

Messenger

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

Volume 58, Number 14

July 18, 2018



Upcoming Events & Activities at St. Mark's

NEW SERMON SERIES

Connecting to the Holy Spirit



On Sunday, July 22 we'll start a three-week sermon series on **Connecting to the Holy Spirit**. This will be an opportunity for us to learn more about this thing called the **Holy Spirit**, and the difference it makes in our lives today.

Summer Fun!

We have three great categories left of our Summer Fun, Making Connections promotion:

- July 22 - Music Trivia
- July 29 - Bucket List
- Aug. 5 - Interests

Be sure you take part in the fun. The boards will be on display in the courtyard for the next three weeks. It's a great way to get to know your neighbor and make connections with your church family!

Friday, August 10

Food Truck Cafè/Water Fun Night!

Slide into summer by cooling off with Family Ministries on August 10! Our Food Truck Cafè serves delicious fare from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We will have water attractions for all ages and egee's on the courtyard from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. so remember to bring your towels, sunscreen, and a friend! Interested in helping with this and other super fun activities? Family Ministries is a laid-back, casual committee that meets virtually, with only one or two physical meetings per year. We would love any and all input and help! Contact Rachel in the church office (rachel@umcstmarks.org) for more details.



Interested in helping with this and other super fun activities? Family Ministries is a laid-back, casual committee that meets virtually, with only one or two physical meetings per year. We would love any and all input and help! Contact Rachel in the church office (rachel@umcstmarks.org) for more details.



**Sunday, August 12
RALLY DAY!**

Join us for RALLY DAY as we kick off a new program year of Sunday School classes and introduce music opportunities, events, long-term Bible studies for adults and many spiritual growth opportunities! If you would like to register your child for Sunday School prior to Aug. 12, fill out the form at <http://umcstmarks.org/ministries/children-families/childrens-sunday-school-registration/>, so you are ready! Youth (grades 6-12) will fill out a registration form and permission slip in the Wesley House on Rally Day.



Welcome Reception for Pastor Stuart

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee will host a "Welcome Reception" for Pastor Stuart Salvatierra. Please join us on **Sunday, August 26**, in Fellowship Hall. Stop by after any of the worship services and introduce yourself to St. Mark's new Associate Pastor and enjoy some refreshments.

Medical Volunteers

Beginning Sunday, July 22, there will be some seats set aside in the back row of the Sanctuary for Medical Volunteers. These are persons who are part of our Safety Ministry, who have been trained on CPR and basic First Aid, and can quickly assist ushers and parishioners with a medical situation. When you see the reserved signs, know that these are persons who can be called on if a situation arises, and have skills to assist. They will also wear a name tag with a "Medical" attachment.



Thanks to those who have volunteered.

Blessings, Pastor Sharon

MESSENGER Newsletter

Special Edition

Our next issue of the *Messenger* (Aug. 1) will be a "*special edition*" and include upcoming events, activities, and spiritual growth opportunities that are planned for the fall season. If your ministry, group or committee has an activity or event that you would like to include in this special edition, please make sure you submit the article on or before July 26, to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

Depending upon the space available, articles that are not events related, may be published in the following newsletter issue unless the article has time-sensitive information.

Do You Know the United Methodist Church's Position on Climate Change?

The United Methodist Social Principles is a section of United Methodist Book of Discipline. The Social Principles express The United Methodist Church's official position on societal issues, casting a vision for a just and equitable world.

This month, we will examine what the Social Principles say about our responsibility for Global Climate Stewardship. This particular area falls under the section of the Social Principles dealing with the natural world. We must acknowledge the global impact of our disregard for God's creation. The accelerated use of fossil fuels and the resultant increase in greenhouse gases threaten to alter dramatically the earth's climate for generations to come with severe environmental, economic and social implications. The church supports the efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse emissions and call on congregations, businesses, individuals, industries and communities to reduce their emissions.

