

Messenger

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



St. Mark's Pastoral Appointments

Each year in June, Bishop Robert Hoshibata of the Desert Southwest Conference announces pastoral appointments which are effective on July 1, for the year.

St. Mark's Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to share the news that Rev. Sharon Ragland, Pastor Stuart Salvatierra and Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald have been reappointed to St. Mark's for the next appointment year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020).

This marks the tenth year that Pastor Sharon will serve as Lead Pastor. Pastor Evy has worshipped with us since 2012 and will serve her second year as Associate Pastor, part-time. The newest member of our clergy, Pastor Stuart will begin his second year as Associate Pastor, full-time.

SPRC will recognize our pastors' appointments in worship on July 7. Please be sure and express your appreciation for their gifts of time, leadership and service when you see them.

*Ken Dunlap, Chair
Staff Parish Relations Committee*



Rev. Sharon Ragland



Pastor Stuart Salvatierra



Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Annual Conference News

What an exciting year to be a delegate to the Desert Southwest Annual Conference! Since the disturbing resolution came out from the 2019 General Conference, I figured there would be some interesting discussions, and I was not disappointed.

As a first-time delegate, I had read all the submitted reports, participated in the online orientation, and arrived at conference ready to go, I thought. I soon discovered I had a learning curve to overcome. Finding the right piece of legislation, recommendation, nomination, petition or report we were discussing took some time at first. After spending over two hours on one of the early items regarding the LGBTQIA decision, I wondered to myself, "How will we ever get through this long agenda list?" At the end, however, we worked our way through and passed 28 items.



There was also good energy spent on brainstorming about UMC Next – how we envision the future of the Church. Bishop Bob developed ten different committees to look at various aspects of what it will take to move forward to a new tomorrow for the Church. The delegates from St. Mark's signed up for different committees that met briefly one evening. I signed up for the Finance Committee with the disclaimer I am no expert, and came away excited over the prospects of this new challenge! As Sharon stated so eloquently and passionately in her sermon at the Saturday night Ordination Service, "The power outage is over—there is no going back to the old ways!"

Overall, it was an exciting, exhausting, challenging, wonderful experience to be at this Annual Conference of **Called Anew to Follow**. New people welcomed me during talk discussions with open arms. After all, we're all United Methodists The Way and helping each other out wherever we can.

Pat Kittrell, Lay Member Delegate

Annual Conference: The Way Forward

Congratulations to St. Mark's members and associates for being accepted on teams of the Way Forward at annual conference. Martha Lundgren, Casey Compennolle, Judith Boroto*, Stuart Salvatierra, Jim Nibbelink*, Kelly Deyoe, Sharon Ragland*, David Farnsworth*, Kayla Flannery*

Five were named co-facilitators (*) of their groups. You too can join a Way Forward team, ask any of those listed or go to the signup form at: dscumc.org/way-forward.

1. Theology Team—The goal of this group is to help ground the work of the DSC Way Forward in a strong Wesleyan Theology which ties together growth in Christian personal piety with the actions leading to social holiness. We will work to develop a theological foundation that is grace-filled, inclusive and aids us in the work of transformational justice.

2. Communications Team—The primary goal of this team is to craft a compelling narrative that 1) explains what is happening in transparent and accessible terms. 2) Invites people to join in work that is happening, share what they are doing in local churches and ministry settings, informs people about the various ways they can participate in ongoing Way Forward work. 3) Captures how this unique DSC story is part of God's ongoing work of transformation as we make disciples of Jesus Christ.

3. Connections Team—This task group gathers and shares information with churches, church leaders and members about the discussions and actions of groups after Annual Conference. This information is crucial to share so that churches, church leaders and members can understand their place in the context of the movement and become equipped in decision making for their next steps in affiliating with the church in whatever form emerges.

