



# Messenger

Volume 57, Number 5

March 7, 2017

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

## A Word of Thanks

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for all those who participated in the celebration of St. Mark's 60th Anniversary: *Caring for our Campus --- A Birthday Gift of Thanks.*

Thanks to your many donations, we're happy to report that \$64,116 has been received so far, exceeding our goal of \$60,000, for much-needed capital resources. These, and additional funds, will be crucial toward our five-phase campus development for upgrades, major repairs and maintenance.

If you haven't already done so, please consider contributing to the Capital Campaign fund. Doing so will ensure St. Mark's remains a vital place of worship, serving as a beacon of hope within our community.

You can continue to give to the Capital Campaign in one of the following ways:

1. Going to [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org), clicking on the Donation/Payment box, and using the "Capital Campaign" designation, or
2. Checking the "Capital Fund" box on an offering envelope, or
3. Designating "Capital Campaign" in the memo line of your check.

Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Ruth Kester in our church office (297-2062 or [ruthk@umcstmarks.org](mailto:ruthk@umcstmarks.org)).

Your gifts have already been put to work as the flooring in the Fellowship Hall has been replaced as of March 4, 2017. Again, thank you for your generous support and prayers for this very important campaign.

*Board of Trustees and Finance Committees*

### **Special Opportunity – Communion Each Week During Lent!**

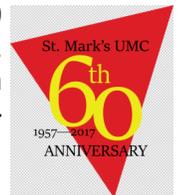
Do you long for the chance to have Holy Communion more often during Lent? On Sundays, March 12, 19, and 26, you can do that on Sunday mornings. Come to Fellowship Hall after the 8:15 a.m. service (about 9:15) or the 9:45 a.m. (about 10:45 a.m.) and receive Communion from Pastor Joe Brown or Rev. Judy Boroto. This is a special opportunity to make Lent more meaningful by celebrating Holy Communion each week during March.

*Sharon Ragland*



## It's a Celebration

Please join St. Mark's as we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. with a BBQ dinner and music on the West Patio. Tickets will be sold this Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, between services in the courtyard and in the church office, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Tickets are \$5 per person for ages 13-and-up. Children 12-and-under are free, but do require a ticket. The celebration will continue on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, during all worship services. We look forward to seeing you at the celebration and in worship. Any questions, please contact Ruth Kester (297-2062).



## *New Moms, Babies, and Babies to Be...*

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 to a "Welcome Baby Luncheon." We will be having a lunch to honor you in the Fellowship Hall on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. This is a chance to meet with other mothers and mothers-to-be



from our church. This luncheon is sponsored by the Mark-a-ritas, a group of loving women who would like to welcome you and your new baby to St. Mark's. If you are interested, please call, text, or Email Linda Hill. Childcare will be available upon request.



## 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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notification of online  
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please contact:  
messenger  
@umcstmarks.org

### Next Messenger deadline:

**March 16th**

## Calendar Notes

**Food Truck Café** will be this Fri.,  
March 10, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. At  
6:30 p.m., a movie, *Moana*, will be  
shown on the West Patio.

**There will be a Meditation Gardens**  
workday this Sat., March 11, at 8:00  
a.m.

**Adult Spiritual Growth will meet** this  
Sat., March 11, at 9:00 a.m. in Rooms  
20/23.

**Youth Council will meet** prior to Youth  
Group this Sun., March 12, at 3:00  
p.m. in the Wesley House.

**Membership Care will meet** on Mon.,  
March 13, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library.

**The Marksmen will meet** at Coco's on  
Wed., March 15, at 7:30 a.m.

**Covenant Council will meet** on Tues.,  
March 21, at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship  
Hall.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH•HOPE•LOVE IN ACTION

St. Mark's **United Methodist Women will meet** on Tues.,  
March 14, in the church library. Please come at 9:30 a.m.  
for light refreshments and fellowship. The program, *A Call  
to Prayer and Self Denial*, will begin at 10:00 a.m. All  
women of the church are invited. You don't have to be a  
member of St. Mark's UMW, St. Mark's UMC, or any  
church to attend. Childcare will be available upon  
reservation (297-2062). If you have questions or need a ride, please contact Virginia  
Tupper, or leave a message in the church office and someone will get back to you.

