



# Messenger

Volume 57, Number 10

May 16, 2017

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

## Summer Worship at St. Mark's!



We know we will miss Pastor Sharon while she is away on renewal leave. Some of you will also be traveling during this time. When you are in town over the summer, we hope that you will come to hear the guest pastors and summer music planned for us in Sharon's absence. As you know we are always looking for something fun to do in worship to get our minds away from the hot temperatures. There will be no drawings or punch cards this year, instead the staff has constructed a plan to keep Pastor Sharon in our thoughts and take her along on our own summer adventures.

Some of you are aware of the Flat Stanley Project, where Stanley is sent to you by a relative or friend who requests you take him on your adventures and report back to them sharing where Stanley has been. If you live in another state, you may simply have Stanley share some of the local culture.

**Meet Flat Sharon:** This Sunday, May 21, you will receive a cardstock copy of Flat Sharon. Sharon can be cut out to fit in your purse, luggage, pocket, or glove box and taken along with you this summer. We encourage you to take photos and share the adventures of Flat Sharon wherever you go. Then submit photos to us at [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org) or drop them by the office to be scanned. The staff will provide a short video prior to each weekly Sunday service so we can all share. We may even post them on Facebook with your permission.

You will want to be sure to be present in church this Sunday, May 21, to give Pastor Sharon her send off and receive your Flat Sharon. Already returned to your summer home? You can find her on the church website ([www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org)), under Upcoming Events, where you can print a copy. You won't want to miss Sundays this summer!

## SOUL STATION!

Whether you can't get to church on Sunday, or just enjoy a mid-week renewal, we welcome you to join us any Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall. Our program is for all ages (and by the way, it's casual). Birthdays are celebrated every second Wednesday, with cake!

- ✦ 5:45—6:15 p.m.: We share a community meal
- ✦ 6:15—7:05: Adults: Prayer time and program  
Children: Activities in another room
- ✦ 7:05—7:15: We finish the evening with Holy Communion.



*Childcare is available, if preferred, for infants and toddlers. Please call the church office to make arrangements in advance.*



**St. Mark's  
Messenger**

*Published bi-weekly*

St. Mark's United  
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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

**MESSANGER EDITOR:**  
Sallyann Wassmuth

**Next Deadline  
Wednesday,  
May 24th, noon**

## Calendar Notes

**Exploring Membership Class**

Sat., May 20, 11:30 a.m. lunch/Rehearsal

**Holy Yoga**

Mon, May 22, at 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

**Soul Station**

Wed, May 24, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

**Messenger Deadline**

Wed, May 24, noon (due to holiday)

**Divorce Recovery**

Thurs., May 25, rooms 17-18, at 7 p.m

**Christian Believers**

Fri., May 26, 9:30 a.m., Library

**Bits & Pieces**

Fri., May 26, 9:30 a.m., Wesley House

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Sat., May 27, 10:00 a.m., rooms 17-18

**Robinson Memorial Service**

Sat., May 27, 3 p.m., Sanctuary

## DeColores St. Mark's

Look for signs and symbols of the St. Mark's Emmaus community around our campus. Have you been on "the" Walk as part of your faith journey? Come to a **Gathering of the Areas Emmaus Communities** on Saturday, May 20, at 5:00 p.m. for a traditional Methodist potluck and fellowship, in Rooms 17-18 and the patio. Songs, worship and communion at 6:00 p.m., closing by 7:30 p.m.

Over the next several weeks, see if you can spot signs of our presence around our campus. Look around during Sunday worship; when you spot an Emmaus member ask them about who we are and what we do!

The next Walk to Emmaus weekend retreats are coming in 2018. Join us in fellowship on May 20th, and learn more about how you can experience this journey, too!



## WONDERING about Volunteering at Nash Elementary?

Here's your opportunity to find out more (and to have a mid-morning snack)! On **Sunday, June 4th**, in the Library at 9:15 or 10:45 a.m., meet with members of the Nash Neighbors Committee, current volunteers, Principal Bob Hehli and some faculty members.



