



# Messenger

Volume 57, Number 9

May 2, 2017

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

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES!

St. Mark's first birthday was May 5, 1957. At that time, sixty years ago, families gathered to begin a new church. Like a small mustard seed, St. Mark's has grown into a significant presence in our community. In March this year, we had a grand celebration weekend, with a party, barbecue, music and worship. Now, this coming Sunday, May 7th, we continue the celebration—just two days after the actual May 5th birthday!



Jesus' parable of the mustard seed, from Mark 4:30-32, will guide our worship as we acknowledge our anniversary, the growth that God has given us, and hear great music. Our combined choirs will sing **A Canon of Praise** for the offering of music at 8:15 & 9:45 a.m., and The Bells of St. Mark's will also play. **Small Beginnings** will be the message at all three services with the Praise Team leading worship at the 11:15 a.m. *Gathering*. Come and celebrate!



## Food Truck Café & Car Show

**Save the date for the next Food Truck Café—Friday May 12!**

From 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. you can enjoy great food from a selection of food truck vendors (including dessert). The evenings entertainment will include great music, a car show sponsored by **No Discriminations Car Club**, plus, gift card drawings! Everyone is welcome to this fun family event!

## SERVE! A New Congregational Care Ministry Opportunity

What if you needed a ride to the doctor or someone to pick up a few groceries for you? These types of needs come up, sometimes on a weekly basis, for people in our St. Mark's community. These requests have motivated us to develop a new St. Mark's ministry—SERVE. Primarily, SERVE will be an errand-running and transportation ministry.

However, before we can get started providing this desperately needed ministry to our community we need help. First, we need a Volunteer Coordinator whose responsibility would be to connect the requests we receive with **SERVE** volunteers. This Volunteer Coordinator would work with Pastor Tammy who will filter the requests from the community that are received in our church office. Secondly, we need a team of volunteers who would like to help those who are in need of the resources this ministry will provide. We will set up a volunteer roster and call volunteers on an as-needed basis as the requests come into the church office.

If you are interested in serving on this new ministry, or if you would like more information, please contact Pastor Tammy ([tammy@umcstmarks.org](mailto:tammy@umcstmarks.org)) or call the church office (297-2062).



**If your gift is serving others, serve them well—Romans 12:7**



**St. Mark's  
Messenger**

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**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:**  
Sallyann Wassmuth,  
Pro tempore

**Next Deadline**  
5/11/17 at noon

## Calendar Notes

**Grant Memorial Service—**

Fri., May 5, 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Youth Service GOLF TOURNAMENT—**

Sat., May 6, at Dove Mountain, Highlands  
golf course. 6:45 a.m. check in

**Meditation Gardens Workday—**

Sat., May 6, at 7:00 a.m.

**Common Grounds—(25-45 age-group)**

Sun., May 7, 11 a.m., rm. 20 , for a DVD  
discussion.

**Confirmation Luncheon—**

At 12 noon in Fellowship Hall

**Holy Yoga—**

Mon, May 8, at 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

**Exploring Membership Class—**

Wed., May 10, Library at 6:30 p.m. (Join us  
for a light meal, 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall.)

**Covenant Council—Tues, May 16, 6:30 p.m.**

Fellowship Hall

**Messenger Deadline—Thurs, May 11, noon**

## Dear Church Family ...

I've been overwhelmed by the expressions of love and support I've received from my church family over the past two months. Losing Rich, and then our daughter, Karlyn, sounds like more than one could bear, but because of you all, I find the strength to move ahead a bit each day. Your cards, gifts, messages, food, presence, hugs and prayers have made such a difference. Thank you for including the rest of our family in your prayers, as well. Even in the midst of pain, I know I'm extremely fortunate to be surrounded by your love and care. "Thank you" doesn't begin to express my gratitude... but I offer my deepest thanks to each of you, nonetheless. You are, indeed, the hands and feet of Christ.

