“St. Mark is welcoming and open, a place where values can be challenged and shared.”

BACKGROUND: From their respective beginnings in the Midwest hometowns of Highland, Il, and Emporia KS, Jerry and Bobbi Dauderman have become passionate about social justice issues around the world.

The couple met in a Sunday church class while working in Chicago between college years. Bobbi was attending Elmhurst College, majoring in history and education, and Jerry attended Harvard College. They married in 1965, and soon moved for two years to the Dominican Republic with Church World Service, where Jerry was director of social services for the Dominican Churches.

After returning to the U.S., Jerry earned an MBA at Harvard Business School and went on to jobs at Harvard Design School, McKinsey & Co. in Mexico City, Textiles Pepalfa in Medellin, Colombia, and Fidelity Union Life Insurance in Dallas. He always dreamed of starting his own business and in 1976, he and Bobbi partnered to establish Nautilus Plus Fitness Centers in Newport Beach, perhaps the first co-ed fitness center in the nation. The couple sold the chain in 1992, and Jerry turned to other business ventures, including an oil pipeline in China and commercial real estate in Newport Beach. In the philanthropic world, Jerry has served on the board of the Orange County Museum of Art, and Bobbi has served as a board member of Bread for the World, South Coast Repertory Theater, and THINK Together. She has also volunteered in the after-school programs at the Shalimar neighborhood center in Costa Mesa for 20 years.

Finding St. Mark: Bobbi and Jerry were both raised in the United Church of Christ. They first joined St. Mark in the 1980s, when Bobbi’s work with Bread for the World connected her with many Orange County churches and she met St. Mark member Paul Eklof. After the couple moved to Newport Beach, they “returned to the fold” and transferred their church membership from the United Methodist Church in Irvine to St. Mark. Since then, Jerry has served as an elder and chaired the Mission and Stewardship Commission. Bobbi, also an elder, is co-chair of the Peace and Justice Commission. Together, they have presented a variety of topics for St. Mark’s Great Decisions foreign policy series, and nurtured relationships with members of the Mission Viejo Mosque.
Family and Hobbies: The couple has three children—Tanya, Nicholas and Jason, with 10 grandchildren ranging in age from 5-25. Bobbi says, “Jerry is an only child, so this is a daunting experience for him!”

Bobbi and Jerry’s major passion is travel, and they’ve visited many countries in the Middle East, along with Iran, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Libya, and Antarctica. They also enjoy golfing, hiking and kayaking, bridge, as well as art, theater and music. Jerry is an avid reader and a member of two book clubs, and Bobbi enjoys photography, gardening, walks on the beach, and one-on-one time with their grandchildren.

We’re grateful to have such an active, caring couple as part of our St. Mark community!