



Messenger

Volume 57, Number 6

March 21, 2017

Changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people.

Join the Celebration Singers in Concert



The group formerly known as the St. Mark's Folk Choir will be presenting their annual concert. You are cordially invited to the Celebration Singers' concert *In Sacred Praise* on Sunday, March 26, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come and share in some beautiful music and praise the Lord at the same time. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Sondra Franks

Prayer Bead Workshop

There is still time to sign up for the Prayer Bead Workshop being held at 9:00 a.m. on April 9, in Fellowship Hall! This is an opportunity to make a tool that might enrich your prayer life. If you want to see what prayer beads look like in "real life," there is a set hanging up on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board next to the sign-up sheet. There are two parts to the workshop: assembly of the beads, and then use of the beads. If you have a set, and you want to get ideas about how to use them, you can sign up for just the second part, which will begin at 10:15 a.m.



Brenda Hunter



**St. Mark's invites the Tucson community
to its annual Pet Memorial Service
Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.**



A time to acknowledge and respect the importance animals have held in our hearts and lives, and to celebrate their place in God's creation.

If you would like your pet's picture to appear in a video montage during the service, please email it to animalministry@umcstmarks.org by Friday, March 31. (You can also bring a photo to the office to be scanned.) The video will provide a time to honor their memories.

Following the service, members of the St. Mark's Animal Ministry Team will offer refreshments in the Welcome Center, providing time for participants to mingle and share stories with others who understand. You may even wish to bring a photo with you for this time of sharing. Several therapy dogs will also be available to offer comfort.



Please feel free to share this invitation with others who would be interested.



St. Mark's Messenger

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
1431 W. Magee Road
Tucson, AZ 85704
(520) 297-2062
Fax: (520) 297-1058

E-MAIL:
info@umcstmarks.org
WEBSITE:
www.umcstmarks.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
8:15, 9:45 and
11:15am

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:
Light supper - 5:45pm
Music/Programs -
6:15-7:15

SENIOR PASTOR:
Rev. Sharon Ragland

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:
Rev. Tammy Hallam

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION
FOR CHILDREN &
ADULTS:**
Greg Poling

YOUTH MINISTRIES:
Kim Ogle

**COMMUNICATIONS &
OUTREACH:**
Sallyann Wassmuth,
Pro tempore

MESSENGER EDITOR:
Kandy Delk,
Pro tempore

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messenger@umcstmarks.org

Next Messenger deadline:

March 30th

Calendar Notes

Confirmation Class will meet for their San Xavier Mission retreat at 9:00 a.m. on Sat., March 25.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 a.m. in Rm. 17/18 on Sat., March 25.

A memorial service for Rich Heilman will be held on Sat., March 25, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

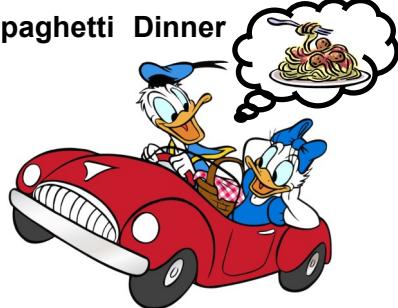
There will be a **Sunday Dinner Sale** this Sun., March 26, between services. Proceeds benefit HIV/AIDS Ministry.



Sonoran Bells presents "Let the Sunshine In" in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, April 4th, at 7:30 p.m. Come hear some great toe-tapping handbell selections. More concert dates and locations can be found at SonoranBells.org.

On Tuesday, April 4, **join the Over 50's** at 11:30 a.m. for a seafood lunch at Red Lobster (NW corner of Oracle and River Rds.). Reserve your seat by contacting Sandra Rush (780-4876 or sandrarush1941@gmail.com). We love to welcome newcomers!

St. Mark's United Methodist Women's **Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner** fundraiser will be held on Friday, March 31, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Pre-order forms will be available again this Sunday. On March 31, simply drive through the parking lot and follow the signs; it will be delivered hot to your car. The spaghetti and meatball dinner comes complete with salad, rolls/butter, and cookies for \$7 each. Vegetarian meals are also available. Contact Virginia Tupper (ginr3636@gmail.com or 820-4119) with questions.



