

Messenger

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



Sondra Franks — Twenty Faithful Years!

To celebrate the twenty years that Sondra Franks has been serving St. Mark's music program, she will be presenting a concert on **Sunday, Oct. 20, at 3:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

Twenty years ago Sondra came to St. Mark's United Methodist Church from First United Methodist Church in Auburn, Indiana. Previously, Sondra was the organist, accompanist, and music director at First Church for 29 years.

Sondra earned a Bachelor of Music (magna cum laude) in piano performance (with a concentration in accompanying) from Indiana University in Fort Wayne, Indiana. For nine years she accompanied The Hoosier Chorale, a group that toured Europe extensively. She also accompanied the Fort Wayne Children's Touring Choir for nine years. She accompanied the DeKalb County Oratorio Chorus in 1983, and when Director Paul Matthews was called to a church in California, Sondra became Director of the Choir, which did Handel's Messiah, for the next 16 years.

Sondra has been the Director of St. Mark's Celebration Singers for the past six years. She has also organized and directed the 9/11 Ensemble for the Mountain View First Responders Appreciation Block Party for the past five years. In addition to accompanying for the University of Arizona, Sondra has a piano/organ/voice studio that presents a student recital every year.

Sondra is married to Richard Franks and together they have a daughter, Terri, and son-in-law who live in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Their son, Christopher, an ordained elder in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist

Church, is head of the Religion and Philosophy Department at High Point University. He lives in High Point, North Carolina with his wife and their five children.

Joining Sondra for the 20/20 Concert will be Susan Schild and Lillian Porter, with whom Sondra has played for years.

For the concert, Sondra will be presenting both classical and religious pieces. As part of the Musical Musings concert series, this concert will be free and open to the community. A freewill offering, with proceeds going to St. Mark's Concert Fund, will be collected following the concert. Members of the congregation are encouraged to bring family members, friends, and neighbors to enjoy an afternoon of outstanding music. Following the concert, those in attendance will be welcomed to a reception to help celebrate Sondra's tenure here at St. Mark's. The reception is being sponsored by the Staff Parish Relations Committee and will take place in Fellowship Hall.

Sondra is thankful for all the blessings she and Richard have had since coming to Tucson and are looking forward to many more years of sharing the love and care of their Christian friends at St. Mark's and in the extended community.



Blessing of the Animals Service



St. Mark's Animal Ministry Team invites you to join us at our annual Blessing of the Animals service this **Sunday, Oct. 13, at 4:00 p.m.** on the labyrinth of the Meditation Gardens. As always, this event is open to members of the community, so be sure to invite friends and family!

Those who don't feel their pet is suited to attend are welcome to bring a photo instead. All pets should be on leashes, or in carriers or the equivalent. Once again, photographer Faye Beckert will be taking pictures of pet owners and their pets following the service, at no cost.



Toss a Pebble

This year, our Stewardship Campaign theme is from 1 Thessalonians 3:12. **May the Lord make you increase and overflow in love for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.** God's love for us is overflowing! In comparison, my efforts to spread His love are like a pebble tossed into a calm pond that makes ripples spread over the still surface.

I give of both my time and my financial resources to spread God's love and his work. As a member of the Finance Committee, our work for God involves oversight of St. Mark's finances and ensuring that committees have the resources needed to complete their mission. It includes committees that provide ministries/services to St. Mark's congregation (Adult Spiritual Growth, Church Growth and Hospitality, Congregational Care Team, etc.), as well as the Missions Committee that supports local, national, and worldwide organizations. It's gratifying to know we are working to help St. Mark's spread God's love.

We also spread and receive God's love in other ways. When asked to join Faith on Stage, my first thought was, "There has been some mistake; I had never done anything like that before. They must be having a difficult time finding volunteers." So, I agreed. The first performance was terrifying, but Pastor Evy said something that I have never forgotten. "You are doing God's work; go out there and have fun!" As a member of Faith on Stage, there is a fantastic feeling of appreciation (and love) from the audiences at the various presentations.

God can also work in mysterious ways to show us love, AND when we least expect it. I delayed joining a Bible study group that occurred during the day. It would have interfered with playing golf. Wouldn't you know it, the next Disciple I class was offered at night. Now I regret not starting these classes sooner. As a member of this group, the companionship and sense of community enabled me to learn more about God, myself, and other members of the class. A feeling of family developed. Working for God and spreading His love created an incredible and exciting journey for me. I hope that you're on this journey too – toss a pebble.