The social principles are extended by resolutions which have been adopted by the General Conference. There is a resolution which deals with Climate Change and the Church's Response. This resolution calls on United

Methodists to prayerfully consider lifestyle changes that would reduce greenhouse gases. Support communities affected by climate change, as well as those currently dependent on fossil fuels, so they can transition to other fuels. Challenge United Methodist institutions, organizations and local churches to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint. Finally, the resolution calls on us to advocate for national policies that shift to fuel sources that do not produce greenhouse gases. And to advocate for fair, ambitious and binding international agreements to address global climate change.



Here at St. Mark's the Board of Trustees has taken active steps to reduce the church's carbon footprint. During recent renovations windows have been replaced with double pane low-e glass. Also, as air conditioners are replaced, higher efficiency units are installed.

Church and Society Committee

Reflection of Thanks

Greetings everyone! Many are familiar with the quote, “The unexamined life is not worth living,” that is attributed to Socrates.



In my never-ending quest of biblical nerdery and desire to grow in my walk with Christ, I take this quote to heart to answer the question “What story

in the Bible does my life look the most like right now?” Sometimes these musings lead to me chuckling at myself for ridiculous thoughts. Sometimes, they lead me to what would probably border on heresy. However, when it is at its best I am led to something that is often eye-opening and meaningful. Reflecting on the recent changes in my life and the experiences of hospitality here at St. Mark’s there is one story that keeps coming to mind. In Genesis (Chapter 18:1-15) Abraham, and his household, entertain three guests whom are passing by with the best of what Abraham has to offer. Nothing is spared to make these guests feel at home. One could easily say that the very definition of hospitality itself is presented within this story.

I will also say that within this story is where I see myself. Since my arrival here just about three weeks ago, people have treated me amazingly well. At every turn I have felt as if nothing was spared in hospitality to the point where I already feel very much at home. It has been a humbling experience and wonderful for my spiritual health because it has put me in the position of receiving when my natural preference is to be giving. Thank you for being a part of this outpouring of hospitality on my behalf.

At the end of the biblical story Abraham and Sara are left with a promise from these representatives of God. This promise is that they would be graced with an addition to their house and I feel that we have a similar promise moving forward. Through God’s grace we will live examined lives of worth, we will move forward in our walk with Christ together, we will grow as a community in faith and discipleship, and we will be a beacon of love and hope to those we meet along the way. I look forward to all of this as we get to know each other more and more.

Many Blessings and much love,

Pastor Stuart

News from our Worldwide Christian Support Task Force

Members of St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force and the St. Marks Church and Society Committee petitioned the United Methodist Church's Southwest Annual Conference to support amending the United Methodist Church's Social Principles to officially support persecuted Christians. The Conference approved the following resolution:



Resolution to Add New Section to Social Principles for Persecuted Christians

Whereas United Methodists share a common heritage with all Christians and recognize our fellow Christians across the world are carrying out Jesus' Great Commission "to go make disciples of all nations" even at great risk to themselves;

Whereas persecution of Christians exists and should be denounced;

Whereas the United Methodist Social Principles are the official position of the church on social issues; and

Whereas the Social Principles do not contain a stance on persecuted Christians; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC):

1. Amend The **Book of Discipline** Social Principles to add new sub-paragraph Christian Persecution after ¶165. Because we share a common heritage with all Christians we also share a special obligation to denounce the persecution of our fellow Christians. Apostolic witness to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is also our witness. We recognize our fellow Christians are carrying out Jesus' Great Commission, "to go make disciples of all nations," even at great risk to themselves. The Church must provide support and encouragement to our fellow Christians and condemn nations for the unjust treatment of all religious groups within their borders.

