



Messenger

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

Volume 57, Number 13

June 27, 2017

Annual Conference 2017 – Called to be a Courageous Church!

It was John Wesley who said in his day, "Untold millions are still untold." That statement has the potential to either overwhelm people to inactivity or inspire us to be a church that says "Yes!" to the unlimited opportunities we have before us to share the message of the love and grace possible through Jesus Christ. Bishop Bob Hoshibata opened and closed the conference giving details of The Initiative for Growth and Vitality for the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference:

Our Vision - A Courageous Church: Loving like Jesus; acting for justice; united in hope.

Through worship, discussion groups, and speakers our team from St. Mark's (Conference Delegates: Don Booth and Mark Hrabe. Youth Delegates: Jayce Cunha and Mackenzie Kester. District Member at Large: Casey Compennolle. Deaconesses: Martha Lundgren and Marjie Hrabe. U2 Missionary: Kayla Flannery) was able to hear firsthand how congregations are being encouraged to "rethink church," with a call to church leadership to breathe excitement within their respective congregations as each congregation defines their growth and vitality efforts. What struck me was that this vision syncs with what our St. Mark's leaders have been wrestling with for over a year, as we have engaged in a process of prayer and discernment about what is next for our church. So, we have a head start! The question we are asking ourselves in many discussions is, "How can we continue to be a growing and vital church?" These discussions and ideas at conference can only add to our creativity as we guide people into relationships of discipleship and unleash our people into ministry.



If you would like access to more details about Annual Conference, visit the conference website at www.dscumc.org. Another resource you can access is a video "Commission on the Way Forward 2017" by performing a search of the video name on YouTube.

How about some more good news! Pastor Sharon and I were both appointed for another year here at St. Mark's UMC and as you can see in this snazzy photo, we are both thankful for the gift and looking forward to serving with you in the coming year as we are, "Called to be a Courageous Church!"

Peace, Pastor Tammy

A Call to Help Zion UMC Resurrect From the Flames!



On Tuesday, June 6, an early-morning fire gutted and destroyed the Sanctuary of Zion UMC in Las Vegas. The conference is working closely with the church leadership to provide disaster-response assistance and also to assist in raising funds. At Annual Conference last week, Bishop Bob Hoshibata called upon our churches to show our support for our church family and give to their efforts to recover and rebuild. These funds will help the church move forward into the future to be a witness of the faith, hope, and love possible through Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, July 2nd, we will have a special communion offering that will go towards these efforts. You may also give by sending your support to the address below or go to the conference website at www.dsumc.org and make an online donation: United Methodist Builders, c/o South District Office, Desert Southwest Conference, 1550 E Meadowbrook Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85014-4040.



St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

St. Mark's United
Methodist Church
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Website:

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Sunday Worship:
8:15, 9:45, 11:15am

Wednesday Nights:
Community Meal
5:45pm
Music/Programs
6:15-7:15pm

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Tammy Hallam

Interim Christian
Formation for Children
& Adults:
Margaret Synhorst

Youth Ministries:
Kim Ogle

Communications &
Outreach:
Sallyann Wassmuth

Messenger Editor:
Sallyann Wassmuth

Next Deadline:
Thursday,
July 6, at noon

Calendar Notes

Thurs., June 29, 6:30 p.m. -
Library, Technology Committee

Sun., July 2, - July 4th weekend
No Youth group, No GLOW

Mon., July 3, 9:15 a.m. -
Holy Yoga Class, Fellowship Hall

Tues, July 4 - **OFFICE CLOSED**
Happy 4th of July



Wed., July 5, 7:30 a.m. -
Marksmen Breakfast, Coco's Restaurant

Wed., July 5, 5:45 p.m., SOUL STATION -
"Freedom of Forgiveness" discussion

Thurs., July 6, 6:30 p.m. -
Adult Mission Trip meeting, Sanctuary

Mon., July 10, 9:15 a.m. -
Holy Yoga Class, Fellowship Hall

Tues., July 11 -
8:30 a.m. - UMW Exec. Board, Rm 17/18
5:30 p.m. - Advisory Board, Library
6:30 p.m. - SPRC, Conference Room
6:30 p.m. - Church Growth, Rm 17/18

Dear Church Family...



