



Messenger

Volume 52, Number 3

Jan. 31, 2012

Shoring Up and Moving Ahead

At St. Mark's, we are well into *Shoring Up Our Foundation*. Pastor Sharon is leading us on a year-long journey through the Bible to strengthen our spiritual foundation. To address our church's physical foundation, we are in the middle of a capital campaign designed to address deferred maintenance and improvements around our campus.

You have probably received a campaign information package by now. Read it carefully. You will see the designated projects and their costs. This is a pay-as-we-go campaign. We accumulate no debt. As money is raised, projects are completed. Monthly progress reports will review collections, expenditures, and progress. Money raised for the *Shoring Up Our Foundation* capital campaign will be designated only for the projects on the list. All funds and projects will be managed by the Trustees.

Along with addressing deferred maintenance issues and campus improvements, the *Shoring Up Our Foundation* capital campaign aligns with one of our Identified Priorities, "to attract new people

and younger people." Part of the success for this priority is to present a church campus that is visually inviting, well kept, and safe. We need to develop "curb appeal."

Our church façade should yell out, "Look at me; we're here!" to every passerby on La Cañada and Magee. State-of-the-art signage that speaks to the vibrant ministries and missions of St. Mark's

should have its place on the corner. Parking lots — newly-paved, well-marked, and planted with trees — lead visitors to a weatherproof sanctuary on garden-like grounds with shaded and inviting outdoor spaces.



A good friend told me Sunday that people stay at St. Mark's because it is a friendly church, not because of how it looks. I wonder how many of our neighbors pass by without considering that "old" church on the corner. Before they stay, they must come. "Curb appeal" is that first impression.

*See you in church,
Tom Ellis, Stewardship Chair*

Conversations with a Hospice Chaplain



**This Saturday, Feb. 4th
9:00—11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**Guest Speaker:
Rev. Frank Williams, Chaplain
Casa de La Luz Hospice**

**This presentation is free and open to all,
sponsored by the St. Mark's
Health & Wholeness Ministry.**

In December, the Church Growth & Hospitality Committee provided members of the congregation with St. Mark's ink pens and a Christmas Eve invitation card. The suggestion was to leave them with your tip at a restaurant, or otherwise share them with someone in the community.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this way of reaching out to our community! Do you have a story about sharing your pen and invitation card? The committee would love to hear it! Call or email the church office, 297-2062 or info@umcstmarks.org. (*Did you know that typically, a pen will have eight owners? Think of all the places our pens may travel!*)



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 Bahnson

Communications &

Outreach:

Sandi Heilman

Organist:

Sondra Franks

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

**Next Messenger
deadline:**

Feb. 9th

Calendar

Sunday Forum. St. Mark's HIV/AIDS Ministry is hosting an educational forum this Sunday, Feb. 5th, titled *The Impact of HIV on Women Living in Pima County*. Come, listen and explore life's ups and downs from women living with HIV for five years or more. Learn about their daily struggles and how they cope with the stigma of HIV. This forum will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45.

Workshop Deadline. This Sunday is the last day to register for *Can I Have Doubts and Questions, and Still Be a Good Christian?* The workshop will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11th, at 10:00 a.m. and will provide a preliminary look at how doubt and faith might fit to-

gether. More information can be found on the Adult Education bulletin board.

Over 50's. The Over 50's will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Macayo's (7360 N. Oracle Road) on Tuesday, Feb. 7th. Please call Agnes Fisher before Monday, Feb. 6th, for reservations. Everyone is welcome, and we hope that new members will join us to enjoy good food, fellowship and to make new friends.

Volunteer Appreciation. Yes, it's coming! The staff would like all church volunteers to save the date — Tuesday, March 6th, any time between 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. More details in the next *Messenger!*

Dear Church Family ...

What a wonderful and comforting feeling it is to receive so many prayers, visits, cards, calls and notes from the members and staff of St. Mark's during my latest episode. These all make the uncomfortable much more bearable. My thanks to you all! Isn't St. Mark's grand?!

Jim Stauffacher

Thanks for your prayers, condolences, emails, and cards that provided support and encouragement in helping us get through the difficult time during and after the death of my Mother. It was really needed and very much appreciated.

*Yours In Christ,
Paul Boettcher*

A BIG thank you to St. Mark's congregation for another successful Sunday Dinner Sale. The proceeds

totaled \$340.50 toward scholarships for *Strength for the Journey*, a 4-day camp/retreat for people living with HIV/AIDS. Thank you to the bakers of all the homemade items, and thanks to all the folks who purchased the food!!

*Linda Girard
HIV/AIDS Ministry*

Thank you for your generous Thanksgiving offering! Indeed, we are so thankful. We were expecting a budget shortfall, and through you, our prayers were answered! Thank you for touching the lives of so many college students and ensuring another great year in Campus Ministry!

*Blessings,
Dee Dee*

How to “Click” and Give!

Electronic giving is an easy and convenient way to automate your regular offering or capital campaign donation. For example, if you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.



Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card, and you can designate the contribution's frequency (weekly, monthly, etc.) and starting date. There is no additional cost for using this giving option. To participate in electronic giving, visit our website at www.umcstmarks.org and click on “Online Donation/Payment” (in top right corner of the home page) or contact the church office to pick up an authorization form or for additional information. Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.


Ruth Kester, Bookkeeper

Can You Take a Turn?

We are still 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	May 9	
	March 28	May 23	
	April 4	May 30	
	April 11	June 13	
	April 18	June 27	
	April 25		

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

Animal Ministry News — For Everyone

Imagine a family, struggling with the financial difficulties created by a recent job loss. Imagine a senior citizen, living alone and finding it increasingly difficult to stretch his or her fixed income. St. Mark's newly-formed Animal Ministry program has imagined these and similar situations — and would like to help spare such people the additional pain of needing to give up the companionship of their pet in order to cut costs.

ICS (Interfaith Community Services) is a distribution site for the “Food for People's Pets” program, started in 2007 by The Hermitage No-Kill Cat Shelter. The ICS Food Bank enthusiastically accepts donations of dog and cat food; they get requests for such on nearly a daily basis.



Next time you bring to St. Mark's a donation of items for the Food Bank, you might consider including something for hungry pets, as well.

Helping families and/or seniors keep a beloved pet can be as nourishing to the soul as the pasta and canned goods are to the body.

Here's a tip: Maximize your buying power by clipping coupons and matching them to sale items! Our collection cart will include a “coupon can.” Drop off coupons and/or take coupons to help with purchases of dog and cat food for the food bank.

Clay Class Update

The wind chime clay class begins Friday, Feb. 10. Since the clay has to be rolled out ahead of time, I need to know how many are coming to the class. I will not be bringing along spare clay. If you are interested, please fill out a clay class form with your \$17.00. There is a Fine Arts & Crafts mailbox in the office workroom where you can pick up and also drop off your form. ***I need the returned forms by Monday, February 6, 2012.*** The class is held in Room 6/7 (in the west patio area) on Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Padgitt.

Saturday Afternoon at the Movies



We will be showing the movie *Pilgrim's Progress: Journey to Heaven* on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This movie is a modern film adaptation of John Bunyan's powerful allegory *Pilgrim's Progress*. Bunyan's classic tale teaches us the hazards and hopes of the Christian life and the triumphant glory that awaits all who faithfully follow the King of Kings. It is a symbolic vision of the pilgrimage through life. This story has inspired each generation for hundreds of years and was, at one time, second only to the Bible in popularity. This story has applications for us today in everyday life, in our Christian journey, as we follow the progress of Christian, the story's protagonist, on his journey to Heaven through the trials and tribulations of life.

The Wednesday class enjoyed studying this movie and *Pilgrim's Progress* so much, they wanted to see it again in its entirety. Come and enjoy. Did I mention free popcorn and drinks would be provided?