4. Conversations Team—It is easy for churches to feel isolated, and to struggle with expanding their conversations. This team will look for ways to encourage churches to join in conversations with other United Methodist churches and with other organizations and other faith communities. One goal may be the sharing of resources for churches doing Holy Huddle type conversations. The goal is to increase understanding and to build relationships.

5. Amicable Separation Team—This team will focus on the future possibility of an amicable separation of the factions in The United Methodist Church. If this becomes an option for our churches or our conference, this team will guide us.

6. Disaffiliation Team—The Judicial Council decisions in late April permit a church to disaffiliate from the UMC for reasons of conscience related to issues of human sexuality or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues. The terms of disaffiliation are to be established by the conference board of trustees with the advice of the cabinet and others. But we also need the input of other passionate constituents. A standard form

disaffiliation agreement has been developed, but we have the responsibility to determine if we want to add anything to it and to develop a process checklist. This is a significant responsibility that includes not only procedural matters but also matters of compassion to ensure that all church members (not just those wanting to disaffiliate) are cared for. If you have a passion for this work, please join us as we begin to envision a way forward for those churches that may want to consider disaffiliation.

7. Finance Team—The Finance Team will identify possible financial challenges and resources to meet the needs facing the Desert Southwest Conference and our churches in light of the ruling of General Conference 2019. Some possible funding needs might be for meeting expenses within the Conference, Jurisdiction and nationally where dreaming and planning might take place. Other needs might be resources for a new structure, attorney fees and assisting churches who feel they must disaffiliate.

8. Legal Team—The goal of this team is to identify legal matters related to the DSC Way Forward, considering such items as:

- a. Which legal matters and Disciplinary sections are of greatest concern?
- b. What is the legal status of the AC and the local church? Are they distinct or separate organizations, or corporations?
- c. Is the trust clause still relevant and enforceable?
- d. Which Book of Discipline sections, or paragraphs should be changed?

9. Spirituality Team—The Spirituality task group creates and shares resources that inform and enhance our spiritual life as we move through this season of change. As we make decisions and go through processes and procedures, they remind us to continually connect to God and move through this time deeply grounded in Christ.

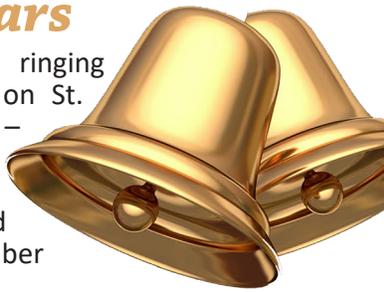
10. Dreaming a New Methodism Team—

For decades The United Methodist Church in the United States has been in decline. We know that our current way of doing ministry isn't working. The recent action of General Conference, and the harm that it causes, has presented an opportunity to dream a new Methodism. How will we describe this new church? What of the United Methodist Church will we bring with us? What do we need to leave behind? However we dream our future, we know it will be grounded in our Wesleyan theology of grace, deeply rooted in our baptismal promise to resist evil, injustice and oppression, consistent with the law of love and affirming of the sacred worth and ministry of all people, regardless of age, gender, gender identity, race, nationality, sexual orientation, socio-economic level, or physical or mental ability/disability. As we move forward, we are determined to do no harm to any of God's children and we are committed to a vibrant church that is uncompromising on Jesus' commandment to love God and neighbor. How will such a church be shaped? It's time to dream.

*David Farnsworth,
Co-Facilitator—Communications*

Music to My Ears

If you've been hearing a ringing in your ears while you're on St. Mark's campus, don't worry – there's nothing wrong with your hearing. Rather, we are enjoying a very generous and thoughtful gift from a member of our congregation.



Recently Jack Armantrout chose to donate a Chimemaster carillon to our church in memory of his beloved wife Margaret Armantrout. The entire Armantrout family is involved in music, and most of us remember Margaret playing with our chamber group here at St. Mark's on special occasions. Therefore, Jack felt the carillon would be an appropriate gift.