Join the Christian Believers Book Study on Friday, March 31, at 9:30 a.m. in the library, to discuss *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community* by Farnham, Gill, McLean, Ward. The study is open to everybody, we just ask that you have read the book and are willing to share your thoughts about it.

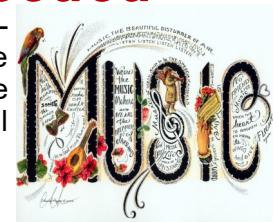
The class will be facilitated by Susan Gerstad and Sherri Lennarson. Other books to be studied the last day of each month are: **April 28, 2017 - God was in this Place & I did not know** by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner; **May 26, 2107 - Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha & Mohammed Cross the Road?** by Brian McLaren



Save The Date... The Mark-a-ritas will host a *Welcome Baby Luncheon* for new moms, babies, and babies-to-be on April 22, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you have had or will be having a baby between the spring of 2016 and the summer of 2017, we would like to invite you. This is a chance to meet with other mothers and mothers-to-be at our church. RSVP to Linda Hill.

Part-time Music Ministries Coordinator Needed

St. Mark's is looking for a part-time Music Ministries Coordinator. The successful candidate will work closely with the senior pastor and music staff to integrate all aspects of the music ministry for worship, to enrich, inspire and compliment all services. Facilitating the congregation's growth in faith through music ministries, and helping to create an overall vision for St. Mark's music ministries is also a key part of the position.



To view complete job description, go to http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/jobdesc_w.pdf

To apply for the position send cover letter and resume to lindseydonna1958@gmail.com by March 31, 2017.

We Celebrate our 50-year Members!

On Sunday, March 19, we honored Carol Ann Bascom (pictured), Evelyn Burton, and Marian Shultis for their 50-years of membership. We are sincerely grateful and blessed for your service to St. Mark's!



Nash Neighbors Needs You!



As you probably know, since the 2002/2003 school year, St. Mark's has partnered with Nash Elementary School in the Amphi School District. Over the years, many St. Mark's volunteers have assisted in Nash classrooms; staff and teachers at Nash always appreciate and value our support. Our volunteer program currently has a couple specific opportunities/openings for you to consider:

The Art teacher at Nash would LOVE to have a volunteer help with prepping and displaying artwork every Thursday (a background check will be required for work on campus). Please contact Melinda Sims (wndrzfan@netzero.com) current volunteer coordinator, for information about getting cleared to volunteer in the classroom.

Our Nash Neighbors Committee includes a position to coordinate all on-campus volunteers, and we are once again in need of a volunteer to coordinate our volunteers, as Melinda has decided to "retire" again. Please contact Carol Cecilia (carolcecilia@comcast.net) for more information about this position/opportunity.

We hope you'll prayerfully consider supporting one of these areas of need. Thank you for your continued support of our partnership with Nash Elementary School!

Easter Bags

St. Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force is sponsoring the filling of 300 Easter bags for children living in the Colonia where the Fuente de Veda church is located in Agua Prieta, Mexico. (NOTE: St. Mark's did this last year with very little lead time and some miscommunication. But thanks to your generous donations we pulled it off!) This year, we already have handmade wooden cross necklaces, age appropriate activity books, boxes of crayons, and prayer squares for each of the children's bags. All St. Mark's members and friends are invited to provide some portion of the following items. The bags are approximately 8 1/2" x 11" x 3", and several items must fit inside each bag.

- Small plush (soft) toy, e.g., Beanie Baby size - about 4 inches tall.
- Candy treats - NO CHOCOLATE - Something that does not melt, e.g. Skittles, Life Savers, Jelly Beans, flavored chewing gum. If you find the candies packaged in a plastic egg, that would be wonderful.
- Small toy, game, or puzzle, e.g., jump rope, Tic-tac-toe game, jigsaw puzzle, Play-Doh (modeling clay), a pad of paper & markers/pencils, etc. Please nothing longer than 10 inches. Nothing gender related. No guns, knives, or military type toys.
- Small decorative Easter items, e.g., butterfly pin, butterfly or flower stickers, bookmark, etc.
- Small Spanish language storybooks would also be wonderful.