Much love,  
*Sandi Heilman*

**Dear St. Mark's Quilters,**

Please know that your generous and beautiful blankets are such a blessing to many patients here at DaVita Dialysis, The Blake Foundation, as well as Casa de los Niños for children in foster care. So many of the patients here at our clinic have difficulties in their lives. Patients are so grateful when they receive a lovely blanket to help keep themselves warm. Dialysis clinics are kept very cold to reduce infection and patient treatments last three or four hours. Sometimes, they forget to bring a blanket or come from a rehab center that does not send them with anything warm. Your blankets provide that warmth! I also gave a few blankets to a young mother, on dialysis, that had no money to purchase Christmas presents for her three children. She cried.



*Kim, Social Worker—Davita, Inc.*

P. S. My children attended preschool at St. Mark's in the late 90's. We loved your school and thank you for being a blessing to our community!

**Dear Handy Hands,**

I want to thank the Lord for the Handy Hands Ministry for the work they do. Many thanks to John Shattuck and Curt Adams for their time and work. May God bless them and those who serve on Handy Hands.

*Betty Todd*





## CALLING ALL GRADS!

We will recognize our grads in worship on May 21, with pictures and music. If you, or a member of your family, are graduating from high school or college, please submit a photo to Kim Ogle ([kim@umcstmarks.org](mailto:kim@umcstmarks.org)) by Tuesday, May 16. This includes those of you who graduated in December of 2016. Please include your name, school, and in the case of college grads, your major. There will be a video compilation of our grads in all of the services that day, as we celebrate your accomplishments.

## Need Prayer? Try the UPPER ROOM Prayer Line

St. Mark's UMC community and prayer teams are dedicated to providing prayer support for those in need of this ministry. Dave Belt, a member of our Prayer Team, would like to call your attention to the UPPER ROOM prayer line as well. Dave has been active in this ministry for quite a few years and agrees that, along with the support of our Prayer Team, Prayer Group, and Prayer Chain, the UPPER ROOM prayer line is an important resource people should be aware of.

The prayer line phone number is 1-800-251-2468, or you may access it online at [prayer-center.upperroom.org/](http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/) where anyone can receive intercessory prayer. This phone line is answered by a trained prayer team member who will pray with you when you call. All prayer requests will be sent to covenant prayer groups around the country who will continue to pray for you.

Your St. Mark's prayer team would like to see St. Mark's community form one or more covenant prayer groups in the future, so you will be hearing more about this opportunity in the fall. In the meantime, you now have another prayer resource that you or one of your friends or family may access day or night. If you would like more information, please contact Dave Belt (763-242-1613 or [daveamyjo@msn.com](mailto:daveamyjo@msn.com)).



## Vacation Bible School

**Registration Deadline is Quickly Approaching**  
**The deadline is Tuesday, May 16 at Noon.**



This year's Vacation Bible School is June 5-9, and the theme is—**Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!** To register, go to [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org) and click "Vacation Bible School" under Upcoming Events on the right or "Donation/Payment" on the top right. Or you can pick up a registration form in the office. Registrations are limited.

- Ages: 3 years (completely toilet-trained and finished one year of preschool) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Costs: M-F mornings (9:00 am – 12:00 pm) \$30/child
- Extended care available M-F afternoons (12:00 pm – 4:00 pm) \$80/child (\$110 total/child)  
(No naptime available, please provide your own lunch.)

## Easter Offering

Your generous Easter offering contributions raised \$11,474. Fifty percent of this amount is designated for the Sierra Service Project (SSP) fund to support the youth of St. Mark's as they travel on their mission trip to Tsale, AZ in July. The other half will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to assist those in need around the globe.



**Thank you for your generous donations!**

### LOGO SHOP ITEMS on sale Sunday, May 7

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate **St. Mark's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday**, you might want to buy a bit of history! As we look ahead, a new St. Mark's logo is being considered and may begin appearing later this year. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, in the courtyard between services, you will be able to purchase items with our present logo. These will be things we have in inventory and we will not be taking any orders for any items at this time. Be sure to be ready for this opportunity to take some "pieces of St. Mark's" home with you!



## United Methodist Women—May Activities

**Tuesday, May 9**—St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday morning, in the Library. Please come at 9:30 a.m. for light refreshments and fellowship. The program, **Racial Injustice**, presented by Deb Williams, will begin at 10:00 a.m. All women of the church are invited, you don't have to be a member of the women's organization or our church to attend. Please contact our church office in advance to arrange child-care if you need it. If you have questions or need a ride, please contact the President, Virginia Tupper ([ginr3636@gmail.com](mailto:ginr3636@gmail.com) or 520-820-4119) or leave a message with the church office and someone will get back with you.