The gift was accepted by the Board of Trustees and the carillon was installed the week of June 10 and can be heard ringing daily at the top of the hour. In addition to rings on the hour, the carillon has hundreds of different bells and music selections that will enhance our campus atmosphere especially during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and other Christian holidays.

Upcoming Events!



The July 24 issue of the **Messenger** will feature new spiritual growth opportunities for the fall, 2019. In addition to the Disciple Bible Studies (I, II, IV) there will be host of short-term classes: prayer, Bible studies, book discussion, video-driven topics on science and religion, a memoir writing class, discipleship, and many others. We are trying to schedule both daytime and evening classes to meet everyone's needs.

We hope you will find one or more opportunities to attend, but if you don't see anything and have a suggestion, please contact us with your ideas. The Adult Spiritual Growth committee is here to help serve your spiritual growth needs. Here is a preview of some of the opportunities we have in store for fall, and make note of the dates!

Rally Day - Sunday, August 11

Launch of fall spiritual opportunities
Sunday School begins



One Day Retreat - Saturday, Sep-

tember 21

Communication as a Spiritual Practice (Part II)
Picture Rock Redemptorist Renewal Center
Led by Kim Pearce

One Day Retreat - Saturday, January 25, 2020

Wellness: Becoming Your Best Self—BODY, MIND, SPIRIT
Picture Rock Redemptorist Renewal Center
Led by Gretchen Hegeman

VBS, An ALL-CHURCH Event!

First of all, thank you to the following groups and individuals from our church family who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a wonderful time:

Handy Hands

Several men from Handy Hands (John Shattuck, Dave Shelton, David Farnsworth, Norm Johnson and Jim Johnson) worked Monday and Tuesday to help the children make heart string art to remind them to **Love God and Love Neighbor**. John Shattuck and Dave Shelton built a house and props to help Nancy Bautzmann and Sue Pierce decorate the Sanctuary for VBS.



Missions Committee

Kathie Barrett came and spoke about The Inn and will deliver the 214 bags that were assembled by VBS children from the items that they brought to help their neighbors.

Missions Committee

Pat Kittrell arranged for representatives from UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) to come, and the Missions Committee bought supplies so that the older children could assemble 100 hygiene kits to be distributed to victims of natural disaster in America.

Ties that Bind

Ann Dyer and Cathy Simpson brought four quilts that the older children tied and prayed over to help our neighbors in UMC churches in the flooded Midwest.

The entire congregation also helped in these ways:

Many of you brought snack items for the children and VBS team volunteers, and we enjoyed it all. Many of you brought craft items that we used in both craft rooms, and many of you brought items for the children's bags for The Inn to help with that service project.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School such a special event. We learned to **Love God and Love Neighbor** by seeing your generosity of spirit.

Margaret Synhorst, Coordinator
Christian Formation Families, Children, Adults



Children's Sunday School is in need of helpers for several classes beginning this fall. Volunteers come and assist the teachers but do not need to prepare anything. The only requirement is a desire to serve the children of our church and teach them about loving God and others. Also, you do not have to come every week, but can alternate with someone. Please contact Margaret (margaret@umcstmarks.org) if you can help.

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Small Great Things

July 29, 6:00 p.m., Library

Led by Margaret Synhorst

Come be a part of the discussion of this novel which deals with some of the challenges facing us as individuals, as Americans, and as Christians. **Small Great Things** is the most important novel Jodi Picoult has ever written. Frank, uncomfortably introspective and right on the day's headlines, it will challenge readers.

It's also exciting to have a high-profile writer like Picoult take an earnest risk to expand our cultural conversation about race and prejudice. Picoult chose the title from the words of Martin Luther King, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." The book deals with the issue of race in American and revolves around the protagonist, a delivery nurse named Ruth Jefferson.

Sharing/Family Life Class

One June 16 the Sharing/Family Life adult Sunday School class began a six-week book/video study **Christians at Our Best: A 6-Week Guide to Living in the Age of Outrage**, by Ed Stetzer with Andrew MacDonald.