There will be tables in the courtyard on Sunday, April 2 & 9 for you to bring your donations to church. If you have questions, contact Pat Kittrell (patriciakittrell@comcast.net).

HeartWorks Sewing Ministry is in need of donations of fabric. Washable fabrics, which will accommodate dimensions of 23"x33" bags, are requested. Contact Gale



Habitat for Humanity®

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY "BRUSH WITH KINDNESS" is a cleanup, beautification, painting, minor repair project focused on the revitalization of distressed neighborhoods. St Mark's UMC has committed to a ½ day work project from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on APRIL 8. **Fifteen volunteers are needed!** We will carpool from the south parking lot! The project is located only 15 minutes from the church. The house is owned by Victor and Maryanne who have been in the house for 14 years, and are raising their two granddaughters. We will need to replace and paint fascia, and paint two areas on the exterior of the house; maybe some light landscape as well. A sign-up sheet is on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board. We need YOU! For more information, call Casey Compernolle (907-4718) or Lenna Burnham (305-923-5362).

UMW Retreat Registration Deadline

All women of the church are invited to come to the Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women's Spiritual Growth Retreat at the Redemptorist Renewal Center on Picture Rocks Road in Tucson. The retreat begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28, and ends after lunch on Sunday, April 30.



The retreat theme is *Called and Gifted*, and will be led by our own Pastor Tammy Hallam. We are hoping to have a good size group of St. Mark's women attend, including non-United Methodist Women members. Retreat participants will have opportunities to select/learn several different ways to meditate. The cost is \$140 as a commuter (not staying overnight at the center) and includes the Friday night meal, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Additional retreat information and registration forms are available in the United Methodist Women's mailbox in the church office. Registration deadline is Saturday, April 1. If you have questions and/or to let us know you'd like to carpool to the retreat, contact Virginia Tupper (ginr3636@gmail.com).

Vacation Bible School – June 5-9 from 9:00 – 12:00

Join us this summer for Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!

At VBS *Hero Central*, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they discover their strength in God. They will become Heroes and explore how to serve God and God's mission for their lives. After a high-energy opening assembly at *Hero Central*, the Heroes make their way to the Bible Story Headquarters. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Hero Codes to equip your Heroes for an active life with God. Your Heroes will discover a Hero Verse (Bible memory verse) that will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at Craft Headquarters, singing new songs at Music Headquarters, exploring the wonders of creation at Science Headquarters, playing games at Recreation Headquarters, and enjoying tasty treats at Snack Headquarters. Along the way, the Heroes will hear about our mission project and find ways to respond to a call for action!



Teens and adults... You can be a Hero too! We will need lots of help encouraging about 100 little Heroes and guiding them throughout the week. Are you a leader, a helper, or maybe a shepherd? Do you prefer to be behind the scenes? Or maybe you really like to decorate. Do you already have a costume and Super Hero name? If you wear the costume, I promise to try my best to call you by your Super Hero name all week! Talk to Greg (297-2062 or greg@umcstmarks.org) about ways you can best use your special powers.

Ages: 3 years (completely toilet-trained and finished one year of preschool) through 6th grade

Costs: \$30/child, Monday- Friday mornings (9:00 a.m. – Noon)

Extended care available: \$80/child (\$110 total/child) Monday - Friday afternoons (12:00 p.m.– 4:00 pm) *No naptime available; please provide your own lunch.*

To register, go to www.umcstmarks.org and click "Vacation Bible School" under Upcoming Events on the right. Or you can pick up a registration form in the office. Registrations are limited. Deadline for all registrations is noon on May 16th.

Easter

Community Event

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 - 9AM TO NOON

You are invited to our Community Easter Celebration for kids,
so bring the whole family and the neighbors, too!