*Bill Zermuehlen
Finance Committee, Vice Chair*

Pumpkins Arrive October 12!

Whether you are new to St. Mark's or a seasoned Pumpkin Patch veteran, you can't help but be amazed at the sea of orange around here in October.



A semi-tractor/trailer full of pumpkins will pull into the south parking lot on **Saturday, Oct. 12**. (ETA 11:00 a.m.) If you're available that day, come on out and help pass the little orange moneymakers down a line of friends until the truck is empty. Come-and-go help is also welcomed. You may want to bring gloves and sunscreen.

Again this year, the youth are looking for adult volunteers who are available during the day to staff the patch until school is out. If you can sign up for a two-hour shift (or several of them!) between October 13 and 31, we will sincerely appreciate it. Use this [signupGenius](#) link, or go to our church website calendar and follow the link.

The Pumpkin Patch profits go to fund youth missions (Sierra Service Project), support retreats, and support our local service projects.

Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

Pumpkin Spice, caramel apples, soup...what else do you think of when you think of fall? Of course, **TRUNK or TREAT!**



On **Saturday, Oct. 26**, St. Mark's Family Ministries Committee will host another fantastic fall festival and Trunk or Treat. The entire church family is welcome to join us for a potluck and fun activities at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The main course and drinks will be provided, please bring a side dish to share. There will be crafts and games for the kids to play! Don't forget your camera, we always have a fun photo op!



At 7:00 p.m., we will open our parking lot to the whole community to enjoy a safe trick or treating alternative. Trunk or Treat will be in the north parking lot, you want to come early to pick a good spot! It is so much fun to decorate a trunk, pull out a lawn chair and see all of the fun, creative costumes!

We need 40 volunteer Trunkers! Online readers may use this [SignupGenius](#) link. Otherwise follow the link from our website calendar, or contact Rachel (rachel@umcstmarks.org or 297-2062) in the church office to volunteer as a Trunker!

Worship Watch

Sunday Greeters ROLE CHANGES



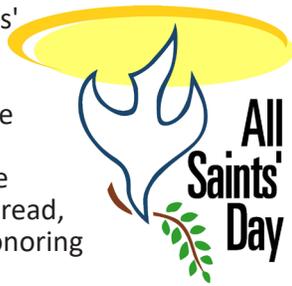
After much discussion with Pastor Sharon and other church leaders, it has been decided to try a new approach to welcoming people to St. Mark's. More often than not, the narthex into the sanctuary is very crowded before each worship service. This congestion can be confusing to new people, and a long line of people waiting to shake a Greeter's hand is especially daunting to a visitor. With this in mind, we are trying to make the narthex less intimidating by clearing the pathway to the sanctuary doors.

The new greeting/welcoming strategy is to station an Usher at each sanctuary entry door to hand out bulletins and welcome people as they enter the sanctuary. Positioning the Ushers at the doors cuts down on the number of people needed in the narthex. An added advantage is that the Ushers are on rotating teams, so who better to recognize a new person visiting St. Mark's. Ushers are often asked where things are located like childcare and the bathrooms, and they point out the kid activity boxes; these are all clues that someone is visiting.

Throughout the years, along with their other jobs, our Ushers have been continuously greeting people. This role doesn't add anything new to their workload. It's just a change in their "bulletin distribution" location.

All Saints' Day Celebration

St. Mark's will celebrate All Saints' Day on **Sunday, Nov. 3**. All Saints' is a day of remembrance for St. Mark's members who have passed away over the last year. During this special service, as the name of each of the departed is read, a candle is lit and a bell tolled honoring their memory.



In addition, that day St. Mark's will celebrate the lives of all our lost loved one by processing our Bell Banner into the sanctuary. The ribbons on the banner will be covered with white cards notating the names of all our departed loved ones.