**There is still time to purchase** your  
tickets for a weekend concert and golf  
tournament benefitting HIV locally  
and globally!

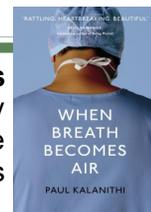
The Swinging@AIDS Benefit Con-  
cert, March 24 at 6:30 p.m., will be  
held at First United Methodist Church  
at Main Gate Square. Tickets are \$15.



On March 25, The Swinging@AIDS Golf  
Tournament will be held at The Views Golf  
Course in Oro Valley. Registration is  
\$125.

For more information, contact Claudia  
Svarstad (CSvarstad@aol.com or 303  
-594-8027).

On Monday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m., Pastor Sharon will lead a **Mark-a-ritas  
book discussion** in Fellowship Hall on *When Breath Becomes Air* by  
Paul Kalanithi. It will be helpful if you read the book ahead of time. All are  
welcome. Bring a friend. Contact Pastor Sharon if you have questions  
(sharon@umcstmarks.org).



## Dear Church Family...

**I would like to express my gratitude** for  
all the cards and calls I have received  
from the congregation and pastors  
during my knee replacement surgery  
and subsequent recovery. It's been four  
weeks since the surgery. It's been nice  
seeing all the cards on the fireplace  
mantle showing the love and support of  
the church.

Ron Hill

**Thank you so much** for the wonderful  
Prayer Shawl I received during my  
baptism. It's beautiful and a nice treat.  
I also appreciate all the love and prayers  
that we have received during my  
husband's illness. We believe the  
prayers are helping him do as well as  
he is doing.

Thank you so much for being so special. I  
am truly blessed that Sandy Marchese  
introduced us to St. Mark's

Patricia Duryee



## Prayer Bead Workshop

Do you ever find that your mind wanders or that you do not know what to say when you are praying? There is a tool that might help you with these challenges. On Saturday, April 8, (just in time for Holy Week) you may join me in the Fellowship Hall to assemble prayer beads. We will start at 9:00 a.m. Then, beginning at 10:15 a.m., we will explore different ways to use your beads to enrich your prayer life. We will finish between 11:30 and Noon. If you are interested, please sign up on the Adult Spiritual Growth board in the courtyard. I am requesting that you bring \$5.00 to pay for the beading supplies. I would also appreciate it if you are able to bring a square/rectangular container with low sides (like a cookie sheet or a shoe box lid) to hold and organize your beads. *(Note: this last request is not a requirement - it will just make it easier to work with your beads.)*

If you already have beads, but they are just taking up space in a drawer and you would like to practice using them, please feel free to join us at 10:15 a.m. I am going to ask that you also sign up so that we have enough handouts for everyone. I hope to see you then.

Brenda Hunter

## Update on Syria

Syria is one of St. Mark's focus countries in which Christian persecution is extreme, and violence has been elevated, particularly in the city of Aleppo. Many Christians were forced to flee Aleppo but some stayed. However, numerous Muslims who had fled the areas where the heaviest fighting occurred went to the areas where Christians lived. The Christians have welcomed these Muslims. The Muslims were surprised to see that the churches offered support and programs for all Syrians and not just Christians.



A growing number of the Muslim children has been attending the children's activities, where the Bible is read daily, and the mothers of the children have not objected. A number of Muslims have started attending church activities including services. One Christian woman involved in welcoming the Muslims observed, "For the first time in history, Muslims are coming to us. The only thing we have to do is tell them the good news; they are waiting for it."