2. Submit this change as a petition from the DSC to the 2020 General Conference.

Names of Petitioners: Desert Southwest Annual Conference

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Short Stories by Jesus

by Amy-Jill Levine

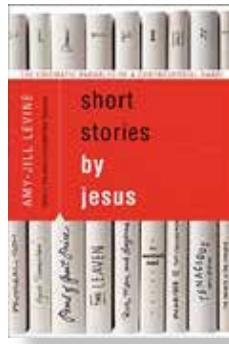
Facilitated by Rick Farnsworth, Terry Majewski

Sharing and Family Life Sunday School

Sundays: Aug. 12 - Sept 16 (six weeks)

9:45 a.m., Rm 17

In **Short Stories by Jesus**, Amy-Jill Levine—renowned biblical scholar, author of **The Misunderstood Jew**, and general editor for **The Jewish Annotated New Testament**—interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers. Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives.

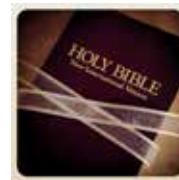


In **Short Stories by Jesus**, she analyzes these "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

We warmly invite you to attend for the entire six weeks or for as many sessions as you are able. A limited number of participant guides will be available in class starting July 22 for \$9.00 (payable to Terry Majewski). If you wish to order on your own, hard copies and an eBook version are also available through Cokesbury or through other sources, but we encourage you to order through the Cokesbury link on the St. Mark's website at <http://umcstmarks.org/resources> (at the bottom of the website). For questions please contact the class coleaders Rick Farnsworth (see directory) or Terry Majewski (see directory).

Did you know that there are two creation stories?

How about several interwoven accounts of Noah and the flood? What about the stories of Jesus' birth? Who was St. Paul and what did he really say?



If you want to know this and more, try DISCIPLE Bible Study—**Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study**. Watch for more information on this and other classes in the next **Messenger**.

If you haven't participated yet, we encourage you to try a class or two. Here's some encouraging words from one of our members who did. Reluctantly I signed up for Disciple I, thanks to the encouragement from Linda Walker. Subsequently, I completed four years of Disciple classes, one year of Jesus in the Gospel, and one year of Christian Believers. These six years have strengthened my Christian foundation, and helped me to focus my beliefs and act upon them. The sharing of insights, opinions and friendships with classmates is paramount. "Try it, you'll like it!" —Martha Mazzolini

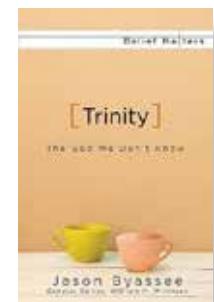
Trinity: The God We Don't Know

by Jason Byassee

Facilitated by Brenda Hunter

Thursdays: Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30

6:30 p.m., Rm 17/18



God as Trinity is fundamental to Christian belief, as indicated by using the three names in our two sacraments: baptism and communion. However, sometimes we might find ourselves saying the names by rote or by habit, without thinking about what lies behind the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If you want to dig deeper, please join us for a four-part discussion of the book **Trinity: The God We Don't Know**, beginning on Aug. 9. Each discussion will last one hour. If you want the church to order your book for you, it will cost \$10, and you should register by July 30. No advance reading is required. You may register online at www.umcstmarks.org (classes) or on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board on Sunday morning.

Holy Yoga...

Holy Yoga is experiential worship specifically created to deepen your connection with Christ. Our sole purpose is to combine topnotch yoga with a Christ honoring experience that offers an opportunity, for believers and nonbelievers alike, to authentically connect with God. We do this by integrating His word, prayer, worship and the physical practice of yoga to contemporary and Christian music.

Classes are offered three times weekly on Sunday at 4 p.m.; Monday at 9:15 a.m.; and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Tricia Chester at (see directory).

Summer Film Offering Monday, August 6

O Brother, Where Art Thou?

6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Starring George Clooney, Holly Hunter, John Goodman this film is set in 1937 rural Mississippi during the Great Depression, and its story is a modern satire loosely based on Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey* that incorporates mythology from the American South. Three escaped convicts search for hidden treasure while a relentless lawman pursues them. Popcorn will be provided, bring your own beverage. Childcare is available, by making advance arrangements through the church office (297-2062) prior to August 1.



We Love Babies!

