

**Rita Woods** - Rita was a pleasant, ever-faithful servant who seemed to delight in being in the presence of other St. Mark's members. A woman of apparent modest financial means, she astounded several of our congregation's financial people when learning after her death she had named St. Mark's as the beneficiary of a generous life insurance policy. Rita's bequest was the catalyst that motivated our congregation to quickly formulate and adopt a gift policy statement. Further, Rita's bequest provided the initial funding for several of the programs and ministries mentioned in our current legacy brochure.

**Philip and Mary Jo Carlson** - Philip and Mary Jo were quiet yet reliable, faithful, virtually every-Sunday worshipers at St. Mark's for many years. They were instrumental in helping St. Mark's get started as a mission congregation as an outreach project of Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C., as then members there. Philip and Mary Jo provided years of devoted service and care for family members and neighbors. Indeed, Mary Jo's automobile was recklessly hit when driving a neighbor to a doctor's appointment. It was a collision from which she never recovered. Philip and Mary Jo's faithfulness was a shining example for all of us.

**Marguerite Draper** - First and foremost, St. Mark's was Marguerite's church home. Although she lived approximately the last twenty years of her life at the National Lutheran Home, she was renowned for reminding particularly chaplains there "St. Mark's is my church home and don't you forget it!" Marguerite devoured every document she could access about St. Mark's and its ministries thoughtfully sharing her often strong opinions with our pastors as well as critiquing their performance. When learning we were planning to install our first external sign, Marguerite said "Don't do any fundraising for it. I'll pay for it. Everyone needs to know that's my church home." Marguerite dearly loved the people, ministries and practically everything about St. Mark's.

**Eugene Donald** - We were unable to find anyone who could provide us with any memories of Mr. Donald for today's presentation. Yet his life and the values he thought important is very much reflected in the ministry financial support his bequest has funded over the years. We are all called to servant-hood and faithful stewardship. As Mr. Donald's

gift exemplifies, the work of some servants and stewards sometimes receives little recognition and often no acclaim yet lives on.

**Ken Randall** - Ken's life was a living testament to his faith. Ken was thoughtful and seemingly cared about everyone. He went on mission trips and delivered Bibles in then communist countries. A couple of close encounters with authorities while on these trips nearly cost Ken his life. His financial generosity was legendary; particularly, toward Christian education efforts for youth such as Roanoke College and our own St. Michael's Youth Endowment Fund. Ever the witness to his faith, Ken seldom missed an opportunity to tell people about his firm belief in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We would all do well to emulate Ken's example.

**Lela Heasley** - Lela was an active-duty ranking member of the military in the early days of that organizational change. Lela loved opera and constantly looked for opportunities to enjoy those performances. Her husband, Gail's, love of music and singing with the St. Mark's Chancel Choir was the catalyst for their becoming members of the St. Mark's community of faith. A long-term widow after Gail's early death, Lela was a faithful member of our congregation. Lela was resolute in her opinions but ever supportive of the ministerial programs of St. Mark's. We remember with gratitude her bequest.

**Ross Trower** - Ross Trower was Associate Pastor of St. Mark's for 30 years. Beloved by all, he preached the Good News well into his 90s. Ross was a retired Rear Admiral and Chief of the Chaplain Corps of the United States Navy. On more than one occasion, he preached the Gospel to President Eisenhower. Yet it was the everyday people, people like you and me that Ross related to so perfectly. He made each of us feel uniquely important and loved, as if God himself were watching over us.

**Elmer Loetterle** - Elmer "Archie" Loetterle was a longtime member of St. Mark's. Elmer's love of St. Mark's and particularly the physical property was legendary. Elmer served as a member of the Property Committee for decades and then as a Property Committee consultant as he aged. His first act before sitting down in the pew every Sunday was checking the thermostat settings in the Nave to ensure they were appropriately set. The trunk of Elmer's car was a mobile tool shop.

Whenever Elmer spotted something needing repair that he thought he could personally handle, he opened the trunk and tried to correct it. Elmer possessed a strong yearning for a deeper understanding of Lutheran theology and the Bible and for deepening his personal faith. He frequently could be found in one of the pastor's offices seeking further understanding about their sermons. A tree adorns the grounds between our church offices and the education wing in tribute to Elmer. Part of Elmer's legacy is that our faith should be constantly growing and blossom.

**Robert and Iva Parrott** - Bob and Iva were members of St. Mark's for over 50 years. Married for more than 68 years, they were longtime residents of the greater Washington, DC area as well. Bob had a distinguished career in the Marine Corps and was awarded the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts for his combat heroism. Iva raised three children and was a most active church and community volunteer. After his military retirement, Bob was Director of Development at the National Lutheran Home in Rockville, Maryland. Bob and Iva then established their own business firm spending many years working on church-related development and fundraising. They were committed to their church and to helping others.

**Glenn and Norma Stuart** - Glenn and Norma were members of St. Mark's since 1961 and remained faithful members for close to 60 years. They had three children, all of whom were baptized and Sunday schooled at Saint Mark's. Glenn shared his talents with Saint Mark's through his ushering and also through counting and reconciling the Sunday offerings. Glenn had a rich singing voice and loved to sing out from the pews. Norma enjoyed her fellowship and friendships at St. Mark's and was involved in many aspects of church life, including Food for Others, the Eucharist Guild, the Crafters, the Greeters, and the Prayer Shawl Knitters. Before Norma passed away, she told her family that God was looking for her. We know that she was found and indeed, never lost. We can all rejoice knowing that we too are never separated from the love of our Lord. Glenn and Norma loved and were deeply committed to their family and friends—including their family and friends at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