Please pray for the Christians of Aleppo, Syria: *Father in Heaven, please bless the Christians of Aleppo, Syria, who in the Spirit of Christ, have welcomed and aided their afflicted Muslim neighbors. Please sustain them in this mission of peace and love.*

For more information contact [christianpersecutiontaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:christianpersecutiontaskforce@gmail.com)

### **NOW HIRING: PAID CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT NEEDED**

Our Wednesday evening children's program during Soul Station is in need of an assistant. Join Julie Eblen and work with our elementary and preschool children while the adults are having their program. The time with the children is from 6:20 – 7:05 p.m. The children's program includes a lesson, crafts, games, or other activities. This is a paid position. Contact Greg Poling for more information (297-2062 or [greg@umcstmarks.org](mailto:greg@umcstmarks.org)). Soul Station starts with a light meal at 5:45 p.m. before the program, and you are welcome to come to that.



### **Can You Help with Nash Elementary Snack Packs?**

We are so thankful that St. Mark's helps to provide 120 snack packs to eligible kids at Nash Elementary to take home every Friday during the school year! The bags are filled with potatoes, cereal, applesauce, snack bars, etc.; and this food helps to supplement a child's food needs for the weekend. Nash Neighbors coordinates groups of volunteers who pick up the food on Wednesday mornings at the Food Bank, others who fill the bags when the food arrives at the church, and those who deliver the bags loaded with food back to Nash. It's a wonderful community effort, and we appreciate everyone who helps make this happen!

We currently need more help in November, December, and May for the upcoming school year. If you can help or have a group that you are involved with that can participate and you're available on Wednesday mornings, we'd love to hear from you. This could be a fun activity for neighbors and families, too. Especially, if you have a larger vehicle that can help us transport food. Call or Email Bonnie Sargent or Nancy Jackson to learn more about this amazing outreach that helps kids in a huge way.

## Go for 2 in 2017

This year as we focus on *Good News for Today's World*, the Christian Formation Team is encouraging everyone to "Go for 2" as a way to grow, learn, and deepen our faith. There are so many opportunities here at St. Mark's! Our "Go for 2" theme for March is 2 by 2; just like all those animals marching up to the ark. Wouldn't it be great for each of us to participate in not only worship, but in service as well? We can learn about the *Good News for Today's World*, and then take that Good News out into the world. There are many opportunities for service, but Noah would really love what our Animal Ministry Team



is doing here at St. Mark's. The Animal Ministry Team is a really neat group. In Genesis 1:26, we read God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." This ministry team does just that. They care for all of God's creatures, through service and prayer. Which 2 will you pick

in March?

Christian Formation Team  
Greg, Kim, and Rachel



## FAIR-TRADE COFFEE SALE, SUNDAY, MARCH 12

St Mark's Agua Prieta (Mexico) Task Force will sell bags of coffee on Sunday morning, March 12, in the courtyard, between worship Services. (NOTE: This is the last coffee sale until later in the Fall, 2017... and you may be able to sample the Agua Prieta coffee in the Welcome Center on March 12.)

There will be a selection of the following 100% Arabica, fair-trade, organic coffee (from Chiapas or Veracruz) produced by Cafe la Colonia will be available for \$10 per one pound bag:

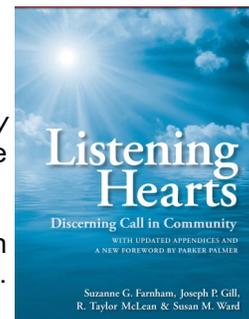
- . Medium Roast regular and decaf coffee, ground and whole beans
- . Dark Roast regular and decaf coffee, ground and whole beans

You will remember all the proceeds from the sale goes directly to support the Cafe la Colonia, a small business run by members of the Fuente de Vida church in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Fuente de Vida church is a mission project of St Mark's UMC, and several other churches in the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church. If you have questions about the coffee sale, please contact Jay Suchland. If you'd like more information about St. Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force, please contact Patricia Kittrell.

## Christian Believers Book Study - Friday, March 31st

Join us 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.

Facilitated by Susan Gerstad and Sherri Lennarson. Register at the Adult Spiritual Growth board or online at [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org). The book is available at local and online bookstores. If you need childcare, contact Greg ([greg@umcstmarks.org](mailto:greg@umcstmarks.org)) and we will try to arrange it.



*Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community* introduces the unique approach of Listening Hearts to the spiritual practice of discernment for a new generation. Written to make the often elusive and usually clergy-centered spiritual practice of discernment accessible to all people, *Listening Hearts* features simple reflections and exercises drawn from scripture and from Quaker and Ignatian traditions. The seminal work in the *Listening Hearts* series, this book has been a beloved resource for tens of thousands of individual readers, retreat participants, small groups and church leaders, listening for and responding to God's call in their lives.

Other books to be studied the last Friday of each month in the church Library at 9:30 a.m. are:

- April 28, 2017** *God was in this Place & I, I did not know* by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner  
**May 26, 2107** *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha & Mohammed Cross the Road?* by Brian McLaren

St. Mark's UMC • 1431 W. Magee Rd. • Tucson, AZ 85704

# Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner

Proceeds and donations support missions in Tucson, around Arizona, the USA and the world.

You may pre-order your food using the form below, for us to have a preliminary count of meals to prepare. Place your completed form in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or in the UMW mailbox in the church office. You may "drive through" for a spaghetti meal, even if you don't pre-order.

As you enter the church campus, follow the arrows to the order table. Money will be collected when you pick up your meal(s).

**\$7.00**  
per meal

Enjoy a complete meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, roll and dessert. A vegetarian option is also available when requested in advance. All meals are prepared and packaged in spill-proof containers by St. Mark's United Methodist Women.

Everything will be ready for you to take home and enjoy, or to take to another family or friends.

**Friday, March 31, 2017**  
**4:00–7:00 p.m.**

For questions, please contact Virginia Tupper (820-4119 or [gjn3636@gmail.com](mailto:gjn3636@gmail.com)).

## Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner Pre-Order Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (home) OR \_\_\_\_\_ (cell)

Number of meat meals I/we want to pick up: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of vegetarian meals I/we want to pick up: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Money will be collected when you pick up.)*

Approximate time I /we will pick up the order: \_\_\_\_\_



Place your completed form in the offering plate on Sunday morning or in the UMW mailbox in the church office during the week. **No money/check is needed with this pre-order form.**

# WASS UP?

March 17, 2017

Volume 18, Issue 5

## SSP MEETING MARCH 19

Meet in Room 17 (across from the sanctuary) at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 19 to discuss the plans for SSP.

Agenda: payments, future fundraisers (including the May 6 Golf Tournament), the fun trip. Bring dates for your summer activities, like sports, band, family vacations, etc.

Parents are welcome, but not required, to attend. Did we mention, bring your calendar?

### UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

**March 12, 2017—**

3:00 to 4:00

Youth Council

4:00 to 6:00

“Underground Church”  
& other cool games with prizes

**March 19, 2017—**

3:00 SSP Meeting

4:00 to 6:00

St. Patrick’s Party



**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

## COMING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ONLY

On Sunday, April 1, there will be a district event for grades 6-8. Parts of the event are secret. Hint: you need sunscreen and a party attitude.

This is NOT an April Fool’s joke. 😊

Eight weeks later (which means you don’t have much school left), St. Mark’s will host the District Middle School Mission. SAVE THE DATES: MAY 30 THRU JUNE 2

a note from the  
**YOUTH DIRECTOR**

How's your Lent going? In the last "note from the Youth Director" I urged you to put some thought into Lent, by either giving up something that might be taking time away from your relationship with God, and/or adding something to enhance that relationship. I admit, it took me a while to decide, but I finally decided on a daily Lenten devotional.

Remember, *we are Easter people!* It's belief in the resurrection that makes us Christians. Our Lenten journey through forty days, not including Sundays, helps us prepare for Easter. The journey ends with a great celebration. "Alleluia, Christ has risen!"

Blessings,  
Kim



**Sierra Service Project News**

2017 TRIP

Tsaile, AZ on the Navajo Reservation  
July 9-15, 2017.

**WE MADE \$1100 ON THE PARKING LOT SALE!** Thanks to everyone who contributed and worked the sale.

**Meeting on March 19 at 3 p.m.**

Second payment of \$60 due by April 10.