I want to thank the St. Mark's family for all of your kindness and thoughtful care. I am so grateful for the cards, phone calls, well wishes, and Pastor's visits. It all worked! I am feeling so much better, and I so deeply appreciate all that was done for me while I was ill and recuperating.

Susan Kelley

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and expressions of love on Sue's passing. You are the many shepherds of St. Mark's caring for us lambs in times of need.

Love, Don Robinson

We extend our sincerest gratitude for everyone's support at the time of my father's death. The care, love, concern, and support that poured out from our St. Mark's family was absolutely incredible. During his death and the days following, we certainly felt enveloped in the peace provided by friends here.

God bless all of you, Susan & Harold Putt

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Handy Hands, especially John Shattuck, who came to my house and cut away the large tree branches hanging over my roof and too high for me to reach much to the dismay of my exterminator. Thank you is so not nearly good enough to express my gratitude and appreciation. Fantastic job!

Thanks again, Marilyn Vaughn

I saw my heart doctor on June 22nd. I told him that I have been feeling so much better on the new medicine he put me on and that I have been exercising. He said tests show that my heart and pacemaker are doing well now and that he won't have to put in the new dual pacemaker. Karen and I are so glad! We want to thank you for your prayers and cards. How blessed we are!

God bless, Jim & Karen Allison

There are not enough words to describe my deepest gratitude to the St. Mark's community for all your prayers, love, cards and help during my recent surgery. To the Celebration Singers and Chancel Choir: I could not have done this without you. I feel very blessed, indeed, to be a part of this very special church community.

April Du Boce

Just Breathe

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?" Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven."
Matthew 18:21-22 *The Message*



I remember the drill sergeant telling us in that drill sergeant kind of way, "If you hold on to the grenade and it goes off you could die, or at least lose your arm. So release it as soon as you pull the pin!" I also remember thinking, "I didn't sign up for this." Thankfully, I passed the test and got rid of that time bomb as quickly as I could. I even hit the target and earned a medal, but I could not stop thinking about what would have happened if it went off before I could release it. Holding on to resentment is kind of like holding on to a grenade. If you hold on too long it can bring death or injury. Resentment is the strong and painful bitterness you feel when someone does something wrong to you. And there is really only one cure for this pain which is forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not condoning or pretending the offense never happened. It does not mean letting people take advantage of you or perceiving that every slight you feel from others is in need of forgiveness. We need to sometimes admit that we had no reason to be offended in the first place. How to forgive goes deeper than that.

The Greek word in the Bible translated "forgiveness" literally means "to let go," as when a person releases someone from a debt that was owed. Jesus used this comparison in his parable of the unmerciful slave, "Jesus equated forgiveness with canceling a debt." —Matthew 18:23-35.

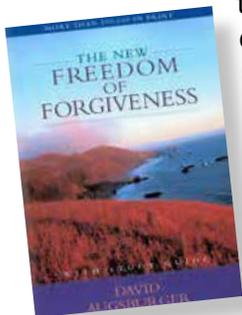
Forgiving someone has also been described as a journey, one that I have traveled on many times before. It has helped me to think of forgiving as releasing something toxic from my soul and giving it to God and trusting Him with it. Definitely not easy, but essential if we want to live. Another important reason to gain more understanding in this area.

So, beginning on Wednesday, July 5th at Soul Station, we will begin the study of *The New Freedom of Forgiveness*, a book by David Augsburger. I hope you will join us as we "pull the pin and let go!" of those things that can kill us. Look for details in this *Messenger*.

Peace, Pastor T

Coming to SOUL STATION in July! The Freedom of Forgiveness

Seventy times seven...how many times shall I forgive? Our Lord answers us clearly that forgiveness of those who hurt us shall have no end. This is one of the most difficult things any person has to face. We are commanded to forgive everything. Not just the little stuff, the minor irritations and thoughtless behavior of others, but everything. When we forgive, we are set free from bondage. David Augsburger understands this. He knows the outrageous cost, and incomparable value, of forgiving. He also knows this is a believer's only option. At our midweek service during the month of July, we will be exploring the topic of forgiveness as we draw inspiration from the book, *The New Freedom of Forgiveness*, by David Augsburger. A book is not necessary, but we encourage you to order a book from your favorite book distributor or download one on your tablet so you can also reflect on the study at home with much more material.