**Tuesday, May 16**—Grace Circle will meet Tuesday, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mark's kitchen. We will clean and organize cabinets and drawers. Bring your cleaning supplies, gloves, and organizational skills and join us. Contact Gail Blevins (572-6381) if you have questions.



### Openings Available for Altar Flowers!

(Look for "Volunteer Opportunities.") If you would like to honor a loved one or special occasion with flowers on the altar, please sign up on Sunday mornings or call the church office. There are dates still available!

## Just Breathe: Experiencing God in Nature



I can say that my favorite sound is the cooing of the turtledove. When I was a young girl, during the summer, I would stay overnight at my Grandma's house. The next morning, I would wake to the sounds of the doves in the backyard from the open window which left me feeling safe and secure in my big brass bed. Their song would immediately bring comfort and a bit of peace to my soul. Even as a child, I would lay there and just smile. Now, so many years later, when I hear that sweet cooing, those same feelings sweep over me and for a moment I sense that God is trying to remind me of his love, peace, and comfort.

The other day, with a myriad of worries on my mind, I went hiking at Catalina State Park. As I walked along the path under some trees, they started. From every direction it seemed, the turtledoves began their symphony declaring peace to my worried mind and tired soul. Very rarely do I hear so many singing at once. So, I stopped and just stood there a moment, soaking in that melodious sound, remembering these words from my Lord, *"Arise, my dearest and come away. Don't you see? The winter is done. The rains and clouds have come and gone. The flowers are unfolding in the fields; the birds are warming up their songs. The cooing of the turtledove is heard throughout the land..."*

To me the winter rains and clouds were symbolic of what weighed heavy on my soul that day, and God's invitation was to be aware of what was unfolding around me in the "fields." The flowers, the birds, the cooing of the turtledove, God's creation that He used to speak to me, to slow me down and to refresh my soul with beauty.

God speaks to us in many ways. One way He speaks to us and reveals Himself is through nature. I invite you to take the time to stop—drink in the beauty all around you, maybe even in your own backyard and give some space for God to speak to you. As He does, write down your experience in a journal and thank Him for what He has shown you. (One book that has inspired me in this practice is *Journaling as a Spiritual Practice* by Helen Cepero.) In this *after-lent* season, be open to where God wants to lead you next. Easter is not over, it has just begun!

*Peace, Pastor T*

## SMILES, GIGGLES, GRINS, & LAUGHS!

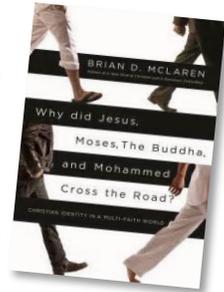
The **Welcome Baby Luncheon** was a huge success! On Saturday April 22, St. Mark's had a very special event to celebrate the many new babies that have been born, or will be born, to our congregation during the year. Pastor Sharon asked to have a luncheon to bring these new mom's together for fellowship and support. There was a photo op, potato bar, cake, words of wisdom, and gifts. The gifts included a bib with the St. Mark's logo, an adorable *Little One, God Loves You* board book, flowers, and diapers. The moms enjoyed the chance to meet and talk about their changing lives and the Mark-a-ritas loved giving them words of wisdom and getting a chance to cuddle the babies. Welcome to our newest "little" members!



*Photo courtesy of Dave Belt*  
New Moms and babies (left to right): Krystal Ogle, (Pastor Sharon), Kay Kunes, Autumn Zoehbauer, Tara Jacobsen with baby Harley. Absence from photo but in attendance: Kayla Ruiz and baby Ariana.

## Christian Believers Book Study, May 26th

Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Library to discuss *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha & Mohammed Cross the Road?* by Brian McLaren. 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 is facilitated by Susan Gerstad and Sherri Lennarson. You may register at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin 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.



When four religious leaders walk across the road, it's not the beginning of a joke. It's the start of one of the most important conversations in today's world. Can you be a committed Christian without having to condemn or convert people of other faiths? Is it possible to affirm other religious traditions without watering down your own?