Sharing/Family Life meets at 9:45 on Sundays in Room 17. It is not a problem if you missed the first one, come join in. The group will not meet on the Fifth Sunday (June 30).

Books are available for purchase in class now, or may be ordered through Amazon, Cokesbury, or at the authors website (<https://edstetzer.com/Christians-at-our-best>). Sorry, there are no e-books available for this study.

The Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love

Class is full for **The Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love** led by Linda Walker and Pastor Stuart Salvatierra. If you didn't register, but are still interested please contact the office (297-2062). We'll put your name on a waiting list and if someone drops out, we'll contact you. The class meets on Tuesdays, starting July 9 for five sessions at 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Library.

Lunch Anyone!

The Over 50s and Lunch Bunch groups have combined! Now known as the **Over 50s Lunch**, the group will meet for lunch on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at various restaurants around town. Everyone is welcome to join this group, simply email Janet Krug (see directory) so she can include you in the reservation for lunch.



No Time for Long-term Class?

We beg to differ with you! Yes, it can take some scheduling on your part, but it is so worthwhile. In addition to new insights into the Scriptures, a sense of community is built within each class among the participants. Here are some testimonies from recent grads:

- ▶ We developed with each other, and it will last a lifetime. I recommend this to everyone.
- ▶ I learned through class discussion and especially through the leaders' facilitation. Their insights, perspectives and experiences with the Bible have been the most helpful for me. They challenge me to think more deeply about my faith.
- ▶ I very much enjoyed the course. I missed some classes, but the group was great with my issues. Interesting course work. Loved the videos.
- ▶ Insight into the Bible through the eyes of my classmates.
- ▶ I enjoyed the opportunity to study with a small group and great teachers.
- ▶ Loved the teachers and the class as a whole. I will miss it and I am so glad I took it.
- ▶ A double-edged sword: getting to know a lot of people better and getting to know Jesus better.
- ▶ It was wonderful getting to know some new people and old friends better in a caring, praying, small-group atmosphere where everyone is encouraged to share safely sometimes diverse thoughts, and opinions—not to mention how much we learned and how amazing the leaders are.
- ▶ I really enjoyed the fun, fellowship, and increase in faith and knowledge gained in this class. Thanks be to God!
- ▶ Thanks to a great job of facilitating the study of the prophets and the letters of Paul—which contributed to our understanding of difficult passages.
- ▶ I always learn something new each time I take a Bible study; and comparing the gospels magnified that.
- ▶ The devil may be in the details, but not with **Jesus in the Gospels**. There are glimpses of Jesus in the different stories told about him in the gospels.

Volunteers Needed!

Each Wednesday at Soul Station a meal is served at 5:45 p.m. that is prepared for about 75 people by individuals, groups, and committees from St. Mark's. Now, it's easier than ever to sign up. Go to our website (www.umcstmarks.org), select RESOURCES from the main menu and then select SOUL STATION MEALS to sign up to prepare a meal. Opportunities are available in Aug., Sept., and Oct.



Congregational Care Opportunity

There are many people who are unable to attend Sunday worship because they are in care facilities and unable to be transported in a van or bus. We would like to assist the folks at Brookdale North, 2650 W. Ina Road, to enjoy a time of devotion on a weekly basis.



Mondays, 10:00-10:30 a.m. August 5, will be our inaugural service. It will be a time of song, Scripture and prayer, and will include communion.

There is a core group planning this ministry, but we need assistance. We need those who can be present to chat with the residents and guide those who may have difficulty. We also need musicians who would be willing to accompany and lead the music.

Retired clergy and Lay Servants would be welcome to lead some of the services so that no one will have a full-time obligation. If you are willing to assist in this important ministry, please contact Linda Walker (see directory).

