

Messenger

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

Volume 57, Number 19

September 19, 2017



Special Offering Oct. 1st - World Communion Sunday

Hurricanes tore through the south and southeastern parts of the United States in late August and early September, followed by storm surges and floods. People in our congregation waited anxiously for news of friends and relatives as those storms hit.

Even before the storms hit, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) was mobilizing for disaster relief. UMCOR is usually one of the first relief organizations on site, and one of the last to leave, sometimes years later. UMCOR is highly respected throughout the world for its organization, mobilization, and ability to directly, and quickly bring relief to people in need.

On Sunday, Oct. 1st, St. Mark's will receive a special World Communion Sunday offering for UMCOR. You can make your check to St. Mark's, with a note "for UMCOR" and bring them that day. We'll make sure it gets quickly to UMCOR to begin making a difference. You can give ahead of that date, if you wish, or give online at umcstmarks.org. You can also read more about UMCOR at www.umcor.org.



go2 for

Go for 2! We're really excited about the energy and opportunities that our Adult Spiritual Growth Committee have generated in the last couple of months. They have worked very hard to make sure that the majority of adults can find something to peak their interest.

Common Grounds, the young adult group (mostly 20's, 30's, and 40's) offers opportunities for Sunday Morning Bible Study, mid-week conversation, and Saturday fellowship.

Our younger friends have many opportunities as well, including fellowship groups, Confirmation, and Sunday School. The fellowship groups for preteens (4th and 5th graders) and for youth (6th – 12th graders) meet on Sunday afternoons. The Confirmation class, for students in grades 8-12, has just begun meeting on Sunday mornings; and, of course, there is Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. for ages 3 to 103.

Take a look at these things and "Go for 2." Our hope is that you will consider going for worship, plus ... the plus being study, fellowship events, prayer, and/or service. Those are the things that strengthen our discipleship and bring us closer to God.

We understand that some of our families are just recovering from the "back-2-routine" storm of August, and now you may be feeling "spread-2-thin." You might be surprised at the ways in which a one day service project or a short term study can rekindle your relationship with God and regenerate your energy.

Christian Formation Team - Rachel, Margaret, and Kim

New Member Class of Sept. 10, 2017

This is the newest group of people who joined St. Mark's. If you wish to save this information with your current St. Mark's Directory, go to our website www.umcstmarks.org, (**New to St. Mark's** tab) then scroll to the bottom of that page (Newest Members' Bios and Pics) or use this [link](#).

Meet Mark Conley



Mark grew up in Massachusetts and graduated from Boston University. He moved to Phoenix to get his MBA from ASU and then worked for Tucson newspapers and Superior Court here. Mark enjoys swimming and hiking, traveling, reading, gardening, and doing landscaping projects for exercise. Mark volunteers at Tohono Chul and is on the Nash Neighbors team. Mark has two sisters, one in MA who is a nurse, and one in NJ who is a retired computer programmer. Mark attends the 8:15 service, and his sponsor is Chris Lawver.

Meet Diane Eby



Diane was born in Chicago, IL, and went to college in IL. She has had a long career in marketing and product management and spent many years in a suburb of Cleveland, OH, while working for American Greetings Corp. She also lived in Dallas, TX, for about eight years prior to coming to Tucson. Here, she cares for her father and is the Community Liaison for Harbor Light Hospice where she feels her job is a kind of ministry while she assists families at a critical time. Diane is a singer – currently with the Tucson Symphony Chorus after spending years with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. She enjoys art, theater, and golfing. Diane has a sister here in Oro Valley and a niece and nephew. At St. Mark's, Diane intends to become involved with some long-term study classes and choir. She attends the 9:45 service and her sponsor is Julie Corty.

Meet Cindy Hanks



Cindy is a dental hygienist, and she likes working with, and helping, people. She enjoys cooking and gardening. Cindy and her husband, Ken, have two sons – Drew lives in LA, and works for Fox Studios. Son, Ross, lives and works here and shares his dad's passion for all sports. Cindy

hopes to be involved here with Over 50's lunches, helping with meals for special events, Membership Care, and Mark-a-ritas. She attends the 9:45 service, and her sponsors are Susan and Harold Putt. (Ken went through the Exploring Membership Class with Cindy, but was called out of town on Sept. 10th and will join later.)