In his most important book yet, widely acclaimed author and speaker Brian McLaren proposes a new faith alternative, one built on "benevolence and solidarity rather than rivalry and hostility." This way of being Christian is strong but doesn't strong-arm anyone, going beyond mere tolerance to vigorous hospitality toward, interest in, and collaboration with the other. Blending history, narrative, and brilliant insight, McLaren shows readers step-by-step how to reclaim this strong-benevolent faith, challenging us to stop creating barriers in the name of God and learn how affirming other religions can strengthen our commitment to our own. And in doing so, he invites Christians to become more Christ-like than ever before.

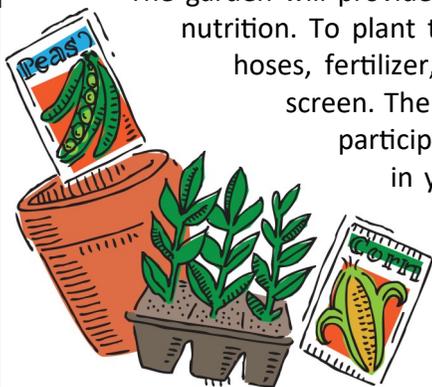
## MISSIONS—ODBALL COLLECTION on May 21!

The St. Mark's Missions Committee strives to help people and organizations locally, nationally, and internationally. We recognized that a Native American group was missing among our varied recipients. To correct that omission, we have chosen the Native American Advancement Foundation, (NAAF). This group is located on the Tohono O'Odham reservation and stresses education and the betterment of the community located near Ajo and Sells.

Now we have a chance to help them with all the necessary tools and supplies to plant a community garden.

The garden will provide healthy food to the community and a chance to educate concerning proper nutrition. To plant their garden they need NEW OR GENTLY USED rakes, hoes, shovels, trowels, hoses, fertilizer, wheel barrows, seeds, etc. Also on their list is NEW hats, gloves, and sun screen. The Missions Committee is asking the very generous congregation of St. Mark's to participate in an **ODBALL collection on May 21**, for these gardening items. Please look in your garage or shed and find tools that you no longer use and can be put to good use in this important project. The ODBALL boxes will be in the courtyard on May 21, to receive your donations. Thank you for all you do as the hands and feet of Christ. Please call Ellen Beene (744-9240) with any questions. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you!

**Ellen Beene, St. Mark's Missions Committee**



On May 1st, contractors began renovating both the narthex restrooms in the Sanctuary. Construction will last about one month. While the restrooms are closed, the bathrooms off the Welcome Center (near the Fellowship Hall kitchen), as well as the bathrooms located at the north and south entrances of the West Patio will be open and available for use during worship services. As a reminder, the Trustees ask for your patience and support while this project is underway. As with most remodeling jobs, there will be contractors on site working, materials being delivered, and possible schedule changes, so we ask for your cooperation and understanding.

# WASS UP?

## CALLING ALL GRADS

May 2, 2017

Volume 18, Issue 9

### UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**May 7, 2017—**

3:00 to 4:00

Youth Council

4:00 to 6:00

“Pops & Otter Things”



**May 14, 2017—**

Confirmation Sunday

Mother’s Day

No Youth Group

**May 21, 2017—**

*Graduate Recognition in all worship services*

4:00 to 6:00

Squirt Gun Party

Middle School Only

(High schoolers study at home)

**May 28, 2017—**

Memorial Day

No Youth Group



We will recognize our grads in worship on May 21, with pictures and music. If you, or a member of your family, are graduating, please submit a photo to [Kim Ogle \(kimeumcstmarks.org\)](mailto:Kim.Ogle@kimeumcstmarks.org) by May 16. Please include your name and school. There will be a video compilation of our Grads in all of the services that day, as we celebrate your accomplishments.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ST. MARK'S GRADUATES!**



**BIRTHDAYS**

05-20 Don Booth \*  
05-20 Nick Hiratsuka

\* Sunday School teacher



## Sierra Service Project News

Have you made the second payment of \$60?

