.

Charlotte Pelton & Associates, Inc., was contracted to guide St. Mark's through the planning and initial fundraising stages of the campaign, with the goal of turning its management back to St. Mark's.

Michaela was born and raised in New York City and on eastern Long Island and earned her BFA degree from Marymount Manhattan College in New York. She began her career in the hospitality industry, eventually becoming a senior event manager for a leading special events firm in New York City. Michaela later launched a successful event planning business in East Hampton, New York, specializing in fundraising events. She consulted on board development, donor identification, sponsorships and marketing strategies, as well. Working closely with the leadership and development teams at *The Child Development Center of the Hamptons*, *Peconic Montessori School*, and *Hayground School* were her most rewarding professional experiences.

She has long held a deep affection for this community, having spent time here as a child and having family in the area for many years. Her mother owned and operated the Palm Beach Tavern, where Michaela managed special events and marketing for several seasons before moving to the area full time.

She is thrilled join the exceptional team at St. Mark's Church and School. "There is a level of commitment on the part of the St. Mark's parishioners, school families, and staff that is truly impressive and very contagious! I feel privileged to be a part of this wonderful community and its exciting mission. Please stop by the Development Office (room 225 in the administration building) and introduce yourself. Hours are 9 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday."

### Tax advisors say 2012 may be a better year for charitable contributions

Most tax advisors agree it is almost inevitable that there will be some changes to the tax laws in 2013, and they may affect the amount of deduction that can be taken for charitable contributions.

If you are considering a contribution to the capital campaign, it may be worth your while to make the contribution now, under tax rules that are now in place, rather than wait to see what happens next year.

**Please note:** the information above does not constitute legal advice and is not to be construed as legal advice in any manner. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor.

## John and Jeanette Staluppi make \$250,000 gift to name stage in St. Mark's Hall

The look on Bailee and C. J. Lizza's face when they saw their grandma and grandpa said it all: thrilled! Bailee and C. J., third and first grade students at St. Mark's, were brought out of class to join in a family photo with their grandparents, John and Jeanette Staluppi, in recognition of the Staluppi's wonderful \$250,000 gift to the WE WILL! Build in Faith campaign.

Head of School Donna Bradley and Development Director Michaela Kennedy were equally thrilled to personally thank the Staluppi's for their generous gift, which will be designated for the Staluppi Family Stage in the new St. Mark's Hall.

The Staluppi's are no strangers to philanthropy—especially causes that benefit children. The list of local and national nonprofits benefitting from the Staluppi's benevolence is long, including Make a Wish Foundation, UNICEF, March of Dimes, The Boys and Girls Club of America, Hibiscus Children's Center, Miami Children's Hospital, and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

John says he gives because he understands what it's like to struggle. Born in Brooklyn, his father, Francis, was a hard-working electrician with two jobs to make ends meet, while his mother, Millie, was a homemaker. Growing up in the golden age of the American automobile, he was bit by the car bug. As a 16-year-old mechanic, he soon became an expert; his dad, seeing his son's exceptional drive, took out a loan so John could run a Sunoco station.

He quickly built that station into a chain, then turned his attention to auto dealerships. He took a risk on a venture called Honda—at the time an unknown name in the U. S. The Honda brand took off, and after a decade of hard work, he owned close to 20 dealerships. That was



C. J. and Bailee Lizza with grandparents John and Jeanette Staluppi. The Staluppi Family Stage will host church and school music, choir, drama and other performances at St. Mark's Hall.

the first of John's many business achievements.

Through it all, he made sure to put people first. There are signs in each of his dealerships that read, "Every visitor to our dealership is an honored guest in our home, every day, every time, without fail, no exceptions."

John's love of things with motors grew to include luxury yachts—he created the magnificent Millennium Super Yacht line of custom yachts, unsurpassed in creativity, beauty, and speed.

He never forgot his humble beginnings, though, and vowed that if he ever made it big he would help those less fortunate. John Staluppi made it really big, and made good on that promise.

John and Jeanette have eight

grandchildren: two on Staten Island; two in Las Vegas; and four in Palm Beach County—all of whom attended St. Mark's.

"This is a jewel," he said of St. Mark's Church and School. "Our grandchildren love it here, and the school has been great for them all. It deserves our support."

Bailee and C.J. must agree, because as soon as the photos were finished they wanted to rush back to their classrooms!

*The WE WILL! Build in Faith campaign committee thanks John and Jeanette for their generous gift. If you would like to join the Staluppi's and hundreds of others who have contributed, please contact the campaign office at 561-623-2623, or email Director of Development Michaela Kennedy, mkennedy@stmarkspb.org.*

### New facilities popular with the entire community

It's inevitable that capital campaigns tend to focus on buildings—the Youth Center and Gymnasium, Administration Building, and the next phase, St. Mark's Hall.

We have always said that it's not about the *buildings per se*, but what happens *inside* the buildings that's important: youth group meetings, Bible study, Christian fellowship, volunteers stuffing the Sunday bulletin.

St. Mark's School is our largest mission. Lynne Mullins, our Director of Admissions, reports strong interest in the key entry points, kindergarten and sixth-grade. The PK2 class is in its second year and is very popular, which will certainly attract more students.

Our buildings are not exclusively for the use of the St. Mark's family. As a beacon of faith, hope, and light for the entire community, our facilities are an important part of Christian outreach. For example, on Sunday afternoons a basketball league for autistic kids uses the gymnasium, and Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center uses our facilities when they need extra space for meetings. And, we have been able to expand our ministries through scouting, self-help groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, and others.

Hearts of Palm, our new youth ministry, will welcome its first mission trips next spring. Already over 200 kids have registered.

All these activities are happening here because the St. Mark's family made a commitment to provide space for our burgeoning ministries. If you haven't yet made a pledge, we hope you will consider doing so.

### The Thanksgiving Litany

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

*We thank you, Lord.*

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

*We thank you, Lord.*

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

*To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen*