



# Messenger

Volume 52, Number 2

Jan. 17, 2012

## CARE FAIR — Knowledge is Power!

This Sunday, January 22nd, St. Mark's will be hosting our second "CARE FAIR." Organizations and charities that the church supports through our prayers, presence, and finances are invited to meet and greet the congregation in the Fellowship Hall of the church from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Tables will be set up to accommodate each organization as they disseminate information and speak with members of our church.

This is an exciting event! It is the congregation that

drives the Mission Committee to consider and reconsider various local, state, national and international causes to be recipients of our intentional giving and mission work. So, on Sunday, January 22nd, you will be able to glean valuable information and socialize and network with many representatives from many charitable organizations. Become informed and invested in where your missions dollars end up. PLEASE JOIN US.

*Casey Compernelle, Missions Chair*

## Shoring Up Our Foundation

This month we begin the first year *Shoring Up Our Foundation* of a three-year, pay-as-you-go capital campaign. We call the campaign, *Shoring Up Our Foundation*. In Matthew, Jesus tells the story of a fellow who built his house on rock. Rains came, winds blew, but the house did not fall. It had a strong foundation.

For 55 years, St. Mark's has succeeded on a strong foundation. Spiritually, we are as solid as the rock that house was built upon, but physically, if you look around the St. Mark's campus, you will see that we are a bit frayed around the edges. The *Shoring Up Our Foundation* campaign is designed to address those issues. Each year for the next three years, we will raise \$300,000 for making needed repairs and improvements to our grounds and buildings. The projects have been determined and address one of our Identified Priorities, to reach new people and younger people. Our campus must be welcoming, attractive, and safe for people to come and stay and be strengthened to go out into the world.

You will soon receive an information packet, letter, and pledge card in the mail. The list of projects is presented there. Remember, this is a pay-as-you-go campaign. If the money is raised, the projects are completed. There is no debt associated with our plan. Our intention is to raise \$300,000 in 2012, with a goal of receiving \$100,000 on Feb. 19th, "Celebration Sunday," so projects can begin immediately. In 2013 and 2014, new commitments will be requested and more projects completed. On Sunday, Jan. 29, there will be information meetings with project details. Join us in *Shoring Up Our Foundation* and strengthening St. Mark's for the years to come.

*Tom Ellis, Stewardship Chair*



## Manna From Heaven

Manna was the food miraculously provided by God for the Israelites during the period of their wandering in the wilderness.

St. Mark's Missions Committee, in conjunction with the Wednesday Night Ministry, has put together 100 "Manna Bags" for the congregation to give out to the homeless individuals we encounter every day on our street corners, in parks, or at bus stops — perhaps on our way to work or school or church. The Manna Bags will be available Sunday, Jan. 22nd in the Fellowship Hall. The funds from the Change the World event have been used to fund the Manna Bags, and we respectfully request a suggested donation of \$5.00 per bag to reimburse the fund so we can fill another 100 bags! And so we hope this wonderful ministry will continue!

Each bag is filled with food, drink, necessities, toiletries, and a personal note of sincere encouragement, lovingly written by a member of this church. Won't you get involved? The first step to understanding homelessness is to connect with the homeless. A Manna Bag is a non-threatening, loving, random act of kindness. Pick up a Manna Bag on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.



## St. Mark's Messenger

St. Mark's United  
Methodist Church  
1431 W. Magee Road  
Tucson, AZ 85704  
(520) 297-2062  
Fax: (520) 297-1058

**E-MAIL:**

info@umcstmarks.org

**WEBSITE:**

www.umcstmarks.org

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:**

8:15, 9:45 and  
11:15am

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:**

Light supper - 5:45pm  
Music/Programs -  
6:15-7:15

**Senior Pastor:**

Rev. Sharon Ragland

**Associate Pastor:**

Meridith Grandy

**Adult Education**

**Ministries:**

Linda Walker

**Children/Family**

**Ministries:**

Jane Gordon

**Youth Ministries:**

Kim Ogle

**Caring Ministries:**

Chris Bahson

**Communications &**

**Outreach:**

Sandi Heilman

**Organist:**

Sondra Franks

**Published bi-weekly.**

To discontinue  
mailing of paper  
version and receive  
email notification of  
online edition  
instead,  
please contact  
info@umcstmarks.org

**Next Messenger  
deadline:**

**Jan. 26th**

# Calendar

**Lunch with the Pastors.** A lunch is being provided this Sunday, Jan. 22nd, at 12:30 p.m. in the church library for those who'd like to spend some time getting better acquainted with Sharon and Meridith and learning a little more about membership at St. Mark's. Please RSVP to the church office (info@umcstmarks.org or 297-2062) if you plan to attend.

**Exploring Membership.** This four-week class will be facilitated by various members of the staff and will be held on Sundays, Feb. 5 — 26, at 11:00 a.m. in the church conference room. Those who decide to join the church will be received into membership on Sunday, March 11th. Please register at the Adult Education bulletin board on Sundays, or contact the church office.



## Reservations Needed to Arrange Childcare and Refreshments

### Seminar Presented by *YOUR* St. Mark's Endowment Committee

#### "Bullying"

A Major Problem for All Age Groups

Speaker and Moderator: Dr. Sheri Bauman, University of Arizona  
Do Not Miss This Opportunity to Learn From a Leader in the Field

**Join Us — Saturday, March 17 — 9:00-11:00 am**

(Sponsored by St. Mark's Endowment Committee and  
Desert Southwest UMF)

## Dear Church Family ...

**Just a brief note of thanks** to all the wonderful people of St. Mark's. Please accept our heartfelt appreciation for the prayer shawls that were delivered by Pastors Sharon and Meredith. Both Roy and I thank each of you for the support that you have given us during these difficult times. May God bless all of you.

*Margaret Gaskin*

**Thank you so much** for cards, phone calls, and prayers while I was in the hospital and Mountain View. Many thanks to the pastors and church staff for their visits.

*Sincerely,  
Jim McInnis*

**My thanks for all the cards** the congregation sent to my mother, Grace Heyl, during her recent hospitalization. She read and enjoyed each one! We both appreciate all your caring.

*Dell Long*

**Happy New Year!** It is hard to believe I have been with you all for six months now. It was such a joy to experience my first Advent and celebrate my first Christmas with St. Mark's. I am so thankful for all the lovely cards, gifts, and thoughts that you offered me during the holiday season. Your generosity continues to amaze me. I look forward to sharing this new year together.

*Grace and peace,  
Meridith*

## Early Childhood Center Rummage Sale on Saturday

Please join us in saying goodbye to some old treasures and hello to some new treasures!!

**When:** Saturday, Jan. 21st  
**Where:** In the Fellowship Hall  
**Time:** 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon



Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

We are still accepting donations of "treasures." You can leave them on the south side of the storage building by the playground. Glenn Mitchell is willing to pick up large household items you can't transport. Contact him via the church office.

## For I Was Hungry, and...

We are looking for people/groups/families to provide and serve a meal for Wednesday Night Worship. The meal is an integral part of our time together on Wednesday nights.

The meals do not have to be anything elaborate, and you will be reimbursed for the cost of food. We also have a binder with meal ideas and helpful serving suggestions.

The following dates are currently available:

Feb. 22nd  
 March 7  
 March 28  
 April 4  
 April 11  
 April 18  
 April 25  
 May 9  
 May 23  
 May 30  
 June 13  
 June 27



Please contact Pastor Meridith at [mgrandy@umcstmarks.org](mailto:mgrandy@umcstmarks.org) or 520-297-2062 to reserve a date if you are interested!

## An Animal Ministry is Underway — Join In!

A second meeting of those interested in a St. Mark's Animal Ministry will take place on Thursday, Jan. 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the church library.

Those who attended the first meeting on Jan. 5th shared a variety of ideas for potential projects. They are eager to promote activities that honor and encourage the special bond between people and animals, benefitting both in the process. Potential projects include collecting pet food donations, providing educational information to the congregation, fostering animals in emergency situations, and exploring the idea of therapy animals. The concept of a memorial service to honor animals we've lost is also being discussed.



As the group meets again on the 26th to work on the details of turning ideas into realities, they encourage other interested individuals to join them! This ministry is open to all!