Meet Jan Hrabe



Jan is a retired R.N. and homemaker who was extremely active for many decades at her UMC church in Thousand Oaks, CA. There, she sang alto in the church choir for over 40 years. She likes to knit and has joined our prayer shawl team here. Jan also likes to play cards, work jigsaw puzzles, and visit family and their dogs. Children of close friends consider her "Grammy," Jan has two children, a son, Mark, and a daughter, Ann Lebahn. She has come to Tucson to be with Mark and Marjie Hrabe and Mark is her sponsor. Jan attends the 9:45 service.

Meet Ann Smiley



Ann grew up in Bloomington, IL where her father was a Methodist minister. He played Christ in ***The American Passion Play*** for 25 years, and Ann grew up acting in the play. Ann taught high school Theatre and English and directed Children's Theatre before retiring. She and husband, Sam, celebrate their 65th anniversary this month. Sam is a playwright, author, actor, designer, and artist. His work as a theater professor at the U of A brought them to Tucson long ago. They have three grown sons, Mark, Steven, and Sean. Ann adores spending time with family and with her little dog. She hopes to become involved with the Fine Arts and Crafts Guild here at St. Mark's. Ann usually attends the 9:45 service, and her sponsor is Marlene Anderson.



Christian Education Sunday – Sept. 24th

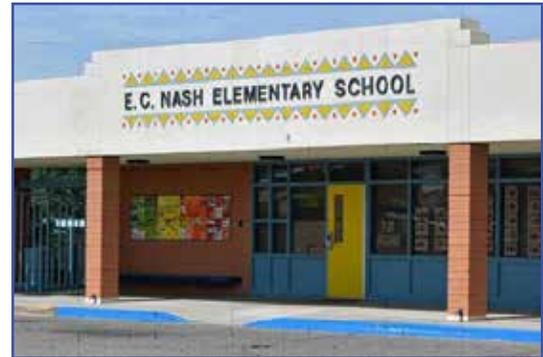
Teacher dedication—Join us in all three services to commission those who dedicate their time and talent to serve the children, youth, and adults of our community.

Bibles for the children—Join us at 9:45 a.m. as we distribute Bibles to our 3rd graders and some older children who have not received theirs yet.

Community Food Bank News



The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona is in need of people who will help at the front desk, signing in clients and directing them where to go to get their food carts. Shifts are four hours, morning or afternoon, Tuesday through Saturday. Most volunteers do one four-hour shift a week. Some computer use is needed, but not more than would normally be use at home. Bilingual is helpful, but not necessary. Contact www.communityfoodbank.org for more information including a volunteer application and orientation schedule, or call the volunteer coordinator (520-882-3292).



Do You Volunteer at Nash?

The Nash Neighbors Committee would like to create an up-to-date roster of all those persons who volunteer at Nash Elementary School. If you are one of these volunteers, would you please contact me (see directory). I would like to gather a bit of information from you. If you are not a volunteer but would like to help, or if you want information, I'm here to help. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you so much for your prompt response.

Sue Pierce, Volunteer Coordinator

Grace Circle

Do you want to be part of an active, hands on mission group? Then consider joining United Methodist Women's Grace Circle. We meet the third Tuesday at 9:30 in the library. We carpool to provide assistance to various local organizations such as Gap ministries, Marana Food Bank, St. Lukes, and Sister Jose Women's Center. We recycle greeting cards, visit UMW homebound members and pack Nash summer bags. Watch the **Messenger** and bulletin for specific information about our activities. Contact Joyce Lawson (see directory) for any questions.



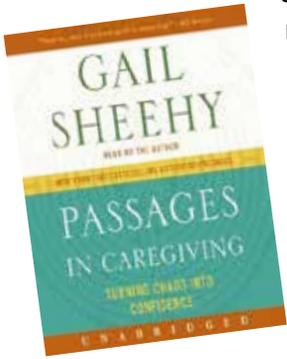
CHURCH ON A
MISSION

Do Good, Seek Peace and Go for it!

The adult mission trip team will travel to Portland, OR, on Sept. 28-Oct. 1, to learn about the homeless and serve that population in a variety of ways. Please pray for the team, that we will be God's light in this world to all we meet: Don Booth, Cindy Brocius, Casey Compennolle, Amy Gosla, Lorri Jordan, Lillian Lovaglio, Tony Lovaglio, Kim Ogle, John Synhorst, Margaret Synhorst.

