

# Messenger

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

Volume 58, Number 08

April 24, 2018



## Saying "Thanks" & "Goodbye" to Kandy Delk Sunday, May 20th

How do you measure the difference someone has made by serving on our church staff for 6 and a half years? Even more, how do you thank that person? Kandy Delk has faithfully served as Administrative Associate since 2011, and will leave her position in May to move east to be near family. She has contributed in countless ways to our church's mission of **changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people** by welcoming people in the front office, keeping the church calendar and scheduling facilities, assisting in many ways with worship, and much more.



While we will greatly miss Kandy, we wish her well as she starts a new phase in her life. To honor her, we will have a cake and beverage reception between worship services on Sunday, May 20th. If you would like to bring a card or gift for her, a basket to receive those will be available on that day. (You can also bring or mail them to the church office.)

Staff Parish will be interviewing people soon for Kandy's position, and know that God is with Kandy as she goes, and with us as we prepare for a new person on our church staff.

*Donna Reed, Chairperson  
Staff Parish Relations Committee*

## St. Mark's Youth Service GOLF TOURNAMENT

There is still time to register, but hurry deadline is May 10! Spend a fun day on The Highlands at Dove Mountain golf course and support St. Mark's youth! Your contribution will allow our youth to participate in a life-changing, hands-on Sierra Service Project.

**Tournament Details: Sat., May 12, 2018.**

This is a four-person Scramble Tournament. Check-in and Driving Range opens at 6:45 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. At 12:30 p.m. enjoy lunch, awards, and a silent auction with other golfers and guests. For information about entry fees, and sponsorships, or to register online go to: [www.umcstmark.org](http://www.umcstmark.org) (upcoming events).

## Market On The Move! Saturday, May 5



**Cinco de Mayo!** May 5 we will celebrate by offering 60 pounds of veggies for \$10 here at the church parking lot at **Market On The Move**. Set up starts at 6:30 a.m. with table set up and organizing the veggies. The market is open from 8-10 a.m. followed by putting away tables and final clean up. Please wear closed-toed shoes, a hat might be nice. Volunteers should call or text Lenna (see directory) or sign up on the bulletin board located in the courtyard on Sundays.

# Peace Lab Vacation Bible School

June 4-8, 2018

A huge thank you to those who answered the call to come and be VBS volunteers this year. We still have some openings left so contact Margaret Synhorst ([margaret@umcstmarks.org](mailto:margaret@umcstmarks.org) or 297-2062) to see where you can help. Remember, this is a church-wide event, and there are many ways to support VBS:



**Prayer Team.** We want people praying for the kids and helpers during VBS. If you can't be there in person, be there in prayer!

**Missions.** We will have two exciting mission opportunities for you to participate in. More details coming soon.

**Donations.** We will have a list of snack items, and possibly craft items for you to donate to VBS.

**Closing Celebration.** Mark your calendars now for the Peace Lab Closing Celebration on Friday, June 8, at 6 P.M. The entire congregation is invited to share in this special celebration together. Thanks so much for your support of the children!



The St. Mark's Endowment Fund is established to provide members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to the church and its ministries that will become a permanent endowment of financial support, and a living memorial.

The Permanent Endowment Fund Committee is comprised of congregation members who are committed to wise management of all the gifts, so that the principal is maintained for maximum growth. Naming St. Mark's as a beneficiary in your estate plan or making an endowment gift can assure your continued participation far into the future. If you would like more information about St. Mark's Endowment Fund, email your questions to [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org).

# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

## United Methodist History

Led by Brenda Hunter & Kelly Deyoe  
Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m., May 10 & 17

We would like to extend an additional invitation to those of you who are interested in coming to the overview of United Methodist History. Because the class starts at 6:00 and therefore may cause a problem of working in some supper after work and before the class, please feel free to bring a snack or dinner. We think the information about early church leaders, the beginnings and idea behind Methodism, the development of the church in America, schisms and mergers, and our basic theological beliefs will be interesting enough to distract anyone from a growling stomach. This class will be just a snapshot of the timeline of United Methodist history. We are both proponents of knowing our past and how we got to where we are today. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Individual Learning Opportunities

Resource Room – Room 23

Did you know that there are many different educational resources available to check out? In addition to class materials for leaders, there are lots of books and videos that may be of interest to inquiring minds. Some of the authors include: Adam Hamilton, Max Lucado, and Marcus Borg to name a few. There are also videos about major biblical characters: Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and others.

In addition, there are study guides to many of the books of the Bible. The materials range in complexity to meet many levels of spiritual growth. There is no charge for borrowing these materials; just sign them out on the clipboard located in the room. If you happen to have an interesting book that you have read and want to share with others, you can donate it to the Resource Room. Returns of borrowed materials and any donated materials should be placed in the basket that is provided in the room. We hope you take advantage of this great opportunity. Happy studying!

**Grace Circle of UMW** will be meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 9:30 a.m. **PLEASE NOTE DATE.** We will meet in the kitchen to clean and sort the cupboards. Please bring cleaning supplies and gloves. All women of the church are invited. You don't have to be a member of St. Mark's to attend. If you have questions, please contact Priscilla McInnis (see directory).

# A New Name... Same Mission!

**St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force (formerly St. Mark's Christian Task Force)** supports and raises awareness of Christians in any country that are being persecuted by continuing to inform the congregation about areas of the world where Christians are being threatened due to their faith. Additionally, the Task Force encourages St. Mark's members to support persecuted Christians through prayer. They also provide assistance through missions work, and advocacy of this group. There are a number of ways that you can help support St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force. We hope you will consider one or both of the following:

1. Become a member of the Task Force. This requires attending committee meetings during the year and helping support the planned initiatives.
2. Join our "Christian Support Prayer Chain" and pray for persecuted Christians. You'll contact you via email and provide information and prayers regarding particular situations that require our attention.

If you are interested, and would like to become part of the prayer chair, or join the committee, please email the St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force (see directory).

## Mission Statement

To support Christians in any country that are being persecuted, the Task Force will pursue mission accomplishment by:

- Continually updating the congregation and the surrounding community about where and how persecution of Christians is occurring;
- Involving and assisting members of the congregation in supporting Christians who are under pressure by communicating encouragement to them;
- Providing mission support to persecuted Christians who are in need as a result of practicing their faith;
- Advocacy on behalf of Persecuted Christians to governments and international organizations.



The Bible teaches that God sees believers as United in Christ:

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13** - "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free"

**1 Corinthians 12:26** - "if one member suffers, all suffer together"

Those whose practice of the Christian faith is under pressure from various governments and hostile organized social groups need the Free Church to stand with them – to pray for and support them.

Research by the Pew Research Center on government restrictions and social group hostilities documents, that persecution of Christians is occurring in more countries than against those practicing other faiths. Information regularly collected by Open Doors USA, an affiliate of the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, shows that on a world-wide basis on average 322 Christians are killed each month for their faith, 214 Christian churches and properties are destroyed each month, and 772 forms of violence are committed against Christians.

The experience of mission groups that support Christians in countries where persecution is being done has revealed that Christians under pressure report how important to them it is to have members of the Free Church to pray for them, to voice support for them, and to communicate that support to them. Such activities reveal to persecuted Christians that they are not alone and encourages them to strengthen their faith and persevere. Further, activities of the free church that provide other support such as supplying bibles and educational materials and other support that help them survive persecution demonstrates that God's entire world-wide Church is with them.