In preparation for the Bell Banner procession the commemorative white cards for honoring loved ones will be available in the courtyard Oct. 20, and Oct. 27. The Bell Banner will be in the courtyard on the 27th to attach the commemorative cards. Stop by either of these Sundays to fill out a commemorative card to celebrate the life of your departed loved ones. On All Saints' Sunday extra commemorative cards will be available on the narthex table in case someone missed the two previous Sundays. *Note: The red ribbons on the Bell Banner are in memory of persecuted Christians around the world.*

St. Mark's Dove Mountain

The dream began a long time ago that we, at St. Mark's Magee, could bring the light, love and power of Christ to another area of the city. Over three years ago that dream began to take shape. Since then a dedicated group of individuals first led by John Cecilia and Pastor Sharon, then by Brenda Hunter and Pastor Sharon studied, looked at demographics, went to work shops, attended seminars, and brought our ideas together. The call seemed clear, "take Christ's message out into the world."



We knew that the most powerful way for us to do that was to find an area that was in need and where we could replicate our "dna." What is it that we do that is replicable and would shine Christ's light? We came to realize that who we are is partly defined by our missions, our studies, our inclusive community, the ways we care for each other, and our music and worship.

All of this we hope to bring to our second site. It is happening, Sunday, Oct. 20. We will be ready to welcome all who are seeking a place to belong and learn about God's love. Please spread the word to your neighbors and friends who may live in the Dove Mountain general area. For more information, visit the [Dove Mountain page](#) on our website.

Pastor Evy, Pastoral Liaison

Logo Items for Sale!

St. Mark's fall Logo Shop will be open for business on Sunday mornings, Oct. 13 and 20, between services. We are only able to take orders for our great shirts and caps twice a year, so don't miss the opportunity to purchase these great clothing items! Also, other terrific "stock inventory" items will be sold—just as they are weekly through the church office and online. There are so many great products, please make sure you come check it out! Payment is due at time of purchase/order, so come prepared (cash, check, or credit card) to buy some great logo products and support St. Mark's!



Craft Circle Meeting



St. Mark's UMW Craft Circle will meet Tuesday, Oct. 22, in Rm. 17/18, 9:00 a.m. until noon. Plan to join us for some fun and fellowship. Bring your own craft, or help with crafts for the UMW Craft Fairs in Nov. and Dec. We are always **accepting donations** for our projects and are looking for unneeded holiday decorations, any craft or sewing supplies, wooden thread spools, paint and buttons. Please contact Bonnie Sargent (see directory) if you have any questions, or would like your donations picked up.

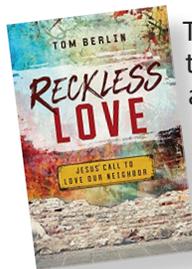
Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Sharing/Family Adult Sunday School Class

Sunday, Oct. 20 — Nov. 24

Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor by Tom Berlin (senior pastor of Floris UMC in Herndon, Virginia).



This six-week study is an exploration of Jesus' teaching and travels with his disciples. The author suggests that Jesus teaches us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor. While many hope to learn to be better family, friends, leaders, and neighbors by finding a deeper relationship with God, this DVD and book study shows how becoming a better neighbor leads us to a deeper love of God. In an age of division, confusion, violence, and doubt, Berlin shares stories from Scripture, his life, and current events to lift up a vision of citizenship in a new life formed and fueled by God's wisdom and way.

For more information on this study or on the Sharing/Family Adult Sunday School Class, don't hesitate to contact Terry Majewski or Rick Farnsworth (see directory). All persons are welcome to join this group at any time.

The books are available in class now if anyone wants to purchase one. They can also be ordered through Cokesbury, and an e-book version is also available.

Open Minds Book Study



This is Tara Westover in 2014. This is her story. It is called **EDUCATED: A MEMOIR**.

She was 17 years of age when she first set foot inside a classroom. In her memoir she writes of her quest for education—a story of the influence family and other people have on her life but also the will to change what is.

This is the selection for the St. Mark's Open Minds Book Study scheduled on **Friday, Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m.** in the church library. Read **Educated** by Tara Westover and join the discussion group. Coffee and refreshments are served.

Heroes of the Faith Movie Series

The Scarlet and the Black

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Hosted by Linda Walker

Come watch this inspiring story of intrigue and heroism. **The Scarlet and the Black** starring Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer and Sir John Gielgud. It tells the true story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, a courageous Irish priest working in the Vatican during the German occupation of World War II.