Discover what your volunteer experience might be, depending upon your preferences, and find out about the fingerprinting and placement processes. Support the teachers and children at our adopted school. There are many ways you can help.

We hope that by attending this event, you will consider becoming a Nash volunteer. The opportunity to serve in the Nash community brings great personal rewards. We hope to see you there! If you are interested but cannot attend on June 4th, contact Carol Cecilia (see directory) for formation.

# Office Staff Comings and Goings



Kayla, Sophia, baby—Ariana

There have been a few staff changes at St. Mark's, so we wanted to make everyone aware of these "comings and goings" so you can help provide thanks and welcome.

***Please help us bid Kayla Ruiz thanks and a fond farewell*** from her staff position as Communications and Outreach Coordinator. Kayla recently resigned so she can be a stay-at-home mother to daughters Sophia and Ariana. She originally joined the staff in 2012 as Administrative Assistant and moved to the Communications and Outreach Coordinator position in 2016. Although you won't see Kayla as a regular face in the office, you will still see her in church with her husband Sam and the girls.



Sallyann

***Welcome to Sallyann Wassmuth, our new Communications and Outreach Coordinator.*** Sallyann has a real passion for marketing and is looking forward to her new role at St. Mark's which she jokingly refers to as "career version 3.0." Sallyann retired from Pima County Stadium District in May 2016, (career version 2.0) after working for 14 years as Program Manager for Kino Sports Complex. Prior to moving to Tucson, she and her husband, Paul, lived in Syracuse, NY. Sallyann was employed by Agway Energy Products (career version 1.0) for 24 years and held various advertising, marketing, and sales positions until she retired in 1998.



Harold, Susan, Snickerdoodle

***We would also like to welcome Susan Putt, who has joined the staff as the Music Ministries Coordinator,*** which is a new part-time position. She will be working with the pastors and music staff to integrate all aspects of the music ministry for worship, and to help create an overall vision for St. Mark's music ministries. Susan came to Tucson from Ada, Ohio in 2016, where she was previously a professor of English at Ohio Northern University from 2001-2016. She also participated actively at Ada First United Methodist Church from 1982-2016. Susan and her husband Harold have been attending St. Mark's since coming to Tucson and have been actively involved in the Animal Ministries program with their therapy dog, Snickerdoodle.

***Bill Fritz, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair***

## ***Volunteers needed to Prepare Soul Station Meals***

If your group or family is interested in participating in providing the community meal for 60-70 people at Soul Station on Wednesdays, 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 Opportunities board, or email us at [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org).



## Summer Choir Opportunities!



The season for the Chancel Choir and Celebration Singers will be ending on May 21, but there are many people who really look forward to singing God's praises all year long. To meet that need, we bring the Summer Choir. We have no rehearsals during the week—only 45 minutes on Sunday mornings when we sing in both services. This year, the Summer Choir will be singing on May 28, June 11, July 9, July 23, August 6, and August 20. We welcome ANYONE to sing with us, whether you have been in either choir or not. Music for any of these Sundays is available for you to work on ahead of time. Just contact Director, Sondra Franks.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Sondra Franks, Director**

## SAVE THE DATE—Saturday, June 17th



The Wesley Bell Ringers, one of the premier youth handbell choirs in America, will be in concert in St. Mark's sanctuary on **Saturday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.** The group is sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church of Salt Lake City, Utah. Each summer the high school and college students tour for two weeks and St. Mark's is fortunate to be one of their stops. They haven't stopped at St. Mark's since 2010, so we're excited we're on their schedule once again. The group performs both secular and religious selections, making for an excellent experience for the entire family!

Also, members of our congregation have the opportunity to host the ringers overnight that Saturday. There are eight boys, seven girls, and seven adult chaperones who will need housing. This involves providing a place to sleep, a simple breakfast, and transportation back to the church Sunday morning. The youth, chaperones, and hosts will share a meal at the church Saturday prior to the concert.