### Attention, Men of St. Mark's!

The Men's Service Group will meet on Tuesday, January 24, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the library. You are invited to come and meet a group of your fellow Christians dedicated to helping charitable organizations in our area by completing work projects that they don't have the manpower to accomplish. This is our way of taking God from our campus to the world. Come join us!

## Pick a Card... Any Card...

Each Sunday in the bulletin, we are asked to pray for and send cards to members of the church family who need our support.

A reminder that United Methodist Women have new and recycled cards displayed for sale in the church library. All proceeds are used to fund three local mission projects (Youth on Their Own, the Marana Clothing Bank and the Amphitheater Clothing Bank). We thank you for your support.

UMW

## Can I Have Doubts and Questions, and Still Be a "Good" Christian?

Some of us have found we have questions about our faith, and wonder if we are doing something wrong when we look at all the (seemingly) confident Christians who surround us in worship.

We will be offering a workshop on Saturday, February 11th as an opportunity to begin to discuss some of the issues around doubt and faith. Some of the areas to be touched on include definitions of doubt and faith; Biblical heroes and how they struggled with doubt; insights from admirable Christians; suggestions on how doubt and faith

actually fit together; and some ideas on how to deal with doubts.

Much has been written about this topic, and our discussions will only be an introduction. If this sounds of interest to you, please bring your Bibles and join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 am to 12:30 on Feb. 11th. (We also ask that you sign up on the Adult Education Bulletin Board in the courtyard so that we have enough handouts.)

*Brenda Hunter and Linda Walker*

## HIV/AIDS Ministry News

An educational forum will be held on Sunday, Feb. 5th at 9:45 in the library, titled *The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Women and Children* and sponsored by the HIV/AIDS Ministry at St. Mark's. Come, learn about the daily struggles and joys of these Tucson women. There will be time to ask questions and discuss concerns.

*Linda Girard  
lsgjdg@comcast.net*

### Learn How YOU Can Make A Difference: Volunteer Orientation for Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)

TIHAN's Volunteer Orientation is a great way to learn more about HIV/AIDS, TIHAN and our current volunteer opportunities, and how you can help make a difference in the lives of people right here in our community.

TIHAN's next Volunteer Orientation will take place on Saturday, January 28th from 8:30am-12:30pm at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church (2331 East Adams, near Speedway and Tucson Boulevard).

The cost of the orientation is \$17 per person (to cover the costs of food and materials). If you are interested in attending, or if you would like more information, please contact us at 299-6647 or [volunteercoordinator@tihan.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@tihan.org). To download a Volunteer Application Packet, click visit [www.tihan.org](http://www.tihan.org) then click on "Volunteer."

### Thoughts From YOUR St. Mark's Endowment Committee

Grandpa didn't have a will when he died.  
Grandma had to settle Grandpa's estate without one. Now Grandma knows how important a will really is!  
Do you have a will?

## UMW Training Event Soon

St. Mark's United Methodist Women Officers and Mission Coordinators have the opportunity (and are encouraged) to attend the South District UMW Leadership Training Event on Saturday, February 4. It will be held at Catalina United Methodist Church (2700 E Speedway, Tucson) from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Registration and a continental breakfast begins at 9:00. Lunch will not be served.

Registration forms are available in the UMW mailbox in the church office. Registration deadline is Monday, January 30. For the unit to pay your registration fee, your completed form needs to be back in the UMW mailbox on or before Wednesday, January 25 for Dalene to make the payment and send the registration form(s) by the deadline.

Carpools will be available from St Mark's south parking lot, leaving at 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, and/or to let Alberta know you want to carpool, contact her at [afrnsworth@aol.com](mailto:afrnsworth@aol.com).

*St. Mark's Welcomes...*

Norah Lynn Mosher

Born: Dec 27, 2011

Parents: Hayden and  
Rachel Mosher

Big brother: Eli Mosher

\*Grandparents: David and Alberta Farnsworth

\*Aunt and Uncles: Peggy James, Rick Farnsworth,  
Jef Farnsworth

*\*Extended family members are only listed in the Messenger when they are also members of the St. Mark's congregation.*

### Human Trafficking Interreligious Forum

Sunday, February 26th at 2:00 p.m.  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1200 N. Campbell (Activity Building)

**SPEAKERS:**

Mary Jacobs, Christian Women's Fellowship  
Steve Kozachik, Tucson City Council

**For Our Prayers ...**

In the hospital: **Martha Atwater, Harry Wenger** (NW), **Justina Trejo** (UMC), **Shawn Pickart** (St. Joseph's), **Roy Baughman** (St. Mary's).