Here at St. Mark's, we love babies and we love to welcome them into our church family. If you know someone in our church family who has had a baby in the last year or is expecting one soon, please let Rachel in the office know (rachel@umcstmarks.org) so we can give them a warm welcome!



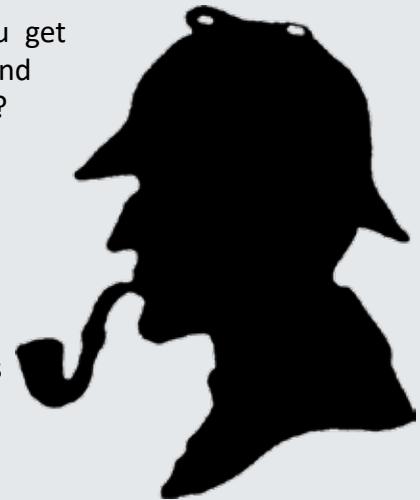
Faith on Stage Presents:

And The Old Man Died!

Come to an old-fashioned dinner and "who done it" mystery *And The Old Man Died*. This will be an evening of fun and laughter. Mark your calendars for **Friday, Aug. 17, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Where else can you get a delicious dinner and see a play for \$10.00?

Tickets will be on sale in the courtyard on July 29 and Aug. 5. Seating is limited, so get your tickets right away!



Welcome Center Art Gallery



The church office is looking for an individual to assist our Administrative Associate, Jazmine Cunha, with the coordination of art exhibits in the Welcome Center. Responsibilities include getting materials ready for exhibit, hanging artwork, then dismantling the artwork upon completion of the exhibit and returning to the artist. If you are interested, contact Jazmin Cunha (jazmin@umcstmrks.org or 297-2062) for information.

This is also a call for artists! If you have an art exhibit (any medium) that you wish exhibit in the Welcome Center, let Jazmin know and she will work with you to schedule a time frame to exhibit your art.

Many thanks to Jan Hooser and Mark Hrabe for their help with previous exhibits!

Help Megan Fight Leukemia!

Our prayers go out to Megan Krzmarzick who continues extensive treatment for Leukemia as well as prayers for Megan's family especially her mother, Tammy, and Jack Hallam. Cards of support may be sent to Megan at: 25 SE 26th #1, Portland, OR 97214. There is also a GoFundMe account set up for Megan's medical expenses to send donations and encouragement <https://www.gofundme.com/help-megan-fight-leukemia>.



Welcome Little One!



Congratulations go out to Josh and Ginny Smith celebrating the birth of their new son, Evan Oliver, born on Wed., June 20, 2018.



SOUL STATION MEALS

Volunteers are needed to provide a meal for 60-75 people on Wednesday nights at Soul Station. If your committee, family, or friends are interested in providing the meal, funds are available. Clara Campbell will assist with set up and can answer questions regarding menus and budget. Sign up in the narthex, or call the church office (297-2062).

PRAYER CORNER

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

Gail Blevins	David & Floretta Harrington	Carol Underwood
Jared Bowman & family	Patricia Keele	Jackie Vickers
Michael Campbell	Brent & Karen Linebarier	Dave Wait
Donald Chester	Jean Ogle	Lance Wald
Judy Drescher	Damian Parkinson	Tom Walker
Keith & Mary Ann Glazier	Hazel Roberts	Dave & Jan Webster
Breanne Hallam	Howard & Gina Russell	Connie White
Carolyn Hanna	Marian Shultis	Lindsay Williams

Sympathy and prayers
to KaraGay and Bill Stovall
on the death of KaraGay's
granddaughter, Brittany
Boegel, in Alaska on July 4.