# ***New Members - Class of April 2018***



## ***Connie Gallardo***

Connie comes to us from Denver Colorado where she lived for almost 60 years. Her career included a job as director of retail sales and as a manager for Bergen Brunswick Drug Company. Connie is an avid golfer. She used to bowl recreationally and can fly a Piper Cub airplane. Now, she crochets baby hats and sweaters for single mothers and loves to travel. Connie has always sung in her church choir. She has been a second grade tutor, and has been part of Stephen Ministries and a Women of Faith group. Connie attends the 9:45 a.m. service, and her sponsor is Vickie Dee.



## ***Nancy Jackson***

Nancy and her husband Brian met at the U of A, but then lived, worked, and raised their family in the Denver, CO area for thirty years. They moved back to Tucson in 2015, but still travel to CO. They have a daughter, Kelly, who lives in New York. Nancy is retired from her work in the Human Resources field. She is still very involved with volunteer work for 100+Women Who Care, El Grupo, St. Elizabeth's Health Center, and in missions work at St. Mark's serving as our Community Food Bank Liaison and in many areas with our Nash Neighbors outreach. Nancy attends the 8:15 a.m. service, and her sponsor is Sherri Lennarson.



## ***Diane Judge***

Diane calls herself an "Air Force brat" whose father was stationed here in Tucson during part of her childhood. As an adult, she has moved back and forth between Tucson and Chino Valley near Prescott. Her career was spent in Elementary Education, both as a teacher and administrator in the classroom and special education. Diane still substitute teaches, but her great avocation is working with horses. Diane camps and does trail rides with her horses and judges competitive trail rides. Each 4th of July, she is involved with Prescott Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo. She also loves to travel and teach and participate in Country Western dancing. Much of Diane's family lives in Loveland, CO. Here, Diane is involved with our Animal Ministries, mission work, and classes. She attends The Gathering at 11:15 a.m. and Soul Station on Wednesdays. Her sponsor is Donna Reed.



## ***K.J. Naae***

K.J. claims Davenport, Iowa as her hometown. She works as an Internal Auditor and enjoys spending time with her dog, Charlie. K.J. is involved with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs and she and Charlie have just completed the training to become a therapy pet team. She is anxious to see what service to the community they will be able to provide. K.J. also loves music, being in nature, going to movies, traveling, and learning about health. She participated in a Lenten study and is now enjoying the Sacred Rhythms class. K.J. also plans to sing with our Summer Choir. She attends the 9:45 a.m. service, and her sponsors are Evy McDonald and Margaret Synhorst.



### ***Ron and Helen Schindler***

Ron and Helen come to us from Casper WY where they spent many years in careers that had them heavily involved in that community. Ron served thirty-nine years with the Volunteer Fire Department, the last twenty-three as Fire Chief. He is also a master woodworker and as lead carpenter he repaired everything having to do with any sort of structure. In his leisure time, Ron loves fly fishing, camping, and doing mission projects. Helen has taught Jr. High Sunday School for 25 years as well as being a camp counselor and director of a Sr. High camp. Helen was ordained in 2012 and served as Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Casper for over seven years. She loves to read, take pictures, teach Bible classes and spend time with their grandchildren. The Schindlers have a grown son and daughter, both with spouses and children, who live in the Minneapolis area. Ron and Helen are involved here with Mobile Meals and Meals on Wheels. They plan to be part of Bible studies here and they attend The Gathering at 11:15 a.m. and Soul Station. Their sponsors are Susan Zimmerman and Marlyce Wright.



### ***Harry and Lorraine Shaw***

Harry claims Tucson as his hometown while Lorraine returns to us from the east, having spent time in PA and NJ. Harry worked in Law Enforcement/Corrections as a Lay Pastor. He enjoys bowling, fishing, hunting and RVing in his leisure time. Their pets, one dog and three cats, are a big part of their lives. Lorraine has had a career in sales but has always been extremely active in UMW work at the district level. She was co-lay pastor with Harry for three years at a UMC church in NJ. Both are involved with Emmaus and like working with Praise Teams. They attend The Gathering 11:15 a.m. service, and their sponsors are Alice and Joe Brown.



### ***Ed & Amy Taczanowsky***

Ed and Amy have PA hometowns – Ed, Johnstown and Amy, Waynesboro. Ed is employed as a Safety Officer and Amy's career has been as an Executive Assistant and Office Manager. Ed loves the outdoors where he enjoys dog training, hunting, hiking, and being a "rock hound." He also plays guitar. Amy likes to read, do needlepoint, sing, and walk the dogs in her spare time. Ed's son, Peter, is a graduate of West Point and their son, Edward, works in construction. Here at St. Mark's, Ed and Amy plan to be involved with Handy Hands and Amy is also interested in working with our Worship Committee. They attend the 9:45 a.m. service, and their sponsors are Barb and Greg Jones.



### ***Scott Young***

Scott calls Marshfield, WI his hometown, but we're glad he has made his way to St. Mark's! His career was spent working as a Medical Technologist in Microbiology. Currently, he has become extremely interested in photography and belongs to the Camera Club of Tucson and the Tucson Photo Meetup. He enjoys photographing nature, landscapes, the stars, and rising to the challenge of learning what it takes to get a great picture. He also enjoys travel and watching U of A football and basketball. He joins family here at St. Mark's: his father, Calvin, brother, Cliff, and niece Autumn's family. Scott plans to join our Sunday morning Seekers class. He attends the 9:45 a.m. service, and his sponsor is Cliff Young.

# WASS UP?

April 25, 2018

Volume 19, Issue 8

## 5th Sunday?



### UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**April 29, 2018—**

**5th Sunday:**

No Sunday School or Confirmation

4:00 to 6:00

Game Night



**May 6, 2018—**

4:00 to 6:00

Service Project

**May 13, 2018—**

*Confirmation Sunday*

Regular Sunday School

Mother's Day

No Youth Group

**May 20, 2018—**

3:00 to 4:00 Youth Council

4:00 to 6:00 Youth Group

So what's up with the 5th Sunday and no Sunday School or Confirmation?

While we encourage attendance at Sunday School, Confirmation, and other Christian education classes, we know that worship is also important. Actually, worship is crucial to your relationship with God.

There are four months in a calendar year that have five Sundays. On those Sundays, at St. Mark's, we suspend Sunday morning classes, in order to make time for worship. See you in worship!

## YOUTH COUNCIL May 20th

Some of you have already given us ideas for summer activities. On May 20th at 3:00, the Youth Council will put the finishing touches on summer plans. Anyone can come and share ideas and opinions. It's your youth group!

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

a note from the

# YOUTH DIRECTOR

Last Sunday, April 22, was Earth Day. In recognition of Earth Day, we visited Biosphere 2. Fun fact, Earth Day was founded by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in, first held on April 22, 1970.

It's cool that we have a date that's designated to consider our environment, but really, our earth is a gift from God. As with all gifts, we need to show our gratitude by taking care of it every day, not just on a designated day.

Thanks be to God,  
Kim

## Middle School Moments

I find myself at the baseball or softball field almost every night. Between practices and games, I watch a lot of ball during the spring! The hardest thing to watch is when a player (especially the little ones!) get up there to bat, and they strike out. There is one little girl that every time she strikes out, she just looks devastated. She hangs her head and shakes it, and you can tell she's so sad.

It got me thinking about that 3 strikes and you're out rule. I am so glad that life isn't like that, aren't you? I'm glad that when I make a mistake and take a swing and miss, God let's me stay at the plate! Try again, Rachel. And I get to keep swinging. When things get tough, just keep swinging!

See you Sunday, Rachel



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

05-3 Kiera Ritchey

5-20 Don Booth \*

5-20 Nick Hiratsuka

\*Sunday School teacher

### Middle School Mission

May 29-June 1

**4 days and 3 nights of service, worship, and friends!**

**Ends with a half day at Wet 'n Wild!**

Save the Date!