O'Flaherty devoted his time and energy to hiding refugees and Allied POWs from the Nazis by building a network of hundreds of people to help. The Gestapo chief in Rome becomes aware of his work, but cannot arrest him as long as he is within the confines of the Vatican. Therefore, he issues orders that Father O'Flaherty be captured or killed if he is found outside of the Vatican.

When the Allied Forces arrived in Rome in June, 1944, an estimated 6,425 escaped prisoners were still alive. In the post-war period Monsignor O'Flaherty was honored by the British Empire, the United States, Canada and Australia.

St. Mark's Annual Church Conference and Congregational Meeting

Rev. Mark Conrad, South District Superintendent, will convene the annual charge/church conference on **Monday, Oct. 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary for the purpose of conducting the business of the charge as required by the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶1246. As a charge/church Conference, all members are encouraged to attend and vote. Following the charge/church conference, members and friends are invited to a congregational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss how your congregation will navigate these challenging times. The Church Conversation Session is estimated to run 60-90 minutes.



Join Us for Lunch!



The Over 50s Lunch Group will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at the **Craft Republic** restaurant located at Foothills Mall (near Wendy's and Walmart) formerly the Fox and Hound restaurant.

Everyone is welcome, especially first-timers! Please RSVP via text or email to Marlene Anderson (see directory).

Gift Cards Make A Joyful Nash Christmas

For many years, St. Mark's has had a relationship with Nash Elementary that has included providing classroom volunteers, assisting with food packaging for families in need, and helping families during the Christmas season. Your wonderful support has been and is appreciated.

Recently, our Nash Committee, in conversation with Nash Principal Bob Hehli decided to modify the Christmas gifts program. This year, St. Mark's will collect gift cards that can be used by selected families to purchase Christmas gifts. You are invited to purchase \$25 gifts cards (more than one is okay) at Walmart or Target to be used in those stores. Cards will be collected on the church courtyard on Nov. 3 and 10; then given to Principal Hehli for distribution.

This plan was adopted because of an increase in the number of families in need and to provide an important level of dignity for families receiving the Christmas gift cards. Your participation in this wonderful ministry will be greatly appreciated. And, of course, your generosity is the heart of this Christmas outreach. Stop by the Nash table to drop off your cards or if you have any questions.



Masterpiece Festival

On Saturday, Nov. 2, St. Mark's Fine Arts and Crafts Guild will present the **11th Annual Masterpiece Festival**. The Guild is excited that 67 vendors have registered so far, several of which are new to our show.

Every year, we provide the vendors with a critique sheet so they can provide feedback on how we are doing. The one comment that remains consistent is how well they are treated by our volunteers. The volunteers we recruit provide complementary water, bathroom breaks, raffle tickets, and hospitality to our vendors. The vendors rave about them.

Please consider signing up for a two hour (or more) shift during the course of the day. The first shift is 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. which is the vendor continental breakfast shift. The remaining shifts start at 9:00 a.m. and change every two hours, and would like two people per shift. Please consider helping with this vital element of our show, we cannot provide this level of hospitality without our wonderful volunteers. Check your calendars now! Then, look for the table in the church courtyard on **Sunday Oct. 20 and 27**, and sign up to volunteer for a shift or two.

Clay Thompson
Fine Arts & Craft Guild



Are You Ready for Coffee!

St Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force will be in the courtyard between services on **Sunday morning, Oct. 20**, selling one pound bags of fresh roasted 100% Arivaca, fair-trade coffee. The coffee sells for \$10 a bag. You may purchase either Medium or Dark Roast in regular, decaf, whole bean or ground.

The coffee is produced by Cafe la Colonia and the sale proceeds benefit the Fluenta de Vida Methodist Church located across the border from Douglas AZ in Agua Prieta Mexico. St. Mark's and other Desert Southwest Conference UM churches have a long-standing history of help/support to the Fluenta de Vida colonia over the years.

It's a great way to support a worthwhile mission and enjoy some delicious coffee. If you have questions, please contact Robert Kittrell (see directory).



Meditation Garden Workday

Mark your calendar for the Meditation Garden workday **Saturday, Oct. 19, 7:00 a.m.** **We are in need of many volunteers** to cleanup



and trim plants that are recovering due to a serious water source problem over the summer. For a period of several weeks, that area was without water due to a main water source supply issue for the garden. A few plants have died and many are in recovery. The work will include removing dead plants, trimming back some of the recovering plants, and path maintenance.