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 Donna Severson
Zachary Dojaquez, grandson of Donna Severson
Brandonn Eto, friend of Zirnheld/Compernolle family
Patrick Emmett, son of Julie Wiens
Mike Freeman, son of Ken & Ann Freeman
Garrett Geer, grandson of Ellen Wise
Patrick Harris, grandson of Marilyn Vaughn
Rachel Kester, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester
Chad Long, grandson of Pat Long
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
Geoffrey Shafe, grandson of Mary Langemeier
Jason Smith, grandson of Jerry & Judy Smith
Clint Staschke, son-in-law of Cliff & June Young
Michael and Karisa Szczygiel, daughter
and son-in-law of Joyce Flick
Brianna Walker, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh;
niece of Joan Fradenburgh

WASS UP?

July 18, 2018

Volume 19, Issue 14



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

July 22, 2018—
4:00 to 6:00
Escape Room

FIRST TIME IN
AN ESCAPE ROOM BE LIKE



July 28, 2018—
SATURDAY
Desert Museum & Dinner
5:30 to 10:00



July 29, 2018—
NO YOUTH GROUP
(See Saturday)

August 5, 2018—
4:00 to 6:00
Pool Party!

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf



Fun Filled Fellowship

Jayce and I have planned some
Fun Filled Fellowship activities
that you wont want to miss...
Blessings, Julie

July 22nd - We are going bowling.
More info to come, BUT I know
you will need socks and an idea of
what size bowling shoe you wear,
and a permission slip. If you've al-
ready given us a permission slip
this summer, you don't need a new
one.

July 29th - Water themed
games.... You will get WET!!

Last Saturday in July
DeSert Museum

The Desert Museum is open
late on Saturdays. It's not as
hot then. Your cost is only
\$5. plus money for fast food.
Scholarships are available.
Friends are welcome!
Everyone needs a
permission slip.

a note from the

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Whew! A few days ago, we returned from California, where our current and incoming high schoolers worked with Sierra Service Project (SSP) to repair homes in the Imperial Beach area of San Diego. We also had a day of educational experiences: some at the border and some with a conservation agency.

As always, SSP was a profound experience. (And I'm not just talking about Sea World and the S.D. Zoo.)

I'd like to thank our congregation for their support and prayers; parents for sending such great kids; and our chaperones—Don Kester and Carli Ogle. Don and Carli rocked the week!

Blessings,
Kim

Side note: The ocean can be a surprising place. Just ask Jenasys, who was stung by a stingray. She handled it like a trooper.

Middle School Moments

I. Love. Monsoons. I really, really love Monsoons. I love to sit out on my back porch and watch the storm while I read a book. It's my favorite part about living in Arizona! I don't, however, like monsoons when I'm driving! Yikes! When the storm hit last week, I was trying to get home from Chick-Fil-A (hello free food if you dress up like a cow!!) and it was a MESS! My whole neighborhood was flooded, I think. Cars were stuck in roads, roads were closed, and people couldn't figure out how to get home. It was pretty crazy. But once the clouds cleared, I saw the greatest thing. Neighbors were helping neighbors sweep and shovel rocks out of driveways and off sidewalks, and helping chop cacti that had fallen and needed to be moved. Everyone just jumped in and helped where they saw a need. It was great to see people helping people, without being asked. Sometimes there are storms, but I'm so glad that we always have our neighbors there to help us pick up the pieces!

See you Sunday!
Rachel



How do I download a permission slip?

- Step 1: Go to umcstmarks.org
- Step 2: Click on "resources" at the top.
- Step 3: Go to "forms"; page down to Youth
- Step 4: Click & Print
- Step 5: Share with a friend!

Calendar Notes

Thurs., July 18

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

Sat., July 21

6:00 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

Sun., July 22

BLOOD DRIVE, Fellowship Hall

4:00 p.m. Youth Group

4:00 p.m. PreTeens Group

Mon., July 23

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

7:00 p.m. **Tattoos on The Heart**, Library

Tues., July 24

9:00 a.m. Coffee Chat (Old Times Kafe)

10:00 a.m. Finance Subcommittee, Conf. Rm.