So, be sure to reserve that evening for an enjoyable concert of handbell music, and please consider hosting some of our guests. If you have questions, or are interested in hosting, please contact the Coordinator of Music Ministries, Susan Putt, ([susan@umcstmarks.org](mailto:susan@umcstmarks.org)).

For a sneak preview of this special music, go to [www.wesleybells.org](http://www.wesleybells.org).



## 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!

## Pentecost Sunday—What is it?

In our Christian tradition Pentecost occurs fifty days after Easter Sunday. The disciples have been waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit. I imagine many were growing weary and doubt had sat in but then something miraculous happened. Jesus' words became true and the Holy Spirit descended on those who were gathered. This day is considered to be the birthday of the church and the story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2.

It is believed to be the oldest festival described in the Bible. The story of Pentecost dates back to the first century A.D. when it coincided with the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs 50 days after the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:10). According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses 50 days after the first Passover. As the Hebrews settled into Canaan, this feast was celebrated to honor Yahweh for blessing the fruits of their labors. At the time of Jesus, the festival focused on rabbinical law and traditions. Since this Jewish festival took place at the same time the Holy Spirit descended and the church was born, many Jewish Christians appropriated its celebration into their Christian commemoration of the coming of the Spirit.

For us today, we celebrate Pentecost as a time of renewal and remembrance that, we, too, receive power and guidance from the Holy Spirit. As we gather on June 4, may our hearts be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the life of St. Mark's. The colors of church celebrations are red and white. Everyone is invited to wear those colors on that day as a visual reminder of our faith, our hope, our community, and our awareness that God has brought us together for a purpose much greater than ourselves.



I will  
put my  
**spirit**  
within  
**you,**  
and you  
**shall live...**

Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV

*See you on June 4, Pastor Evy*

## ODBALL COLLECTION—This Sunday!

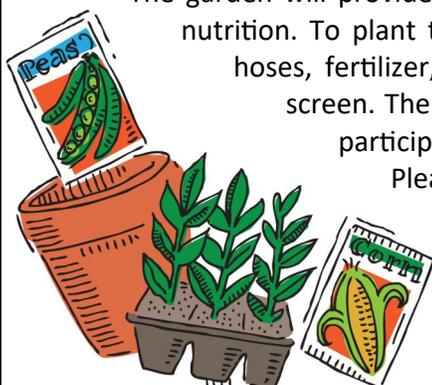
The St. Mark's Missions Committee strives to help people and organizations locally, nationally, and internationally. We recognized that a Native American group was missing among our varied recipients. To correct that omission, we have chosen the Native American Advancement Foundation, (NAAF). This group 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 this Sunday, 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 (see directory) with any questions. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you!

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



## **Update from St. Marks Christian Persecution Task Force**

Holiday Attacks on Coptic Christians in Egypt—Talking about Christian persecution in Egypt has a special importance to Christians all over the world. After all, Egypt is the land of Moses and Joseph and the flight of the Holy Family from Herod. The last time we talked about persecution of Egyptian Christians was Advent. The same day we lit the first candle of Joy, a suicide bomber in Cairo killed 27 and injured 49 Coptic Christians in the Church of St. Peter.

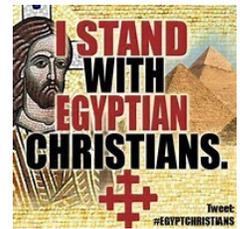
Again, the Coptics of Egypt were attacked during a joyous celebration of Palm Sunday this year. One bombing took place at St. George Church north of Cairo as they finished *Hosanna*. Another bomb blasted nearby in Alexandria at St. Mark's Cathedral as the Coptic Pope finished speaking. The Coptic response to the bombing was surprising to non-Christians. Interviews and articles were filled with forgiveness, trust, thanksgiving and even joy. Lent is a time of preparation for great loss and sorrow and sacrifice. What the Coptics understood was the victory of martyrdom in the joy and light of being Easter people.