Kelly Deyoe

Understanding the Permanent Endowment Fund

The Permanent Endowment Fund of St. Mark's United Methodist Church provides members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to St. Mark's United Methodist Church that will become a permanent endowment for financial support and a living memorial. The Endowment Fund is intended for the long-term benefit of the church and is considered essential for the church's long-term health.

Donations are the principal source of growth of the fund. Unlike many charities, contributions to the Church's Endowment Fund have no overhead. Any of the following go into the Endowment Fund of the church:

- any unrestricted or undesignated gifts to the Endowment Fund
- any unrestricted or undesignated gifts to the Church resulting from wills, bequests or estates
- other amounts approved by the Covenant Council
- other undesignated memorial gifts totaling more than five hundred dollars.

The fund's balance has grown from a low of \$94,000 at the stock market's low in 2009 to a current balance of about \$200,000. The fund's investments are in a diversified group of mutual and exchange traded funds. This growth has been helped greatly from two rather large bequests from estates.

A small portion of the fund's investment returns (normally three to five percent of the Fund's

value) may be used annually to fund unexpected needs and programs and ministries which fall outside the normal budget and are not recurring in nature. In 2010, funds were used to assist the Christmas Cantata, and in 2011 to help with the youth trip to the Youth 2011 Conference, neither of which fell in the budget. Currently, the committee has approved a \$3,000 disbursement to the 2012 Capital Campaign, subject to final approval by the Covenant Council. This represents half of the \$6,000 disbursement funds for the year 2012.

During 2011, the Endowment Committee began an ongoing series of presentations on subjects of interest and importance to the congregation and community. The first presentation was on wills. The second discussed the general subject of Alzheimer's disease. Both attracted fifty plus participants, including members of the community and church, and were offered in cooperation with other church committees. The next presentation, on March 17th, will focus on the important topic of "Bullying."

For more information on the Endowment Fund or Committee, contact Tom Spratt regarding the fund or Dr. Ed Stephenson regarding presentations. Other members of the committee are Scott Bauman, Bill Wickham, Ruth Kester, Pam Burns, Rich Howell, Jim Allison, Ron Hill and Charles Moore.

Tom Spratt

CLASSES AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Invitation to the New Testament

As we continue our sermon series *Journey Through the Bible*, our focus right now is on the stories of the Old Testament. You have an opportunity, though, to be part of a short-term New Testament class, led by Rev. Sharon Ragland & Rick Farnsworth. The "Invitation to the New Testament" class will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Room 17/18, beginning on Monday, Feb. 20, and running through April 9th (8 weeks).

This is a chance to be part of a short-term *Disciple* Bible-study type class, that will be a survey of the New Testament. There are some daily Bible readings. You can register for the class on the Adult Education board in the courtyard on Sunday mornings or contact Linda Walker, lindawalker@umcstmarks.org. Cost of the book is \$12.

Sharon Ragland

Learn About Human Trafficking

St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday morning, Feb. 14 in the church library. There will be light refreshments and fellowship time beginning at 9:30, and the program starts at 10:00. Our own Rachel Mosher (Alberta's daughter) will tell us some of what she learned about HUMAN TRAFFICKING at a week long United Methodist Women's seminar last summer in Birmingham, Alabama. Some have called HUMAN TRAFFICKING "modern day slavery." The topic is so heart-breaking, and very relevant. In news stories, we hear of people being held captive almost every day. Please plan to come learn what Human Trafficking is, who's involved, what the church says, and what you and I need to know about the subject. NOTE: This will be a great opportunity for all of us to see and meet Alberta's newest granddaughter, Baby Norah, too.

All women of the church are invited. You don't have to be a member of UMW or St Mark's to come. Babysitting/childcare can be available, if requested through the church office by Friday, Feb. 10.

If you have questions or need a ride, contact Alberta Farnsworth (afarnsworth@aol.com) or Clara Campbell (campbellmjcl@comcast.net).