Water and pastries will be provided. Thank You in advance for your time and service!

Clay Thompson,
Meditation Garden Board Chairman

WASS UP?

September 25, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 18



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

October 12, 2019—
Help unload **PUMPKINS!**



October 13, 2019—
3:00 SSP Meeting! (See back)
NO YOUTH

October 20, 2019—
"Falling..."



Greetings Preteen Families,

At PreTeen, we are going to enjoy each celebration this fall as it comes! I hope you can join us on Sundays from 4:00 to 6:00 each week!

Blessings,
Julie

October 13th-
Movie Night at church.
Bring a pillow or blanket to watch a Halloween movie. There will be **POPCORN!**

October 20th-
PARTY! Bring treats to share and wear your costume. We will play games and decorate pumpkins!

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

SIGN UP FOR PUMPKIN PATCH! Go to <https://umcstmarks.org/event/pumpkin-patch-now-open/> or talk to Rachel to sign up!



The Pumpkins Are Coming!!

On October 12, a big truck will show up here at St. Mark's, full of Pumpkins! We will meet here at 11:00 to unload the truck and set up our awesome Pumpkin Patch!

This Pumpkin Patch is a tradition for the youth here at St. Mark's. This fundraiser helps us pay for our amazing summer mission trips, as well as helps us have great programs all year long. We need all the help we can get manning the patch! Let Rachel know if you need help signing up.

This is a great way to get volunteer hours for school!

Summer Plans...in October!

Fall is in the air, but around here that means it's time to make our summer plan! There will be an informational meeting October 13 at 3:00, for all people currently in grades 8 thru 12, who may be interested in the Sierra Service Project in the summer of 2020. If you have ever considered participating in a youth mission trip, please join us in the sanctuary from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. on October 13. Your parents are invited. A forty dollar deposit will guarantee your spot on the trip, so you may want to bring a check (in case you decide to sign up). Please make checks payable to St. Mark's UMC.

Confirmation Reminder

The Confirmands will have the opportunity to attend a Jewish Shabbat service on October 25th. You'll meet Rabbi Eisen at Congregation Anshei Israel. Dress nicely. NO T-shirts or shorts.

Meet at the Wesley House at 4:00 p.m. Following the service, we will stop for dinner together. Bring money for dinner.

Contact Rachel— rachel@umcstmarks.org



St. Mark's EMERGENCY MESSAGE Phone Line

Did you know that if you have an emergency when the church office is not open you can call St. Mark's Emergency Message phone line?

All you do is:

- ▶ call our regular phone number (520-297-2062)
- ▶ wait for the prompt to "leave an emergency message for our pastors" and press 4.
- ▶ you will be able to leave a message. The pastor on call will be contacted immediately and will call you back, if needed.

Our pastors take turns being on call when the office is not open (from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and on the weekends.)

Rev. Sharon Ragland, Pastor Stuart Salvatierra, Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Clip And Save!

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.

*Jared Bowman and family
Donald Chester
Shelley Coltrin
Deb Cushman
Judy Drescher*

*April DuBoce
Marge and Darrel Frazer
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Keith Johnson
Jim and Mary Sanders*

*Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers
Dave and Jan Webster
Judy Wickham
Lindsay Williams*

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
Christian Bowers, grandson of Doug & Charlotte Bowers
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
Rachel Kester, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester
Don Lauver, Son-in-law of Linda Connolly
Sam Lennarson, grandson of John & Sherri Lennarson

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

Saturday, October 12

11:00 a.m. Unload Pumpkin Trailer, Parking lot
2:00 p.m. Primavera Meal Planning, Kitchen

Sunday, October 13

Logo Shop Items on Sale, courtyard

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Dove Mountain Worship (soft opening)
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals, Labyrinth
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm. 8/9

Monday, October 14

9:15 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. Grief Support, Counselor's Office

Tuesday, October 15

11:30 a.m. Over 50s Lunch Group, Off Campus

**This service is livestreamed.*

Wednesday, October 16

7:30 a.m. Marksmen (off campus)
Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE
5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. Common Grounds, Library
6:20 p.m. Soul Station program

Thursday, October 17

Noon MESSENGER DEADLINE
6:30 p.m. Lay Visitation Training, Rm. 20

Saturday, October 19

7:00 a.m. Meditation Garden Workday
6:00 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

Sunday, October 20

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Dove Mountain Worship (*first worship*)
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Sondra Franks 20/20 Concert, Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm. 8/9
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Wesley House



St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

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Lead Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastors:

Stuart Salvatierra

Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Sunday Worship:

8:15, 9:45*, 11:15 a.m.