The article below was written by American Coptic, Samuel Taylor. To learn more and to understand the ironies go to: <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/04/copt-attacks-egypt-isis-sinai/522735/>.

To get more information or join us in St. Marks Christian Persecution Task Force in addressing the needs of persecuted Christians, please contact us at: [christianpersecutiontaskforcestmarks@gmail.com](mailto:christianpersecutiontaskforcestmarks@gmail.com)

### **Attacks on Egyptian Coptics: What is being done?**

In the weeks since the Advent attacks, Google and YouTube placed a black ribbon on pages related to Egypt. Blogs bared the pain of those who lost friends and family. Egyptian President al-Sisi came under increasing criticism by non-Christian Egyptians because Coptic persecution has grown under his regime. In a country where leadership comes and goes at the whim of the citizenry, he seemed to finally get it when he gave to a fund to rebuild churches in Egypt. And, for a brief time, the media turned the spotlight on persecution of Christians worldwide.



Following the recent Palm Sunday attacks, Easter celebrations were reduced and even cancelled. It seemed as if the attackers had won. But there is more to the story. Al-Sisi declared the attacks against the unity of all of Egypt and swore to end them. A three-month state of emergency was declared. A Supreme Council to Combat Terrorism and Extremism has been authorized. He has stepped up promises of security for Christians and, more importantly, has followed through. Troops were deployed throughout Egypt for a safe Easter for those who dared to worship. Additional security was given to assure the safety of Pope Francis.

What is especially important is that the people of Egypt have once again come together. Protests against the attacks were staged at the churches. Muslims gathered in mosques to donate blood and attended worship with the Coptics. Twitter and blogs had their own explosion of messages such as “your terrorism brings us together” and “we are all one in Egypt.”

However, the state of emergency has allowed for more control of human rights activists and media. State of emergency in Egypt has often meant decades, not months, of oppression. And, laws targeting Coptics which restrict basic repairs to their churches remain on the books. The future of Coptics in Egypt is still one of persecution. Only time will tell whether the support and unity will bring lasting positive change.



**Prayer: Dear Lord, please bless our brother and sister Coptic Christians in Egypt, and strengthen them as they face adversity.**

# WASS UP?

May 16, 2017

Volume 18, Issue 10

WELCOME  
SUMMER!!!!

## UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**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

**June 4, 2017 —**

**3:15 to 6:30**

(notice time change)

Escape Room

“Captain Steelhook's Treasure”



The Youth Council has a great summer planned. We'll be going to places all over town.

The first of our adventures is planned on June 4. “Will You Escape?” is a team puzzle adventure.. Escape rooms can run anywhere from \$15 to \$20 per person. Your admission fee, for this great time is only \$5!

For this activity, as well as the rest of the summer field trips, friends are welcome.. **EVERYONE** needs a permission slip! If you've gone anywhere with us during this school year, you already have a permission slip. If not, or you're inviting a friend, a permission slip is required. Click here, or follow the instructions below:

<http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/YouthPermissionSlip.pdf>

### How do I download a permission slip?

- Step 1: Go to [umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org)
- Step 2: Find the site map in the upper right corner, & click.
- Step 3: Go to Youth Permission Slip (It's the last thing on the list.)
- Step 4: Click & Print
- Step 5: Share with a friend!



## Sierra Service Project News

Have you made the second payment of \$60?

**FINAL PAYMENT OF \$75 IS DUE BY JUNE 4. The total registration for SSP is \$175.**

**Contact Kim, if you need a scholarship.**

a note from the

# YOUTH DIRECTOR

Sunday, May 14, was Confirmation Sunday. What a wonderful day! Seven young people had a morning of being introduced in all of the services and confirmed at the last service. Between services, they shared a continental breakfast with their families and celebrated Mothers' Day.