Kay Hayworth

Prayer Begins with Relationship

A six-session Lenten study, "Prayer Begins with Relationship," will begin on Wednesday, Feb. 22. In this study from the book by Cynthia Bezek, we will learn to find the soul-satisfying closeness and joy we long for as we engage with God through prayer. This study will help us discover that the heart of prayer is based on a relationship and communication with God, not as much how, when, or where we pray.

We will meet in the church library from 10-11:30 a.m. each Wednesday, Feb. 22 - Mar. 28. Please sign up on the Adult Ed bulletin board in the courtyard. Books for the class are \$7.50 and will be available prior to the first class, since the first chapter should be read so we can discuss it during our first class on Feb. 22. This will be a great time of fellowship and learning as we deepen our relationship with God and possibly each other. Come join us!

Kelly Deyoe

Do The Biblical Prophets Speak To Us Today?

Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture, a new adult study hot off the presses from Cokesbury (the major publishing house of the United Methodist Church), will be offered for six weeks at St. Mark's during Lent 2012, beginning Sunday, Feb. 26th. Sessions kick-off at 9:30 a.m. in the church library.

The study features Dr. Walter Brueggemann, internationally-acclaimed Old Testament scholar and perhaps the preeminent interpreter of the Hebrew Bible. Dr. Brueggemann, via DVD-specific candid conversations with groups, invites engagement and response, and will pose "*the contemporary significance and relevance of the Old Testament prophets as uncredentialed purveyors of covenant and moral coherence in a world of power, money and violence.*"

Because of space constraints, this compelling faith exploration, facilitated by Dr. John W. Smith, will be limited to 12-15 persons. Sign-ups for the class began on Jan. 29th.

Bullying

Presented By
Dr. Sheri Bauman



A seminar for individuals
of all ages
- Cyberbullying
- Textbullying
- Physical bullying

Child Care & Refreshments
Provided
Advanced Registration
Requested

March 17, 2012
9:00 - 11:00 am

Hosted By
St. Mark's UMC
Endowment Committee

Questions / Registration
520.297.2062
info@umcstmarks.org

Dr. Sheri Bauman is an associate professor in School of Education, University of Arizona, where she is the director of the School Counseling program. Prior to earning her doctorate in 1999, she worked in public schools for 30 years, 18 of those as a school counselor. Additionally she is a licensed psychologist.

Dr. Bauman teaches in the Master's program and conducts research on bullying, professional issues in school counseling, and group work. She has presented on topics related to bullying at local, state, national, and international conferences. Her vita includes 39 publications in peer-reviewed journals, a training DVD, and numerous other publications. She has published two books; the latest, *Cyberbullying: What Counselors Need to Know*, was published in 2011.

Dr. Bauman's current research focuses on aspects of bullying and cyberbullying, including investigations of the problem in Deaf and hard of hearing students. She is in the process of analyzing data, in concert with Dr. Jina Yoon, regarding teacher responses to student bullying.

GOT TEENAGERS?

Do you have a son or daughter who...

- is absolutely sure that YOU were never his or her age?
- seems unaware that there is an off switch on all music devices?
- speaks in shrugs, grunts and other strange sounds?
- requires more food every day than you consume in a week?
- has chosen "early landfill" for his or her bedroom décor?
- can easily program a computer or DVD, but can't figure out how to operate a washing machine?
- can remember the words to last year's hit songs but none that you said five minutes ago?
- is allergic to chores, homework, getting up in the morning, and sometimes...you?
- has caused you to turn into your parents?