Lots of crafts and activities like train rides, an obstacle course,
and jumping castle. Plus, popcorn and cotton candy. Entrance fee is \$3



Egg Hunts

10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
(children age 2 years to 5th grade)

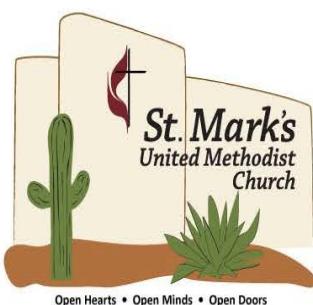


Petting Zoo

9:30am – 11:30am



Cupcake Walks just \$1



1431 W. Magee Rd. (corner of W. Magee and LaCanada).

WASS UP?

HIPPITY, HOPPITY EASTER'S ON ITS WAY

March 21, 2017

Volume 18, Issue 6

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

March 25, 2017—

Saturday
9:00 a.m.
Confirmation field trip to the
San Xavier Mission

March 26, 2017—



4:00 to 6:00
“Family Feud”
Games

April 1, 2017—

8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
**MIDDLE SCHOOL SCAVEN-
GER HUNT**

April 2, 2017—

3:00 to 4:00
Youth Council
4:00 to 6:00
Easter Planning

April 16, 2017—

Easter



We just felt like saying that. It's completely irrelevant. What IS relevant is your participation in Easter events, including the Sunrise Service.

Confirmands will attend and/or participate in all Holy Week services, including Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday.

All youth are encouraged to participate in the Sunrise Service on Easter morning. We will plan that service on Sunday, April 2nd.

COMING THIS SUMMER

Actually, we're not sure what's coming. That's completely up to the Youth Council. Other than Middle School Mission and SSP, the Sundays are wide open.

EVERYONE is invited to the April 2nd Youth Council meeting to offer suggestions on making the summer of 2017 amazing. As with all Youth Council meetings, everyone is invited. Only officers can vote. The meeting begins at 3 p.m. in the Wesley House.



Sierra Service Project News

2017 TRIP

Tsaile, AZ on the Navajo Reservation
July 7-15, 2017.

Second payment of \$60 due by April 10.

We have two fundraisers coming up:
The Easter pancake breakfast. Shifts begin at 5 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m.
Please contact Kim and let her know which service your family plans to attend.

We also have a golf tournament scheduled! (Thanks to Lynnette Dominguez, Ari's mom.) IT'S **MAY 6**. Everyone needs to start getting hole sponsors and donations for the silent auction. You will soon receive tournament flyers, so that you can pass them out to friends and family. You will also be asked to help sign up teams on a Sunday morning.

Finally, notice the updated trip dates above. Those who attended the March 19 meeting, voted to go from Tucson to Albuquerque on July 7, work our project in Tsaile July 9-15, and come home on the 15th. There are a lot of cool things to do in Albuquerque. Visit their website.



**May 30
to
June 2**



CONTACT:
KIM OGLE OR RACHEL
MOSHER
297-2062
KIM@UMCSTMARKS.ORG



ECC News

We are currently accepting preschool and Kindergarten registration for Fall 2017. We also are accepting registrations for our summer fun camps!

Thank you to St. Mark's Worship Committee for the \$600 donation from the flower fund to help with cost of the turf for the toddler playground.

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS...

In hospital:

Susan Kelley



In rehab or care facilities:

Than Brademas, Donald Chester, Patricia Keele, Harold Mull, Sue Robinson, Howard Russell, Yvonne Yare

Undergoing treatment at home:

Jude Anderson, Ellen Beene, Michael Campbell, Judy Drescher, Bill Duryee, Tiffany Guerette, Karen Linebarier, Dell Long, Judy

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY...

Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

Hank Bautzmann, son of Nancy Bautzmann
Jon Chytka, nephew of Roger and Donna Severson
Zachary Dojaquez, grandson of Roger and Donna Severson
Brandonn Eto, close friend of Zirnheld/Compernolle family
Rob Eubank, son of David and Johanna Eubank
Mike Freeman, son of Ken and Ann Freeman
Patrick Harris, grandson of Marilyn Vaughn
Greg Haynes, son of Bob and Melinda Haynes
Matthew Hughey, son of Juliee and Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick
Rachel Kester, daughter of Don and Ruth Kester
Travis Kroll, son-in-law of Becky Strain
Adam Laurie, son of Ingrid Christensen
Chad Long, grandson of Pat Long
Mark Joseph Maver, son of Seymour and Marcia Maver

Volunteers are needed to provide a meal for 60 - 70 people on Wed. Nights

If your group or family is interested in participating in providing this meal prior to Soul Station, funds are available. Clara Campbell (297-6669) will assist with set up and can answer any of your questions regarding menus and budget. Sign up in the narthex on Sundays on the volunteer board, or info@umcstmarks.org.



Mitzimberg, Marla Mutschler, Jim Neessen, Bob Ross, Connie White

Recovering at home:

Caroline Demee, Darrel Frazer, Megan Krzmarzick

WE OFFER OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO...

- ♥ **Sandi, Tim, and Karlyn Heilman** and family, upon the loss of Richard Heilman.
- ♥ **Morgan & Sharon Hunter and Gena McGill**, upon the loss of Sharon's mother and Gena's grandmother, Grace Moore.

Joshua Miller, grandson of Ginny Johnson
Jake Newton, son of Robert and Cheri Newton
John O'Regan, husband of Ashley O'Regan and grandson-in-law of Janet Krug
Brian Osborn, pastor in the Desert Southwest Conference
William Putt, son of Harold and Susan Putt
Joshua Ruth, son-in-law of Marjie Walp
Adam Seia, son of David and Vonda Seia
Jason Smith, grandson of Jerry and Judy Smith
Alex Snow, brother of Shelley Shelton
Clint Staschke, son-in-law of Cliff and June Young
Michael and Karisa Szczygiel, daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Flick
Timothy Trexler, great-nephew of Gail Blevins
Brianna Walker, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of John Fradenburgh
Jeff Welsh, grandson of Roger and Donna Severson



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Reflections

State of the Church – Part 5

"How is our church doing?" "What plans does St. Mark's have for the future?" From January - March, 2017, I'm sharing in *Messenger* articles some information about those questions. January articles focused on summarizing 2016. February's focus was on our budget, priorities, leadership, and plans for 2017. In the last *Messenger*, I talked about membership, worship attendance and strength. In this issue, I'm sharing some information and thoughts about lay leadership.

One measure of a church's vitality is the strength of its lay leadership. Of course, clergy leadership is important, too, but is not enough to sustain and grow a strong church community. When lay leaders show joy, hope and a commitment to Christ through their words and actions, and work to grow in their leadership skills, they make an immense contribution to the vitality of a church.

You may remember that before I came to St. Mark's seven years ago, I served from 2004-2010 as the Central East District Superintendent, providing oversight to 42 churches and 65 pastors in Phoenix's east valley, up to Show Low and south to Casa Grande. I had the chance to see lots of lay and clergy leaders, and deeply respect so many.

Rarely, though, have I seen the quality and depth of lay leadership that we have at St. Mark's. For a moment, I want to lift up our church staff, and give thanks for them. Ruth Kester, who is our church's Bookkeeper and Administrative Services Team Leader, also recently served as chairperson of our 60th Anniversary Committee. You saw the evidence of that work in the joyful celebrations of March 18-19. I'm very grateful to Ruth for her leadership. Our entire staff, though, worked together to recruit and guide dozens of other people, which led to the great party on Saturday, and worship on Sunday. Along with Ruth, Kim Ogle, Greg Poling, Rachel Mosher, Sherry Walker, Janie Towne, Kandy Delk, Sallyann Wassmuth, Kayla Ruiz, Bart Dale, Clara Campbell, Julie Eblen, Elizabeth Schauer, Sondra Franks, JoAnn Luther, Bob Tucker, Lira Makarova, Cathy Harris Herchenroeder, Carli Ogle, Todd Martin, and Vince Atkins, all had a part in leading us. Thank you very much!

The Anniversary Celebration is just one example of how our staff leadership works together to "change the world through Christ, by caring for all people."

Next time, I'll talk about non-staff lay leadership and your essential role in our church's vitality.

Blessings,
Sharon