## Sierra Service Project

It's crunch time for the **Golf Tournament!** The tournament is Saturday, May 12th! SSP participants should be looking for donations for the silent auction, as well as individuals or businesses who are willing to sponsor a hole.

Also, the **second payment of \$60** is due now!

# PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday worship, you may submit prayer requests by email to [prayerchain@umcstmarks.org](mailto:prayerchain@umcstmarks.org) or from our website [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org). Also, visit our Prayer Room on campus and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.

Jack Armantrout  
Gail Blevins  
Jared Bowman & family  
Michael Campbell  
Phyllis Carlson  
Donald Chester  
Judy Drescher  
Lori Grimsey  
Keith & Mary Ann Glazier

Breanne Hallam  
Carolyn Hanna  
David & Floretta Harrington  
Patricia Keele  
Pam Kytola  
Karen Linebarier  
Ruth Machtley  
Alice Maynard  
Alan & LuAnn Roberts

Hazel Roberts  
Howard & Gina Russell  
Earlene Schock  
Marian Shultis  
Jim Snedden  
Jim Stauffacher  
Carol Underwood  
Louise Voelker  
Tom Walker

Jim Ward  
Dave Webster  
Connie White  
Lindsay Williams  
Yvonne Yare

## **A STATE OF THE CHURCH Message continued from back page.**

- ◉ In May, 2017, Susan Putt was hired as our Music Ministries Coordinator, with the responsibility of drawing together all our music ministries and helping to provide planning and vision for future music ministries. Under Susan's leadership, in this last year we've held several special concerts, continued to strengthen our children's music program, provided creative elements in worship including special videos, and provided appreciation for all our music groups.
- ◉ A Multi-Site Team, under the leadership of John Cecilia, is exploring the possibility of another site for St. Mark's, north of our current campus. The purpose of this would be to reach new people, and welcome them into the life and ministry of St. Mark's. The team is doing demographic studies, praying together, attending an upcoming workshop, and generally looking at the feasibility of this new venture.
- ◉ We are also beginning to explore the possibility of a concurrent worship service at 9:45 a.m., especially during October-April.
- ◉ Finally, we're almost ready to launch live streaming! More on that soon.
- ◉ We have a growing number of families with babies and young children who attend worship, especially at 9:45 a.m., that feel welcome and comfortable. I'm delighted that they, and all people, feel like St. Mark's is a life-giving church home.

Next time I'll talk about our second emphasis – **fostering mission and service.**

*Blessings, Sharon*

## **Over 50s Lunch Group Invitation!**

Please consider joining the St. Mark's Over 50s group on **Tuesday, May 1st, at Barnfire Mesquite Grill** (former Taste of Texas) located near the intersection of Thornydale and Cortaro Farms roads. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. for some good food and conversation. Please reserve your spot by calling or texting Sandra Rush (see directory). Please make sure to leave your name if you text.



# Calendar Notes

## Friday, April 27

2:30 pm. **OFFICE CLOSED**, for carpet cleaning

## Sat., April 28

9:30 a.m. Chronic Pain/Illness Supprt, Library  
3:00 p.m. Severson Memorial Service

## Sun., April 29

4:00 p.m. Preteen and Youth Group

## Mon., April 30

9:15 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

## Wed., May 2

### Noon - **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

5:45 p.m. Community Meal, Fellowship Hall  
6:15 p.m. Soul Station  
6:15 p.m. Common Grounds

## Thurs., May 3

### Noon - **MESSENGER DEADLINE**

6:30 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Moms of Military, Library

## Sat., May 5

8:00 a.m. Meditation Gardens Workday  
8:00 a.m. Market On The Move, parking lot

## Sun., May 6

9:45 a.m. Confirmation, Sanctuary  
2:00 p.m. Armantrout Memorial  
4:00 p.m. Preteen and Youth Group

## Mon., May 7

9:15 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

## Tues., May 8

9:00 a.m. Coffee Chat, Old Times Kafe  
4:30 p.m. Meditation Gardens Board  
5:30 p.m. Advisory Board, Library  
6:30 p.m. SPRC, conference rm  
6:30 p.m. Missions Committee  
6:30 p.m. Church Growth & Hospitality



## St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

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Senior Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Tammy Hallam

Sunday Worship:

8:15, 9:45, 11:15 a.m.