If so ... you are invited to

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEENAGER, a lively, informative presentation of some of the best parenting advice you'll ever get on raising capable, emotionally-healthy teenagers. This is not a seminar just for parents who are having difficulty with their kids. Instead, it's for every parent who wants to stay close to their kids during their teen years and also wants to influence them to become the kind of young men and women God created them to be.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY



Wayne Rice

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEENAGER

to learn important principles for building and keeping a good relationship with your kids during their teen years. Your son or daughter's adolescence can be the best years of his or her life (and yours too) if you know what to expect and what to do. Come for some encouragement, some practical ideas, and a chance to interact with other parents like yourself who care enough about their kids to sharpen their parenting skills.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEENAGER, will be presented by Wayne Rice, a nationally-known speaker who has worked with teenagers for more than thirty-five years. He has authored dozens of best-selling books for parents, teens and youth workers, and is the co-founder of Youth Specialties, the nation's top provider of youth ministry resources. Wayne and his wife Marci live in Lakeside, California, and have three grown children.

Date of Seminar : _____

Time : _____

Location : _____

For more information, contact : _____

Got an Hour to Save a Life or Two or Three?



An American Red Cross blood drive will be at St. Mark's on Sunday, Feb. 26th from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register in the courtyard on Sunday, Feb. 12th or 19th, or contact Martha Lundgren (martha@aztec506.net) to reserve your appointment. On behalf of the lives you will save (the components extracted from a single pint can go to up to three patients), the Health and Wholeness Ministry Team says THANKS! in advance.

The mission of an early response team (ERT) is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster. Within the Desert Southwest Conference, UMCOR trainers will be leading classes for disaster preparedness and early response. A local class will be held at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC on Saturday, March 31st.

The cost is \$20/person and includes lunch. Registration and additional event information is available at <http://desertsouthwestconference.org/ert>.

For Our Prayers ...

In the hospital: **Connie Belmar, June Brechbiel, Jo Carter (NW), Carl Drescher (OV), Roy Baughman (St. Mary's), David Johnston (UMC).**

Upcoming surgery: **Lottie Ross (C-section on 2/7).**

Rehab or care facilities: **Grace Heyl, Shawn Pickart, Frances Wells.**

Under hospice care: **Jim Brademas, John Herman, Irene Olson (all at home).**

At home: **Martha Atwater, Bob Dirksen, Roy Gaskin, Carolyn Koehn, John Lennarson, Karen Linebarier, James McInnis, Rod Potter, Thelma Strang, Chuck Wachsmann, Jack Webster.**

John and Meghan McComb request prayers for their neighbor, Justin McCarthy Contreras, and his family. Justin was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident in Central America in December. (*You may have read about him in the newspaper.*) Those who wish to follow Justin's progress may visit <http://justinrecovers.bbnow.org>.

Praying for



LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

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

Jared Hockenbury, PV1st Class (close friend of Zirnheld/Compernelle 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.



1431 W. Magee Road
Tucson AZ 85704-2116
info@umcstmarks.org

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The people of The United Methodist Church®

Reflections...

Do you know that the word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “lencten,” which means “spring?” I guess we know that spring is just around the corner here, as the days are already getting longer and warmer.

That means that Lent is right around the corner, too. Lent consists of the forty days before Easter, and gives us the opportunity to get our hearts and lives ready for Easter. Since Easter falls on Sunday, April 8th, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. We’ve already been planning and preparing for Lent!

As we continue our *Journey Through the Bible* during Lent, we’ll be focusing on prayers that come to us through Scripture, and have a chance to practice some of those prayers. Our theme for Lent this year centers on ways of coming to God through prayer. We are excited to be able to offer a retreat near the beginning of Lent — on March 2 & 3, called “And When You Pray,” led by Revs. Valerie & John Fairchild. (*Check the next Messenger for more information about this.*)

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, the sanctuary will be open from 6-9 a.m., with a pastor there to impose ashes and offer a prayer. In the evening, we’ll have worship in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m., preceded by our usual Wednesday night meal, at 5:45 p.m.

Lent is often a time when we think about giving up something. Some years I’ve decided to add something during Lent... a new way of praying, or serving. I’m still deciding what to do this year. Any ideas?

*Blessings,
Sharon*