Passages in Caregiving: Turning Chaos into Confidence

Presented by the Counselor-in Residence program and facilitated by Mary Lu Kiracofe, this six-week class starting on Thursday, Oct. 12th from 12:30-1:30 p.m. will be held in the St Mark's library. This is for those of you currently facing the challenges of caregiving a loved one. As a caregiver, you understand how difficult it is to make time for your own needs, and yet it is essential to your own stamina, mental health, and quality of caregiving. Using the book by Gail Sheehy, *Passages in Caregiving: Turning Chaos Into Confidence* and the support and insight of the class participants, we will explore issues ranging from receiving and understanding the diagnosis, the art of advocacy, ways of mobilizing family, friend and community resources, and last but not least, valued self-care strategies.



Caregiving is a powerful emotional journey and this class will examine, explore, and offer ways to care for the difficult emotions and isolation associated with caregiving and the potential creativity, compassion and supportive connections that can emerge from this sacred role.

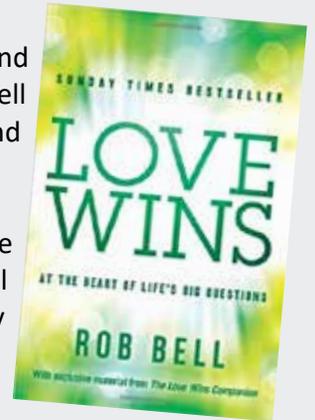
This sharing and supportive class will be facilitated by Mary Lu Kiracofe. Please contact Mary Lu (see directory) if you have questions or are interested in reserving a space for this class. You may also register online at www.umcstmarks.org under Classes & Registrations. Class size is limited so advanced registration is suggested. If you would like you may purchase or borrow the book, *Passages in Caregiving*. There are some copies available in the St Mark's library or the public library. There is no charge for the class.

Book Study Group Begins With "Love Wins"

Do you ask questions about heaven? About hell? Is God good and gracious or revengeful and judging? Does God love some folks more than others? These are some of the questions Rob Bell in his book, *Love Wins*, addresses. He stimulates us to talk openly about our own beliefs and struggles, and to ask our own questions.

It happens on Friday, Sept. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the church library! Come to see good friends, make new ones, and meet our new leaders, Todd and Tyger Penson! There is still over a week to read this book. It is not long or hard to read, but if you don't finish, come anyway and bring your book!

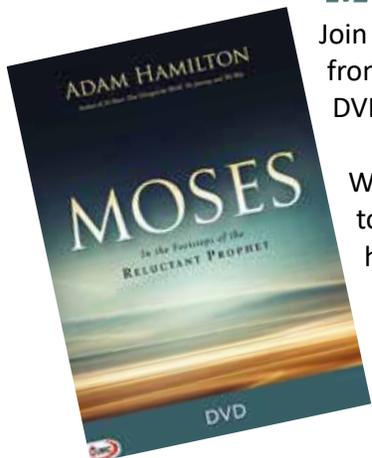
Of course, there will be food to eat while we challenge our minds and hearts. Bring a friend! Looking ahead: for Oct. 27, we will read *SPARE PARTS* by Joshua Davis. This book stimulates discussion on a very current and controversial issue. More about this book at our next study!



Moses DVD Study Begins October 8th

Join the Sharing and Family Life Adult Sunday School classes Sundays 9:45–10:45 a.m in Rm. 17 from Oct. 8 through Nov. 19 for Adam Hamilton's *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* DVD-based study.

We'll join award-winning author Adam Hamilton in this six-week study as he takes us from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea, and the wilderness, exploring the sites of Moses' life, sharing historical and archaeological information and biblical text. You'll gain an understanding of Moses' significance in your life today, and you'll discover how you, too, can turn your own reluctance into boldness. A book accompanies the DVD study. Some books will be available in class beginning on Sunday, Sept. 17, and additional copies can be purchased through Cokesbury (use the [link](#) at the top of St. Mark's home page) or elsewhere where Christian books are sold. An e-book is also available through Cokesbury, Amazon, etc.



We invite you to join us as we follow in the footsteps of Moses with Adam Hamilton as our guide. If you have questions, please contact Terry Majewski or Rick Farnsworth (see directory). Note that the class will not meet on the 5th Sunday, Oct. 29.

HOLD THESE PEOPLE IN PRAYER!