Our confirmands faithfully attended classes from September to May, and participated in field trips, service projects, and worship. Pastor Sharon emailed them almost weekly with sermon previews and thoughtful questions.

The 2016-17 class included Hannah Atwater, Meghan Buckner, Alex Carsten, Addison DaDeppo, Hannah Eblen, Chase Laos and Dylan McInnis.

It's a blessing and a privilege for me to be able to teach Confirmation. I'm very proud of this year's confirmands. Thanks, also, to all of the adults who helped with Confirmation; especially Rachel.

Blessings,

*Kim*

## Middle School Moments

Guys. It's almost time for Middle School Mission. I am SO excited for this event. It is shaping up to be such an exciting time of fun, learning, growing, and helping others. There will be students from all around the South District, and I'm sure we will have a BLAST! Don't forget to sign up. If you need a new form (or one for a friend!) Let Kim or me know.

See you Sunday!

*Rachel*



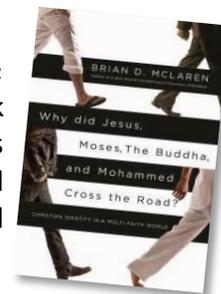
### MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

# build UP

**May 30-June 2  
REGISTER NOW!**

## Christian Believers Book Study

Join us on **May 26, 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 the office at 297-2062 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?

Hope to see you for a great discussion!

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

#### In Rehab or Care Facilities:

Than Brademas, Donald Chester, Patricia Keele, Marla Mutschler, Bob Ross, Howard Russell.

#### Undergoing Treatment at Home:

Jude Anderson, Judy Drescher, April DuBoce, Bill Duryee, Tiffany Guerette, Megan Krzmarzick, Karen Linebarier, Dell Long, Judy Mitzimberg, Jim Neessen, Cecil Roberts, Connie White.

#### Recovering at Home:

John Aucott, Kelly Deyoe, Susan Kelley, Harold Mull, Cynthia Raynor, Tom Walker, Dave Webster, Yvonne Yare.

#### Upcoming Surgeries:

Jim Allison, Ardyce Johnson

#### Prayers of Sympathy:

Don Robinson & family upon the death of Sue Robinson.



### 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 DSW 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  
**Bianna Walker**, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of John Fradenburgh  
**Jeff Welsh**, grandson of Roger & Donna Severson



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## Reflections

When visitors come to St. Mark's for worship, one of the first things they notice is the sense of joy that's present here. That joy is not just a light-heartedness, but also a deep-seated one that comes from a commitment to thank and worship God, and care for one another – to “change the world through Christ, by caring for one another.” That's our Mission Statement.

Many things in our world threaten to pull away that deep-seated joy. Anxiety and uncertainty surround us. When we are assured of God's love and presence, we can calmly and joyfully move through our days. When we are confident that God is moving in our world, our anxiety is reduced.

How do we have that assurance and confidence in God's active presence? We practice those things that create space for God to build those in us. We pray daily. We worship weekly. We come to communion. We attend classes. We serve others. These “means of grace” create space so God can increase our peace and joy.

One more thing—we practice kindness and compassion toward others. In the church, if we're leaders and have questions or concerns, we talk with pastors or committee chairpersons, and then speak kindly and clearly toward one another in meetings. At gatherings, or in worship, we speak to those we don't know and welcome them. In other words, in church we practice the way we want to be in the world. We practice in order to love God and one another better. Our joy is then increased!

I will be on a spiritual growth and renewal leave from May 24<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Tammy and Pastor Evy will be leading you, along with some guest preachers in worship. I am counting on you being in worship while I'm gone, and continuing to live and spread the joy that characterizes St. Mark's. I'm very grateful and excited about the opportunity to rest and renew, so I can return with energy and creativity, to serve with you at St. Mark's. I will be praying for you every day, and hope you take *Flat Sharon* to some very unique places!

*Blessings, Sharon*