Rehab or care facilities: **Grace Heyl, Jack Webster, Frances Wells**.

Under hospice care: **Jim Brademas, John Herman** (*both at home*).

At home: **Marlene Anderson, Lillian Carroll, Bob Dirksen, Ray Evans, Roy Gaskin, David Johnston, John Lennarson, Karen Linebarier, James McInnis, Irene Olson, Rod Potter, Cathy Simpson, Eric Steinman, Thelma Strang, Chuck Wachsman, Roseanna Wagoner** (in Mesa), **Yvonne Yare**.

Please keep **Maria Candelaria** in your prayers, also. She is a teacher at Nash Elementary, recently diagnosed with cancer.

We offer our Christian love and sympathy to:

- ♥ **Susan Schaefer**, upon the recent death of her brother.
- ♥ **The friends and family of Frances Edwards**, who passed away on Jan. 13th. A memorial service will be held at St. Mark's on Saturday, Jan. 28th, at 11:00 a.m.

**LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY**

**Charles Manherz** (grandson of Ray and Doris Tyler), serving in Afghanistan.

**Jared Hockenbury**, PV1st Class (close friend of Zirnheld/Compennolle family), stationed in Afghanistan.

**Brian Osborn** (pastor in the Desert SW Conference), deployed to Afghanistan.

**Ian Hippeard** (nephew of Shari Hippeard), serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

**Patrick Emmett** (son of Julie Wiens), with the Navy Special Forces, deployed to Africa.

**Jeremy Dodson** (grandson of Jan and Gil Hooser) serving in the U.S. Navy, Goose Creek, South Carolina.

**Geoffrey Shafe** (grandson of Jerry and Mary Langemeier), 47th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, GA.

**Benjamin Fry** (grandson of George and Darlene Fry), with the Marines and currently recovering from a knee injury.

**Will Chavez** (husband of Wayne and Phyllis Stevens' granddaughter), with the Air Force in Korea.

**Hank Bautzmann** (son of Nancy Bautzmann), deployed to Afghanistan, flying an Apache helicopter.

**Staff Sgt. John O'Regan** (husband of Ashley Krug O'Regan), with the U.S. Air Force, deployed to Afghanistan.

**Staff Sgt. Scott Outlaw** (brother of Kim Ryan), with the U.S. Marine Corps, deployed to Afghanistan.

**Jeffrey Farrey** (grandson of Ray and Doris Tyler), deployed to Afghanistan.

**Rachelle Starr** (granddaughter of Ray and Doris Tyler), stationed at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

PRAISE THE LORD!

**Mallory O'Brien** (daughter of Lisa Brobeck and granddaughter of Bob and Marialene Brobeck) has returned home safely from Qatar, where she was assigned to an Army Air Defense unit.



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## *Reflections...*

Someone said to me today, “It sure seems like there were a lot of babies, small children and families in church yesterday.” I replied, “Yes... yes... there were many people, including new people, and lots of sounds of children in church, all of which was so great.” Worship has been so deep and rich, thanks to the leadership of many people.

We’ve also been working hard and praying our way into the identified priorities that our Covenant Council adopted over a year ago. To remind you, those are:

- I. St. Mark’s will bring Christ to the world by taking Church out into the world.
- II. St. Mark’s will reach out to new people and younger people.
- III. St. Mark’s will prayerfully examine our church structure. We will seek to strengthen the systems, which are supporting and nurturing our ministry, and to relinquish those systems which no longer serve us well.
- IV. St. Mark’s will become physically involved in mission and justice projects.

We’ve been doing things to implement all the priorities. To address #2, we’ve strengthened our relationship with the Early Childhood Center and increased the appeal of Wednesday Night Ministry by offering quality activities for children and making that ministry welcoming to all people. Our Church Growth & Hospitality Committee has been doing a number of things to help us reach and welcome new people, including producing a new DVD about our church, and passing out the pens to give out to others at Christmastime.

I’ll talk about how we’re addressing the other priorities in future articles.

*Blessings,  
Sharon*