**Soul Station**

Wednesday Nights:

Community Meal

5:45 p.m.

Music/Programs

6:15-7:15 p.m.

## Dear Church Family...



Recently, thanks to the generosity of St. Mark's, my wife Patricia, Tony Lovaglio, and I delivered 300 Children's Day bags to the Fuente de Vida Methodist Church in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, helping the church with its annual celebration of children living in the community. **St. Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force** thanks all of you who generously contributed. The bags contained a bible-themed coloring book and bracelet, a necklace cross (thanks to Jim Johnson), a prayer square (thanks to our Prayer Shawl Ministry), a variety of candies, a small stuffed animal, and an arts & crafts item. These bags were assembled during the Soul Station evening program; a good time was had by all.

*Appreciatively, Robert Kittrell, Task Force Chair.*

Thanks again to our Handy Hands guys, specifically John Shattuck and Harold Putt who were kind enough to come to my house and correct commode problems. They spent a lot of time and did a great job. Really appreciate what you gentlemen do for us when we need help.

*Marilyn Vaughn*

Recently, I underwent knee replacement surgery. Pastor Sharon, and Art, were on hand to pray for me, and to deliver to me a beautiful shawl, compliments of St. Marks Prayer Shawl ministry. I've wrapped myself in it every day, a great comfort. With heartfelt thanks I express deep gratitude to my St. Marks friends, and to others I do not yet know, for your kind thoughts, prayers, and cards.

*Robert Kittrel*



**STAND UP  
FOR KIDS**

Thank you so much (St. Mark's Youth Group) for your donation of food packs. Not only providing the food, but also for the assembling the food packs. They came at a perfect time and will be handed out this Sunday (April 8) to our youth in the streets.

*Gratefully, Kim Sisson, Director  
StandUp for Kids.*



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## Reflections

### **A STATE OF THE CHURCH Message – Part 3** **by Rev. Sharon Ragland – 4/25/18**

“Our church seems to be such a vital and strong place. What’s the true *state of our church*?” This is a good question! In January, 2018, I shared some information about our church staff and about our strong financial position at St. Mark’s. Then I took a break for Lent and Easter, and because of our February trip to Israel. Today I’m going to share **Part 3**, about ways we’re addressing one part of our main identified priority. Next time, I’ll talk about the second part, and then about the strength of our church’s leadership.

Our church’s mission statement, **Changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people**, guides all that we do. While we have four identified priorities, our focus has been on priority #2: St. Mark’s United Methodist Church will reach out to new people in all ages and stages of life, with an emphasis on reaching younger people. Based on our Covenant Council discernment and planning process in 2016, and our yearly goal-setting, we’ve been working specifically on emphasizing **enhancing worship** and **fostering mission and service**. Here’s an update on some of our progress in enhancing worship.

- ⦿ In order to continue to strengthen our connections with the Early Childhood Center, we’ve held monthly chapel services with the children and staff since September, 2016. These have gone very well, and have helped connect the children and their families with St. Mark’s. A number of families have begun to regularly attend St. Mark’s, and many consider St. Mark’s their church home.
- ⦿ Fifth Sunday All-Church Worship was begun in 2017, and has continued into this year. In fact, April 29th is our next 5th Sunday Worship. On those days there is no Sunday School and everyone worships together. There has been a very positive response to this. Worship is designed to be conducive to everyone worshipping together. Children are now more familiar with worship, and our church family seems to appreciate the opportunity to worship as one body.

**Continued on page 6**