*Livestreamed at

www.umcstmarks.org

Soul Station

Wednesday Night:

Dinner - 5:45 p.m.

Music/Programs

6:15-7:15 p.m.

THANK YOU! My recent fall while on vacation in Oregon was certainly unplanned but upon our return home, the healing hospitality of friends in the St. Mark's community filled my heart with gratitude. Thank you for the tasty meals, visits, and thoughtful cards sent our way. Blessings to each of you.

Sue Pierce

Jon and I wish to express our deepest gratitude for the many expressions of love and caring received during Laurie's recent surgery and related procedures. This St. Mark's family continues to shine as a bottomless source of prayerful strength to those in need and we are indeed grateful for sharing in that blessing!

Laurie and Jon Schladweiler

Jim and I want to thank you for the cards we received. Jim appreciated the sympathy cards upon the death of his younger brother, Bob, in FL two weeks ago. How thoughtful it was of you to send us cards when our beloved 15 year old dog, Charlie died, July 26. We still miss him so much. Lastly, thank you for the cute cards when we were Neighbor of the Week in celebration of our nine-week-old puppy, Krissie. She will be four months old soon and growing too fast. We have fun playing with her, along with our other dog, Andie.

Karen and Jim Allison

Dear Friends,

....Hoping the Wind is back in your Sails....The Angels are descending...you've hit one of life's little bumps...and my favorite...God's Will is that you Heal!! What wonderful, strength-giving thoughts you have all sent!! They are truly uplifting and have helped Pam and I deal with the situation before us. Such caring people we have in this congregation. I thank you all and will see you in church SOON!!!

Keith Johnson

Address Service Requested



Reflections

October has arrived! What does that mean in Tucson? Temperatures are cooler in the mornings and evenings while it's still pretty hot during the day. People are arriving back from summer homes and summer travel. Days, evenings, and weekends are full at St. Mark's with lots of opportunities for fellowship, worship, service, study, and much more. Here's a sample:

Pumpkin Patch pumpkins arrive on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 11:00 a.m. (come, help unload the truck). Sunday, Oct. 13, the Patch opens noon-dusk, daily!

Sunday, October 20

☞ Sermon series **What the Bible Says About Love** begins. From Oct. 20 - Oct. 24, we'll study the Bible and love. We talk about love a lot, but what does the Bible really say about what love is, does God love those of other faiths, can we love after hurt and loss, how does love lead us to action or to gratitude and more.

☞ The first worship service at St. Mark's Dove Mountain begins at 10 a.m., Oct. 20.

☞ We receive a large group of new members during morning worship.

☞ **2020 Stewardship Campaign** kick off is Oct. 20, **What the Bible Says about Love around the Bible verse** "May the Lord make you increase and overflow in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you." (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

☞ **Sondra Franks offers her 20/20 Concert** at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Sondra has served as our organist and choir accompanist for 20 years. This concert is a celebration of that great milestone.

☞ Monday, Oct. 21—**St. Mark's Annual Church Conference** at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a time for our annual business meeting and a church conversation led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Conrad.

☞ Saturday, Oct. 26 – Trunk for Treat! Fun activities for children plus a great time for people of all ages. People decorate cars, park in our north lot, and give out treats to little ghosts, princesses, and superheroes. Our potluck is 6:00 p.m., Trunk or Treating begins at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

☞ Sunday, Oct. 27— Sermon series continues with **Does God Love Those of Other Faiths?**

☞ Sunday, Nov. 3— Celebration of **All Saints' Day** as we remember those from our church who have died this past year. Sermon on **Learning to Love after Hurt or Loss**.

☞ Sunday, Nov. 10— Sermon on **Love in Action** and recognition of veterans.

☞ Sunday, Nov. 17— Bring your 2020 **Stewardship Commitment** card forward during worship to be dedicated to the service of God in the new year. **Sermon on Love as Gratitude**.

May our love increase as we join with others in these and many other ways.

Blessings, Sharon