Upcoming Surgeries:

Pat Pennington 9/21, Becky Wallace 9/25

Rehab or Care Facilities:

Jane Berson, Than Brademas, Donald Chester, Patricia Keele, Shirley Johnson, Bob Ross, Earlene Schock, Yvonne Yare

Hospice Care:

Bill Duryee, Jerry Langemeier, Howard Russell

Undergoing Treatment at Home:

Jude Anderson, Gail Blevins, Ken Cushman, Audrey Dawson, Judy Drescher, April DuBoce, Tiffany Guerette, Breanne Hallam, Megan Krzmarzick, Judy Mitzimberg, Karen Linebarier, Dell Long, Cynthia Rayner, Don Watt, Connie White

Recovering at Home:

Ann Martin, Betty Myers, Jim Ward, Marilyn Vaughn

Prayers and Condolences:

Prayers for the family of Marla Mutschler upon her death last week.



PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday worship, you may submit a prayer request by email prayerchain@umcstmarks.org or on our website at www.umcstmarks.org/contact-us-prayer-request.php.

Also, visit our Prayer Room on campus and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.



St. Mark's Messenger

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Email:

info@umcstmarks.org

Website:

www.umcstmarks.org

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.

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

Jayce Cunha, son of Rich and Blanca Cunha

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

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 Joan Fradenburgh



Third Thursday each month
6:30 - 8:30 p.m., St. Mark's Library
Coordinator:
Nancy Bautzmann (248-5814)

WASS UP?

September 19, 2017

Volume 18, Issue 19

MARSHMALLOW MADNESS & STARBUCKS

UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

September 24, 2017—

4:00 to 6:00

Middle School— “Marshmallow
Madness”

High School— Board game &
conversation at Starbucks/
Barnes and Noble

October 1, 2017—

Greek Festival at
St. Katherine in Chandler
Greek Orthodox Church
Meet at the
Wesley House 12:30 p.m.
Return by 6:30 p.m.

October 8, 2017—

3:00 SSP Meeting
4:00 Set up Pumpkin Patch



The Middle School students will be at the Wesley House on the 24th for marshmallow games, marshmallow wacky projects, and marshmallow *madness*! You'll want to bring a friend to this. It's going to be CRAZY.

High School will go to the Starbucks in Barnes and Noble for a great new game and a drink.

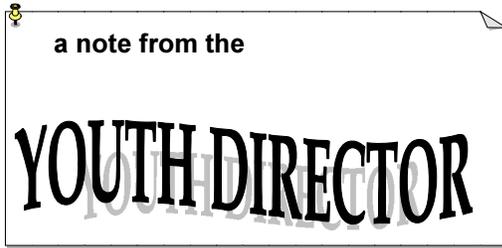
GREEK FESTIVAL AT ST. KATHERINE IN CHANDLER

It's time for something new. Let's go to St. Katherine Greek Orthodox church for the Greek festival this year.

Meet at the Wesley House at 12:30 to travel to Chandler. We'll be back by 6:30. Bring money for yummy Greek food.

Friends are welcome. Permission slips are available on our website: umcstmarks.org.





Adults at St. Mark's have many opportunities to further their Christian education. Other than worship, there are numerous classes workshops, and fellowship opportunities. Yet, many of us let those opportunities slide by.

As youth, you also have chances to further your Christian education and boost your understanding of God's plan. You have worship, Sunday School, Confirmation, youth group, service projects, etc.

I'm amazed at how many of you participate in more than one of these every Sunday. In fact, it's humbling.

So, I've decided to take the Disciple III adult class. So far, it's been very interesting. It reminds me of how much I love to learn and teach.

I hope you'll consider making Christian formation a part of your life's journey.

Blessings,
Kim

Middle School Moments

Have you ever noticed that, at the end of Youth Group on Sundays, we also have a quick Devotional? Sometimes Kim or I offer the devotional, and sometimes it's one of your friends. In the next few weeks, your Youth Council representatives might be asking you to help out with our devotional time.

I know that sounds intimidating, but really, it's not! We have lots of books and ideas, and I'm always happy to help you come up with something. So when your representative asks you...don't just say no! Think about it. Talk to me, and we will come up with something great!

See you Sunday!
Rachel

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT MEETING: OCTOBER 8

Meet in the sanctuary at 3:00

All students who are currently in grades 8-12 are invited to learn more about SSP and help choose a site for the summer of 2018.