Visit the Scenic English Canals

During the Wesley Heritage Tour next year, we will visit the picturesque town of Devizes and see narrow boats cruising on the Kennet and Avon Canal. Now a means for leisurely pursuits, the canal system in Britain was once part of a state-of-the-art transportation system. In Wesley's day the canals were the only means of hauling large quantities of coal and iron ore from the mine to the mill. At this time, workers had to work long and in dangerous conditions. John Wesley was one of the few to speak out against unsafe working conditions at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.

Rev. Sharon and Art Ragland and Mark and Marjie Hrabec are leading the trip to Great Britain from April 20-29, 2020. We'll also be visiting the homes and places of ministry of John and Charles Wesley.

There are still some openings for this trip. For more information contact:



Mark or Marjie Hrabec
(see directory)

Rev. Sharon or Art Ragland
(see directory)

You may access a trip brochure by visiting:
<https://shared-assets.adobe.com/link/fb8c0bd1-444f-4b05-53e5-b8d7f7568a6f>. For registration details go to: <https://www.forms.travelwithus.com/web/paxreg.nsf/Registration?OpenForm&HE20+X+042020X+39642>

We're excited about sharing this experience with members and friends of St. Mark's.

Support Nash Neighbors!

For the Nash Elementary School Year beginning in August, St. Mark's Nash Neighbors will collect and donate school supplies to be used by the students. The following is a list of classroom supplies that we invite the congregation to donate. There will be a blue bin in the courtyard each Sunday in July to collect donations. Thank you for your generous support of the children at Nash!

Items for collection:

- Hand Sanitizer, unscented, large pump bottles
- Glue Sticks
- Black Dry Erase Markers
- Pink Pearl Erasers
- Boxes of Tissues
- Clorox Wipes
- Paper Towels



WASS UP?

June 26, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 12



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

June 28-July 5, 2019 —
SSP team serving in San Diego

June 30, 2019 —



Meet at the movies
Time and feature tbd

July 7, 2019—
4th of July holiday—
No Youth

July 10-14, 2019—
Youth 2019

July 14, 2019—
4:00 to 6:00
Meet for Bowling



PreTeen's, Summer is a time for hanging out with family and friends. A time to take it easy and relax and it can be BORING! Join us on Sunday's this summer for Fun Filled Fellowship. We will play new games, create things (snacks) and have Faith based conversations. COOL things are happening at Preteen!! Join us when you can.

Blessings,
Julie

June 30th—
Indoor silly games.
(Think spaghetti & Marshmallows, Cheetos, & Hula Hoops)

July 7th—
4th of July holiday—
No Youth

July 14th—
Mystery Activity. You will just have to wait to find out what it is.....



Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

a note from the

YOUTH DIRECTOR

On June 12th four high school students and I traveled to Mesa for the Annual Conference of the Desert Southwest Conference. Three of the young people were from St. Paul's and one, Alex Carsten, was from St. Mark's. The conference was long days of meetings, mixed with a lot of fun. When you see Alex, you should thank him for representing us so well.

Now, I'm looking forward to serving in San Diego with the Sierra Service Project. Please pray for all of the youth who are going, along with our chaperones, Rachel Mosher, Seamus Flannery, and myself.

Four days after our return, a group of us are traveling to Kansas City for Youth 2019. We are blessed to have a church family that supports us with these opportunities.

Blessings,
Kim

Middle School Moments

I can't believe how fast this summer is zipping by. I feel like school just got out. But here we are, half way through our summer break! Before you know it, we will be starting our fall planning and electing the new Youth Council!

But before we buckle down and get to work, we have so much fun stuff planned for the summer! Everything from movie nights, to cooking for Soul Station, and super fun field trips. Be sure to pay special attention to the Messenger articles, and to the bulletin so you know what awesome stuff is coming up.

See you Sunday!
Rachel

P.S. Invite friends! We love meeting new people.