## Middle School Moments

Have you ever played with Silly Putty? I love that stuff! In March of 1950, an engineer named James Wright was trying to come up with a human-made rubber material and came up with this... stuff...it was gooey and bounced. He tried to find a practical use for it, but with no luck. But when the owner of a toy store saw the bouncy goo, he knew that it would be really fun! They decided to sell it in plastic eggs for \$1.

Over 50 years later, my kids still LOVE to play with Silly Putty (and so do I when they aren't looking!). I like how it stretches, and can be molded so easily.

Kind of how God works with us, right? He stretches and shapes us through our experiences and is transforming us every day. The next time you play with some Silly Putty, imagine the ways that God is stretching and molding YOU! Then share some with me!

*Rachel*

**LOVE LIFE**  
**LIVE  LENT**  
**TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD**



## ECC News

A big thank you to Janet Mitchell for sewing flannel sheets for our children's nap mats. It is very much appreciated!

The ECC is looking to hire two preschool teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please call the office at 797-2925.

## YOU can make a HUGE difference!

We are living in a time of uncertainty and worldwide distrust. Yet, despite all this, there are many wonderful young people dreaming of coming to America this fall as a Foreign Exchange Student. These boys and girls (age 15-18) come from 22 different countries and badly need homes for the next school year. They have full insurance and speak fair English. Hosts provide room and board and a loving environment for their student to experience our American culture while they attend your area High School. Hosts can be young or old, single or married, and all make a major impact on these kid's lives. Please contact me - I'd love to share the details.

*Cliff Young*

## PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS...

In hospital:

**Rich Heilman, Harold Mull**



In rehab or care facilities:

**Than Brademas, Donald Chester, Caroline Demee, Darrel Frazer, Patricia Keele, Sue Robinson, Howard Russell, Jim Ward, Yvonne Yare**

Undergoing treatment at home:

**Jude Anderson, Ellen Beene, Michael Campbell, Judy Drescher, Bill Duryee, Tiffany**

**Guerette, Karen Linebarier, Dell Long, Judy Mitzimberg, Marla Mutschler, Jim Neessen, Bob Ross, Connie White**

Recovering at home:

**Kelly Deyoe, Ron Hill, Maryann Nuckolls**

Upcoming surgeries:

**Susan Kelley, Megan Krzmarzick**

## WE OFFER OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO...

- ♥ Family and friends of Lloyd Mattson.
- ♥ Family and friends of Margaret Curtis.

## LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY...

*Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto: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/Compernelle 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

**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 4 – 3/6/17

“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 this part of the “State of the Church,” I’m talking about membership, worship attendance and strength.

How do we measure the vitality of our church? This is a key question that is discussed throughout the United Methodist Church. Years ago, we measured vitality by the number of people on our membership rolls. We found that not everyone on the rolls attended worship or participated in church. We also found that younger people are not as apt to join a church, even though they actively participate.

So we began to measure vitality by worship attendance. This is still one valid way to measure vitality because worship is still the primary place where people gather to praise and thank God, and grow in faith. In 2016, St. Mark’s average worship attendance was 681, a slight increase over 2015. In fact, worship attendance has been increasing slowly and steadily for a number of years.

However, worship attendance patterns have changed in recent times. This is true for many religious organizations. While people used to attend worship every week, now some consider themselves regular attenders if they come twice a month. There are many reasons for this, including work schedules, family demands, and much more.

We find that now worship attendance is not the only good measure of a church’s vitality. We look at things like participation in mission and ser-

vice projects, classes, family events, how many new people are in leadership, and how willing we are to embrace new projects and ministries.

Truly, though, I believe that a church’s real strength is best measured by how much joy and hope is experienced, talked about, and infused in everything we do. How excited are we to invite others to join us? What stories do we tell about how God has changed our lives? How do we share our church experiences of care and compassion? How are we involved in making an impact on our community? Those are hard to measure but are, in my view, the true measures of the strength of our church. I’d love to hear your responses to those questions.

In the next *Messenger*, I’m going to talk about additional plans for 2017.

Blessings,  
Sharon