If you have any questions or would like more information, you can contact Pastor Tammy at tammy@umcstmarks.org or the church office at 297-2062. Come join us!

St. Mark's Preteen (GLOW) Group—SUMMER 2017 Schedule!

An adventure in fellowship and fun! If you just completed the 4th or 5th grade come and join us this summer!

- ☀ Sun., July 2: No meeting, holiday weekend
- ☀ Sat., July 8: Field trip to Ben's Bells. Meet at church 2:00 p.m. and return 5:00 p.m.
- ☀ Sun., July 16: Field trip to the Movies! We will meet at the theater. Stay tuned for times.
- ☀ Sun., July 23: Field trip to Flandrau Planetarium. Special time. Meet at church 2:00 p.m., return 5:30 p.m.
- ☀ Sun., July 30: All about Jesus and the Children—Regular time, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Rooms 8/9.
- ☀ Sun., Aug. 6: Field trip to Oro Valley pool! Special time, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Movie Night!



Swimming!

All field trips cost \$5. If that amount is not within the family budget that week, please still attend because we have scholarships available and want everyone to be there for the fellowship and fun. Please contact Margaret Synhorst (297-2062 or Margaret@umcstmarks.org) if you have questions. I need parent volunteers for all the field trips, so pick one you like, and let me know when you can come with us!

Jesus Loves All the Children of St. Mark's



When children are baptized in the church, we promise to nurture them by saying, "We will surround [these children] with a community of love and forgiveness so [these children] may grow in service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life." I need your help in fulfilling that promise. I need you to identify those in our church family who have the spiritual gift of working with children. For the fall, we are in need of several Sunday School teachers, as well as faith coaches for the preteen group (4th and 5th graders). These commitments are not necessarily every week, but could be on a rotating basis. I am asking everyone to email me (Margaret@umcstmarks.org) with the name of the person you believe is ready to serve the children of our church. This may be you or it may be someone else. I look forward to hearing from you all.

Adult Mission Trip Meeting

Please join us on Tuesday, July 25th at 6:00 p.m. in Room 20 for a brief meeting to make plans for the 2017 adult mission trip for St. Mark's. There are many wonderful possibilities for us to go into the world and be God's hands and feet. Many of these mission opportunities are short, weekend trips, and do not require any type of skill. All you need is your desire to bring God's light to those who are struggling. Come and learn how we can make a real difference.



2016 Adult Mission Trip to San Diego.

Help Common Grounds Expand!

Common Grounds is the ministry we have here at St. Mark's dedicated to reaching GenX, Millennials, and everyone in between. We aim to reach people who are between 25 and 45. Help us with ways you would like to see this program expand. If you (or someone you know) falls into this age group, please fill out the survey, then be sure to watch for exciting new opportunities! Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCMKBML>. If you have any questions, please email Rachel Mosher, Common Grounds Coordinator (rachel@umcstmarks.org).

A huge THANK YOU to all who made the Wesley Bell Ringers concert a success. To all those who attended the concert, prepared the meal, hosted our guests overnight - the experience wouldn't have been possible without your help. A special thanks to Kathy Deason, Chair of St. Mark's Music Committee, JoAnn Luther, Director, Bells of St. Mark's, and Kandy Delk, Administrative Associate.

Susan Putt, Music Ministries Coordinator



Percussionist Job Opening!

St. Mark's is currently accepting applications for a percussionist for the Praise Team band. This person will play with The Praise Team for the 11:15 a.m. contemporary service each Sunday and attend scheduled rehearsals. This individual should have knowledge of contemporary worship and music, possess the skills to read and perform music from lead sheets, and the ability to work well as part of a team. You may view the job description at http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/jobdesc_pd.pdf. Applications should be submitted by July 7th.



Music Leader Job Opening!