**Golf Tournament** —May 6  
CHECK YOUR EMAIL TO SEE IF YOU  
HAVE A SHIFT THAT DAY!

a note from the

## YOUTH DIRECTOR

May is a tricky month. As the school year winds down, there's lots to celebrate, yet so little time together. (At least, it seems that way for Rachel and me.)

In May, we have Confirmation Sunday, Graduate recognition, two holidays, and those pesky final exams for high schoolers. We've excluded high school students from youth group on May 21, so that you can stay home and study. Yep, we're just trying to get in good with your parents.

We'll kick off June with an escape room, featuring "Captain Steelhook". The Youth Council has the entire summer filled with cool things like that.

I'm really looking forward to all the fun we'll have this summer!

Blessings,

*Kim*

## Middle School Moments

It's hard to believe that this school year is almost over. Sometimes it seems like the year is going by so slowly and then suddenly, boom! It's over! Summer is always a fun time in my house. We do a lot of science experiments, go to track meets, and of course sleep in. This summer will be extra exciting, as this year I get to chaperone at the Middle School Mission. If you are leaving grades 6-8, don't let this opportunity pass you by! It will be such a fun week full of friends, mission, and some new experiences. Talk to me or Kim for details!

*Rachel*

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MISSION**

**build UP**

**May 30-June 2  
REGISTER NOW**

## *Wesley Foundation has open board positions...*

How many of you were part of a Wesley Foundation group during your college years? Were any of you here at the U of A? I was, and have wonderful, fond memories. Currently, I serve as the head of the Campus Christian Center Board. Recently, our Wesley leader had to step down, for at least a year, due to medical issues. And, our Wesley President will be relocating so we are seeking some new members who would be willing to share their talents and gifts with this diverse group. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in learning more about serving on the Wesley Board, please let me know. You may email me ([donna@reedtucson.com](mailto:donna@reedtucson.com)).

*Thanking you in advance, Donna Reed*

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



In rehab or care facilities:

**Than Brademas, Donald Chester, Patricia Keele, Harold Mull, Marla Mutschler, Cynthia Raynor, Sue Robinson, Howard Russell, Dave Webster,**

**Karen Linebarier, Dell Long, Judy Mitzimberg, Jim Neessen, Cecil Roberts, Bob Ross, Cathy Simpson, Connie White**

Recovering at home:

**John Aucott, Susan Kelley, Danielle Potter, Tom Walker, Yvonne Yare**

Undergoing treatment at home:

**Jude Anderson, Judy Drescher, April DuBoce, Bill Duryee, Darrel Frazer, Tiffany Guerette, Megan Krzmarzick,**

## **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 & 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 & Donna Severson



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## Reflections

On May 24th, I'll be starting a renewal leave, returning to the office at St. Mark's on Monday, August 7th. Our United Methodist Book of Discipline allows pastors to take a "spiritual growth leave" once every six years. During my 26 years of ministry, I've taken one other short leave, for a month in 2008. I'm looking forward to this time of rest and renewal, so that I can return in August to serve you with energy and strength.

On May 24th, Art and I will leave for a road trip to the Midwest and Colorado, returning about June 24th. We have a couple of family events (a wedding reception in Ann Arbor and a bridal shower in Grand Forks, ND), and we'll see family and friends along the way, and do some hiking, too. Then we'll be home in July, perhaps taking some short trips, and I'll be spending some time on retreat. We'll finish the time in Lake Tahoe the end of July and early August.

Our church's staff has some fun planned – they'll be providing a way that you can take me with you wherever you go this summer, and send photos of

what you and I are doing. Watch for details about that!

I'm grateful to everyone who is helping so that I can have this time of rest and renewal. I know that you will want to be in worship this summer, hearing great music and preaching, and thanking God for all God does for us.

On another note, you may be reading or hearing about events in the greater United Methodist Church. I hold the UMC in prayer every day, and especially pray for the work of the Commission on the Way Forward. As I've written before, St. Mark's is and will continue to seek to live out *open hearts, open minds, open doors*. We constantly are mindful of St. Mark's mission statement: "Changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people." No matter what swirls around us, we will continue to do what God calls us to do in our church and community, seeking to grow in our love of God, and serving others, in Jesus' name.

***Blessings, Sharon***