Calendar Notes

Sat., Sept. 23

9:00 a.m. UMW District Meeting

Sun., Sept. 24

4:00 p.m. Preteens

4:00 p.m. Youth Group

Mon., Sept. 25

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

6:00 p.m. You Only Die Once, Fellowship Hall

Wed., Sept. 27

5:45 p.m. Soul Station, Fellowship Hall

6:15 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

Thur., Sept. 28

Adult Mission Trip

12:00 **MESSENGER DEADLINE**

Fri., Sept. 29

9:30 a.m. Christian Book Club

Sun., Oct. 1

4:00 p.m. Preteens

4:00 p.m. Youth Group

Tues., Oct. 3

1:00 p.m. Congregational Care, Library

Wed., Oct. 4

5:45 p.m. Soul Station, Fellowship Hall

6:15 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

Dear Church Family...



Dear Church Family ... I use that greeting with good reason. You truly are all "my family" and have shown it with your care and concern for me after my recent surgery. It was a little more serious than I had anticipated, so recovery is taking longer than I expected and hoped. The prayers, phone calls, cards and visits have cheered me so much, and I cannot thank you enough for all of them. Special thanks to Pastor Sharon who found time to visit and pray with me the evening before surgery as she was leaving early the next day to visit her brother in hospital in Phoenix. Please continue prayers for a full recovery and again, my sincere thanks to you all.

Agnes Fisher

Save The Date!

Join us on the labyrinth for our 6th Annual Blessing of the Animals at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8th. This is a community event, so be sure to invite friends and neighbors too! Bring your pets (or their photos) for this brief service, individual blessings and free photos taken by a pet photographer. Watch the website and the next Messenger for more details.

St. Mark's Animal Ministry Team



Justice For Our Neighbors

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come and learn about this new ministry for our Desert Southwest Conference. Sherry Brady and Ella Tomkus Rawls will talk to us about the complexity of immigration, explain DACA, and utilize real life stories to illustrate how difficult the path to citizenship can be. This presentation will help us separate fact from fiction and hearsay from knowledge. Brought to you by Church and Society and Adult Spiritual Growth.

What is Common Grounds, Anyway?



Common Grounds is a group of people in our twenties, thirties, and forties on many walks of life. Some of us are married, some of us are single. Some of us are parents, some are students, and some are professionals. We have different laid back meetings where we grow as people, Christians, and friends. Wherever you are on your journey, this is a place for you to get to know God and help us make a difference. We offer a Sunday Morning Bible Study, Wednesday night Chat Group and a monthly Coffee and Conversations Fellowship Group. If you would like more information about Common Grounds, contact Rachel (rachel@umcstmarks.org).



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Here's a few reminders as we move through the month of September!

- ◆ A big “thanks” goes to all the members of our Board of Trustees for their hard work on many campus projects, including the current carpet replacement in the Sanctuary. The carpet project is almost done!
- ◆ If you or a family member or church friend are hospitalized, or expecting to have surgery, or have a need that calls for pastoral care, be sure to contact us at 297-2062. If it is after church office hours and is an emergency, follow the voice prompts to the emergency line and leave a message. You can also email kandy@umcstmarks.org, tammy@umcstmarks.org, or sharon@umcstmarks.org. Hospitals do not contact us when you are admitted. We depend on you to let us know so that we can visit, pray and care for you.
- ◆ Be sure to set aside Friday evening, Oct. 13th, so you can be part of the dedication of the **Kindness Grows at St. Mark's** mosaic mural that Bits and Pieces created and Handy Hands installed on the wall by our Early Childhood Center. The dedication will be at 6 p.m., with activities and food trucks available that night. I'm so grateful to all those who worked on this, and look forward to celebrating this gift of love.
- ◆ Over 200 “Books and Beanies” children’s hygiene kits have been assembled by our congregation, and are on their way to World Care, for distribution to children affected by the recent hurricanes and flooding. Thanks to all who contributed to this project.
- ◆ The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is actively working to bring hope and healing from the recent disasters caused by the hurricanes and flooding. When we take our special World Communion Sunday offering on October 1st, all the funds will go to assist in this disaster relief work.
- ◆ Remember, our mission statement is: **Changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people.** In the notes above, I've mentioned the care of our Trustees for our campus, ways we can pray for and visit one another, the “Kindness Grows” gift made by Bits and Pieces (our mosaic group), and ways we're working to serve those who've suffered hurt and loss. These are just a sample of the ways we're working to live into our mission. Thanks be to God for willing hands and joyful hearts!

Blessings, Sharon