St. Mark's is currently accepting applications for a Children's Sunday School Music Leader. This person will provide leadership in the Sunday School classes for children, teaching songs of Christian faith to the children, and acquainting the Sunday School staff with the songs. You may view the job description at http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/jobdesc_cssml.pdf. Applications should be submitted by July 7th.



Singing is Good for the Soul!



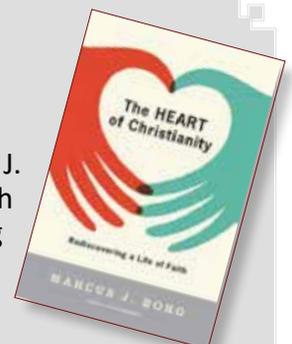
Thinking about singing in the church choir? Did you know that singing in the church choir can change your life? John Wesley claimed, "So shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven." Rewards in heaven? Sounds like a good enough reason to sing in a church choir. But there are other benefits as well, including better worship experience, better community, and better health (who would have thought?).

To read more, go to <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/choir-members-enjoy-health-spiritual-benefits>.

Susan Putt, Music Ministries Coordinator

Book Discussion Starts July 5th.

St. Mark's will offer a six-week discussion class based on **Heart of Christianity** by Marcus J. Borg. The book challenges today's thinking Christians about how to discover a life of faith by re-thinking familiar beliefs, and that living the Christian life is essentially about opening one's heart to God, and to others. This Wednesday class will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Library and is facilitated by Linda Walker. The class is open to everyone, we just ask that you read the book and are willing to share your thoughts about it during class each week.



BLOOD DRIVE - August 13th

St. Mark's will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, August 13, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please call, text, or email to make an appointment with Martha Lundgren (see directory).



Early Childhood Center NEWS

We still have a few spots left in Kindergarten and Preschool classes. Preschool availability includes Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday for three-year olds and Tuesday/Thursday or five days a week for four-year olds. Please call our office at 797-2925 or email us at stmarksecc@live.com if you have any questions.



Join the Mark-a-ritas for Dinner!

On July 17th, the Mark-a-ritas will be avoiding their hot kitchens by joining one other for dinner at Colt's Taste of Texas, 8310 N. Thornydale. We are a group of women, in our maturing middle-aged years, who like to spend time in fellowship (which for us means food and conversation!) every now and again. If you would like to join us, please contact Brenda Hunter (see directory) by July 11, and then join us at 6:00 p.m. on July 17th at the restaurant.

Nash Neighbors Donation Time



It is that time of year when St. Mark's Nash Neighbors will collect and donate school supplies to Nash Elementary School for use during the 2017-18 school year. There will be a container in the courtyard each Sunday in July to collect your donations. The following are requested classroom supplies we invite the congregation to donate:

- Unscented 2-liter Pump Bottles of Hand Sanitizer
- Boxes of Tissues • Clorox Wipes • Glue Sticks • Black Dry Erase Markers

Thank you for your donations!
Barb Sargent (see directory), Nash Neighbors Committee

URGENT NEED for Volunteers to Prepare PRIMAVERA Meals

We are looking for someone to coordinate the meal on **Saturday, July 8**, for Primavera. If your group or family is interested in preparing and serving this meal to 110 homeless men at the Primavera Emergency Shelter, contact the church office at (297-2062). Many groups and families in our church have experienced the joy and satisfaction of providing this most necessary ministry. The Missions Committee can reimburse the cost of the meal, however, most people donate the ingredients for the meals. Please consider helping, these men depend on St. Mark's to provide these monthly meals.



WASS UP?

June 27, 2017

Volume 18, Issue 12

Spider-Man: Homecoming

UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH

July 2, 2017—

4th of July Holiday

NO YOUTH
GROUP



July 9, 2017—

Spider-Man: Homecoming
premier week-end

Time tba

July 7-15, 2017—

SSP



Opens July 7. If you can be patient and wait two days, you and a friend can go with us. The movie times are not posted. Yet. Your admission is only \$5!

To get a permission slip for your friend, click here:

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

or see the back of this page for in-



July Birthdays

07-26 Adriana Morales

a note from the

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Some of the people in our congregation have just returned from our Annual Conference in Phoenix. I was privileged to shepherd many of the youth in our conference, who attended Annual Conference.