Wed., July 25

10:30 a.m. Chronic Illness/Pain Support, Library

Noon - **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

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

6:15 p.m. Soul Station

6:15 p.m. Common Grounds

Thurs., July 26

Noon - **MESSENGER DEADLINE**

6:00 p.m. Technology Committee, Library

6:30 p.m. Holy Yoga



St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

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— — —

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Sharon Ragland
Associate Pastors:
Stuart Salvatierra
Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

— — —

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

Soul Station
Wednesday Night:
Dinner - 5:45 p.m.
Music/Programs
6:15-7:15 p.m.

Dear Church Family...



Pastor Sharon, thank you for praying with me before my knee surgery and a big thank you to my St. Mark's family for all your prayers, cards, visits and yummy food. Bless all of you for all you do!

Darlene Peters.

I don't know who else to thank! I thank God every day for your caring, prayers for me and my family and the help with a gift card. I am a very frugal shopper (sales and coupons are a staple in my shopping). I am so very grateful for all kinds of help that everyone here provides me. Thank you!

Susan Schaefer

We want to thank our St. Mark's Family for your many prayers, cards and good wishes during our recent days of convalescence. A special thank you for the bright yellow prayer shawl that Pastor Sharon delivered on her first visit to see Janice at the hospital. It not only wrapped her in warmth and recovery prayers but also brought smiles to everyone who entered the room. Janice was always quick to tell people it was from her St. Mark's Family.

Every card, thought, and prayer not only brightened our days but also brought us speedy recoveries from Dave's tendon surgery and Janice's stroke. Janice is especially happy to be home after her 12 day hospital stay. She is still having balance and vision problems but getting better each day.

David is a great caregiver and taskmaster. He had to sit in on a couple of therapy sessions and often reminds her of things she needs to work on. The stroke was quite a wake-up call that each day is precious and nothing to be taken for granted. Additionally, Dave's speedy recovery allowed him to drive which was another critical element in Janice's discharge.

Thanks for your part in our recovery!

Janice and Dave Shelton



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Reflections

As I write this, major league baseball's "All Stars" are getting ready to play ball with each other in the National and American League's All Star summer classic. These are teams that are put together from some of baseball's best players, for just this one game. When the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team resumes play on Friday, July 20, their team is just a half game behind, the Los Angeles Dodgers, in the National League West. This past Sunday France's soccer team beat all the others for the World Cup Championship.

Our lives are full of teams. Some work well together. Others, struggle at times. All are made up of human beings who are both frail and full of possibilities. We find joy in watching and participating in teams that work well together around a common purpose. Here at St. Mark's we pray and live into our mission statement, "changing the world through Christ by caring for all people," and our main focus, which is to work to reach new people in all ages and stages of life, with an emphasis on reaching younger people. (We talk a lot about what "younger" means!). Because we have been accepted and loved by a gracious God, we long for others to know the love of Jesus Christ, too.

Today I find myself grateful for the teams I'm part of, those that work together to try to live and share the love of Christ. I'm grateful today for our pastoral team – Pastors Stuart, Evy and me. I'm grateful for our staff team – those people who

work together on staff to carry out the mission of our church. We are very blessed at St. Mark's with compassionate, skilled, hard-working people on our church staff.

My heart is full of thanks for the wider circle that is the team of leaders at St. Mark's – our Advisory Board and Covenant Council, and chairpersons and members of committees and groups, as well as those who teach and lead various small groups. You all make the whole team work. The faithfulness, hard work, and joy of our leadership is a precious gift to all of us.

Later today, our Multi-Site Team will meet. This group is exploring the possibility of starting a second site for St. Mark's somewhere north of our current location. We're exploring this because we believe God is calling us to bring the good news of Jesus' love to those who don't yet have a church community. St. Mark's has been richly blessed in many ways and God is beckoning us into new places. Pray about this as we move ahead.

We are all part of Jesus' team – people who are together in his love – longing for a world that is healed and embraced in the love of God. Thank God every day for the privilege of being part of that.

Blessings, Sharon

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discontinue your paper copy,
please submit a request to
messenger@umcstmarks.org.