Sierra Service Project

Please pray for our youth who are working with SSP in San Diego June 28-July 5.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7-10 Johnathan Petrikat-Lindsay

7-12 James Carsten

7-21 Adriana Morales

7-22 Freder Morrison

7-31 Brendan Ritchey





Our Soul Station Super Summer Spectacular runs through July 31, and each week offers a series of three different activities from which to choose. Here's what is scheduled during July.

Wednesday, July 3

JoAnn Luther: Fun with Bells
ASG: **Distorted Images of God, Restoring Our Vision**
Pastor Stuart: The Biggest Scandal in the Old Testament

Wednesday, July 10

Kathy Narney: Meet Noel, my harp!
ASG: **Distorted Images of God, Restoring Our Vision**
Pastor Stuart: The Biggest Scandal in the Old Testament

Wednesday, July 17

Cathy Harris-Herchenroeder: Bible Journaling
ASG: **Distorted Images of God, Restoring Our Vision**
Pastor Stuart: The Biggest Scandal in the Old Testament

Wednesday, July 24

Sandi Heilman: Five Love Languages - crash course
ASG: **Distorted Images of God, Restoring Our Vision**
Pastor Stuart: The Biggest Scandal in the Old Testament

Wednesday, July 31

Potluck Dinner, everyone brings a dish to share.
Linda Hill: Gluten-free Cooking for your Friends
ASG: **Distorted Images of God, Restoring Our Vision**
Pastor Stuart: The Biggest Scandal in the Old Testament

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. You may also, visit our Prayer Room on campus and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Ellen Beene</i> | <i>Shelley Shelton Coltrin</i> | <i>Floretta Harrington</i> | <i>Jackie Vickers</i> |
| <i>Jared Bowman & family</i> | <i>Deb Cushman</i> | <i>Patricia Keele</i> | <i>Dave and Jan Webster</i> |
| <i>Clara Campbell</i> | <i>Judy Drescher</i> | <i>Marian Shultis</i> | <i>Lindsay Williams</i> |
| <i>Donald Chester</i> | <i>Keith and Mary Ann Glazier</i> | <i>Carol Underwood</i> | |

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Linda and Pat Alcivar and their family on the death of Harold Mull, Linda's father, who passed away on Saturday, June 15. The memorial service was held on June 22 in celebration of Harold's life.

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
- Alex Boettcher**, grandson of Carla and Paul Boettcher
- Jon Chytka**, nephew of Donna Severson
- Zachary Dojaquez**, grandson of Donna Severson
- Patrick Emmett**, son of Julie Wiens
- Mike Freeman**, son of Ken & Ann Freeman
- Garrett Geer**, grandson of Ellen Wise
- Matthew Hughey**, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick
- Patrick Harris**, grandson of Marilyn Vaughn
- Rachel Kester**, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester
- Christopher Lewis**, grandson of Donald Lewis

- 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



Calendar Notes

Sun., June 30

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm 8/9
Youth Group, OC - time to be determined

Mon., July 1

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

Wed., July 2

Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE
NOON - MESSENGER DEADLINE (due to holiday)
11:00 a.m. Over 50s Lunch Group, OC

5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall
6:20 p.m. Soul Station Worship - Super Summer Spectacular

- Rm 20: Distorted Images of God, Restoring our Vision
- Library: Biggest Scandal in the Old Testament
- Rm 17/18: Fun with bells

Thurs., July 4

Church Office is closed.



Sun., July 7

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. No Youth Group or PreTeens

**This service is live-streamed.*



St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

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www.umcstmarks.org

Lead Pastor:

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

Sunday Worship:

8:15, 9:45*, 11:15 a.m.
*Live-streamed at
www.umcstmarks.org

Soul Station

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

Thank you for your generous gift of \$250 to Arizona Greyhound Rescue capital campaign. Your wonderful donation allows the rescue to provide a variety of services for these beautiful sight hounds. (This gift was donated by St. Mark's Animal Ministry).