Among the attendees, were Mackenzie Kester and Jayce Cunha. As always, the youth of St. Mark's have represented us well. Jayce and Mackenzie participated in the business of the connectional church, and in times of amazing worship.

I look forward to our next great adventure—SSP!

Blessings,
Kim



Middle School Moments

Summer is officially here! Last Wednesday, when we had already had some seriously hot temperatures, someone wished me a happy first day of summer and I had to laugh. I thought it had been summer for a few weeks! I love the lazy days of summer (who am I kidding, we are as busy as ever!), and really look forward to each Sunday, and the fun adventures your Youth Council planned for us!

See you Sunday!

Rachel



This Week's Adventures with Flat Sharon

See photos on page eight of the Messenger.

1. Flat Sharon making a play for some of Art's Father's Day candy!
2. Flat Sharon, Sharon's sister and brother-in-law, Judy & Dave Christy's home in Grand Forks, ND, with Edie Bjorgam (Emma's fiancé), Emma and Elise (Judy and Dave's daughters), Dave, Judy and Art.
3. Flat Sharon "hanging out" with cattle in the Sioux Falls, SD hotel en route to Colorado Springs.
4. Flat Sharon, Suzanne Vaughn, and Art couldn't resist stopping to personally tell Santa what they want for Christmas! He wasn't there! Mrs. Clause said he was

off to some motorcycle rally on his new 2017 Tri-Glide Ultra Harley trike! Where are his priorities? All his elves went with him on bikes they borrowed from the Shriners!

5. Flat Sharon trying to fulfill a lifetime dream of joining a motorcycle gang at the Harley dealer in Colorado Springs where Lee Vaughn works during the summers (pictured with wife Suzanne). The beautiful bike is a \$40,000 Harley.

6. Larry & Marti Koehn's Keystone condo, Flat Sharon trumps us all! Could cheating be involved!



PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS!

Upcoming Surgeries:

Joe Brown

In the Hospital:

Rehab or Care Facilities:

Than Brademas, Donald Chester, Gary Dean, Patricia Keele, Marla Mutschler, Judith Smith, Bob Ross, Howard Russell, Susan Zimmerman.



Undergoing Treatment at Home:

Jim Allison, Jude Anderson, Gail Blevins, Judy Drescher, April DuBoce, Bill Duryee, Tiffany Guerette, Megan Krzmarzick, Karen Linebarier, Dell Long, Judy Mitzimberg, Don Watt, Connie White.

Recovering at Home:

Dorothy Bonar, Audrey Dawson, Ardyce Johnson, Diane Judge, Janet Krug, Jerry Langemeier, Maryann Nuckolls, Ann Martin, Jim Ward, Dave Webster, Yvonne Yare.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY...

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

Hank Bautzmann, son of Nancy Bautzmann

Jon Chytka, nephew of Roger & Donna Severson

Zachary Dojaquez, grandson of Roger & Donna Severson

Brandonn Eto, friend of Zirnheld/Compernelle family

Rob Eubank, son of David & Johanna Eubank

Mike Freeman, son of Ken & Ann Freeman

Patrick Harris, grandson of Marilyn Vaughn

Greg Haynes, son of Bob & Melinda Haynes

Matthew Hughey, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick

Rachel Kester, daughter of Don & 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 & 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 & Susan Putt

Joshua Ruth, son-in-law of Marjie Walp

Adam Seia, son of David & Vonda Seia

Jason Smith, grandson of Jerry & Judy Smith

Alex Snow, brother of Shelley Shelton

Clint Staschke, son-in-law of Cliff & 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



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Reflections

Thanks so much for taking Flat Sharon on all your adventures this summer. It's been fun to see that some of you have taken her to restaurants here in town, bowling or grocery stores, while others have taken her traveling to places near and far. Keep the pictures coming!

Art and I are doing well, with time for me to rest and renew my spirit.

For much of July I will be in retreat mode, spending time reading, in prayer and reflection, as well as some time with family. Thank you for all your support and care.

Blessings, Sharon



1



2



5



3



4



6

See page 7 for photo captions.