We are incredibly grateful to you and everyone at St. Mark's for the long-standing and generous support you have provided to Emerge. We are seeing a growing demand for our services and we can only meet these needs with help from the community itself. Thank you very much for all your help for Emerge and the families we serve?

Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse

Thank you so much for your generous contribution of \$1,500 to the National Military Family Association. Each gift allows us to continue our mission of empowering the families who stand behind the uniform. Your generosity is strengthening our littlest heroes, and giving them the resiliency, courage, and determination to conquer anything.

National Military Family Association

Your support of our mission is incredible! Thank you for making the wonderful Mother's Day bags and for all your support to Our Family Services. We couldn't do this without you!

Our Family Services

Thank you for your generous gift of \$2,600. Because of you, families always have a place to turn when they need compassion and help. You've given families more than the support they need, you've given them a reason to smile. Our community is a better place to live because of you.

Community Food Bank

Thank you for your most recent gift of \$750, on April 4, 2019. Your support fuels our education work as well as our relationship and movement building efforts with community partners, all of which are vital to our mission. In gratitude and peace,

BORDERLINKS

Rise Against Hunger is incredibly grateful for your recent gift of \$4,879.68, on May 7, 2019. Your gift gives us the ability to change lives, create sustainable communities and respond quickly in times of disaster. Thanks to you things are changing for the kids in Nicaragua!

Rise Against Hunger

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If you would like to receive the Messenger electronically, and discontinue your paper copy, submit a request to messenger@umcstmarks.org

Reflections

The Desert Southwest Annual Conference meeting took place in Mesa June 12-16, 2019. Pastors and lay people from all the churches in our Conference met to worship, pray, discuss, consider petitions and legislation and do other business for our Conference. Our lay delegates to Annual Conference are Kelly Deyoe, Casey Compernelle, Patricia Kittrell, and Robert Kittrell. St. Mark's was well represented by them and by others from our church who were there in various roles.

The theme of Annual Conference this year was ***Called Anew to Follow***. In worship and table discussions we were challenged and encouraged to look at the ways God is calling us into a future grounded in the love of Jesus Christ. We had rich and deep table discussions about our hopes and fears for the United Methodist Church and our call to serve. We considered petitions and legislation and by an overwhelming majority passed a resolution disavowing the Traditional Plan for the future of the church which was adopted at the special general conference in late February.

Out of the work of those of us who attended UMC Next in Kansas in May, Bishop Bob Hoshibata launched "Desert Southwest Conference (DSC) Way Forward". A key part of this is the formation of ten teams, each with a specific focus in looking at a way forward for our Desert Southwest Conference, no matter what happens with the United Methodist Church. I am pleased to be one of the facilitators for the team called "Dreaming a New Methodist Movement" – we've already begun to look at the values that will ground us Methodists as we move into the future. I'm also pleased

that several other people from St. Mark's are also providing leadership to the teams. A description of the teams, along with a way for you to join if you wish, is included in a separate article in this Messenger.

A special one-day meeting of the Annual Conference will take place in the Phoenix area on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019. The purpose of this special conference is to consider legislation that could be sent to the General Conference which is meeting again in May, 2020. Pastor Stuart and I and our lay delegates, along with others from St. Mark's, will attend on September 14.

Over the next few weeks you will have opportunities to learn about the decisions of the Annual Conference and about DSC Way Forward. Our lay delegates are writing articles for this and upcoming Messengers. In August, two Wednesday night Soul Stations will be devoted to sharing info and giving you a chance to ask questions. Watch for more info on this and other learning opportunities.

It was a privilege for me to bring the message at the service of ordination and commissioning on June 15, 2019. While we are in an uncertain time with the UMC, God's power is actively working and moving among us, already creating and bringing about new life and opportunities for learning and growth. There is no power outage! At St. Mark's we continue to do what we do – share the love and power of Jesus Christ in worship, study and service in our community. Thanks be to God!

Blessings, Sharon