



# Messenger

Volume 51, Number 26

Dec. 20, 2011

## Christmas Worship Schedule in Review

St. Mark's will celebrate Christmas with five services on Christmas Eve and one worship service on Christmas Day. Details about each follow.

### Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th

11:00 a.m. — *Lessons and Carols*

A Christmas Eve service of scripture, song and communion, with music by piano and cello. It will be followed by a light luncheon in the Fellowship Hall for all those wishing to attend. Bread and a variety of soups will be provided.



4:00 p.m. — *Blessing of the Children*

This is a family-oriented service, with a telling of the Christmas story through readings and congregational singing of familiar Christmas carols. Candlelight and a blessing of the children and their families will occur at the conclusion of the service, and each family will receive a gift from the church.

6:00 p.m. — *A Family Christmas*

This is another family-oriented service, which will include a time of candlelight. Music will be led by the Praise Team. Candlelight and a blessing of families will occur at the conclusion of the service, and each family will receive a gift from the church.



8:00 p.m. — *A Christmas Celebration and Communion*

A traditional Christmas Eve worship service, centering on the ancient story of the birth of the Messiah. Holy Communion will also be celebrated, and the Folk Choir will lead the music.

11:00 p.m. — *Communion and Candlelight*

This traditional Christmas Eve worship includes Holy Communion and will finish with candlelight singing in the courtyard. The Chancel Choir will lead the music for this service.



#### *In addition...*

- live music in the courtyard and a live nativity after the 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 services
  - hot beverages in the courtyard after 6:00 and 8:00 worship
  - luminarias in the courtyard from sundown until after midnight

### Christmas Day, Dec. 25th



10:00 a.m. — *"Come As You Are"*

Join us for this one service on Christmas morning, and come as you are! This can even include children in pajamas, bringing a new toy!



## 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

# Calendar

**Office Closed.** Because Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sundays this year, the church office will be closed on the following Monday in observance of each holiday. Please plan accordingly, as the office will not be open on Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd.

**Messenger Deadline.** The next newsletter deadline falls right on schedule — on Thursday, Dec. 29th. But because it falls between Christmas and New Year's, and many may not yet be thinking about January church events, we're calling your attention to it. The first *Messenger* of 2012 will be printed on Jan. 2nd

and delivered to the post office on Jan. 3rd. It should contain any news that's important for people to know before Jan. 18th! Thanks for your cooperation with the next deadline.

**Last Minute Gift Idea.** What do all kids want for Christmas? Summer Camp! Gift certificates are now available to purchase online. The 2012 Mingus Mountain Camp summer schedules, program descriptions, dean listings and additional info are all available at [www.MingusMountainCamp.org](http://www.MingusMountainCamp.org).



## Animal Lovers, Save This Date

Are you an animal lover? St. Mark's is exploring the idea of creating an Animal Ministry. What form(s) will it take? That depends on the priorities of those involved. You're invited to join other interested individuals for an information-and-discussion gathering on Thursday evening, Jan. 5th, at 7:00 in the church library. (If you're interested but just can't attend on the 5th, contact the church office so you'll receive future information.)



## Dear Church Family ...

**Published bi-weekly.**

To discontinue mailing of paper version and receive email notification of online edition instead, please contact [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)

**Next Messenger deadline:**

**Dec. 29th**

**St. Mark's recently received the following letter from a member of the community:**

I am a Raytheon employee and ride the Sun Tran bus to work as often as possible. The bus stop is in front of your church, so I park in your lot. I appreciate you sharing it with co-workers also interested in helping the environment while saving money on

transportation costs.

Please accept my modest donation as an expression of my gratitude and to help in some way to help others. You may apply this donation to the area of most need at your pastor's discretion. Merry Christmas.

*(The letter was accompanied by \$100.00.)*

## Year-End Notice for Donors

Please wait until you've received your year-end statement of giving to file your income tax return. Some donors may not be able to deduct certain contributions if they file a tax return before receiving their church contribution receipt. For contributions to be deducted in 2011, they must be received at the church by December 31, 2011. ***This means that a check deposited in the church offering in January of 2012 cannot be deducted in 2011, even if it is backdated to 2011.***

One exception—checks that are written, mailed and ***postmarked*** in 2011 are deductible in 2011 even though not received until 2012.



## Worship Watch

- \* The commemorative Christmas poinsettias may be picked up after the 11:00pm service on Christmas Eve or the 10:00am Christmas Day service.
- \* If you haven't signed up to help out at one of the many Christmas Eve services, please call the church office (297-2062). We still have positions to fill, including ushers, greeters, parking lot greeters, and communion servers.

## MISSIONS MYSTERY



What does the ODB in **ODBALL** stand for? Could it be Overseas Ditty Bags, or Occasionally Donated Benefits, or even Obviously Deductible Bargains?

What do you think? Do you have an idea? Watch the next *Messenger* for the solution to this Missions Committee mystery.

*Ellen Beene*

## Over 50's Change Meeting Date

The Over 50's lunch group will meet at Macaroni Grill, 2265 W. Ina Road on Tuesday, January 3rd at 11:30 a.m. For those who are "regulars," please note the change of day.

In the future, this group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month, and it is hoped that the change will be more convenient for all. Everyone is welcome, and new members will find it a good opportunity to make friends while enjoying tasty food and warm fellowship. Please make reservations by noon on Monday, January 2nd, by calling Agnes Fisher.

## HIV/AIDS Ministry News

- **SAVE THE DATE** St. Mark's HIV/AIDS Ministry is hosting an Educational Forum on Sunday, February 5, 2012 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 5 years or more. Learn about their daily struggles and how they cope with the stigma of HIV.
- A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in the 2011 Sunday Dinner Sales!! The proceeds totaled \$1158.00. WOW!! Give yourself a big pat on the back. This entire amount provides camp scholarships for people living with HIV to attend "Strength for the Journey," a 4-day retreat held at Mingus Mountain campgrounds. This very special retreat is funded by the United Methodist Church. The next Dinner Sale is on Sunday, January 22nd. If you would like to prepare something to be sold, please give me a call. My email address will be changing soon; will publish in January.

*Linda Girard*

## New Classes Start in the New Year

### Lazarus at the Gate Begins Jan. 8th

Have you thought about helping those less fortunate or giving more to the church or other charities? But because of the tight family budget, there just wasn't any more to give?

A small group study will look at Jesus' parable of Lazarus and the rich man, as we in the world's wealthiest nation must recognize and respond to the poor outside our own gates and to the needs in our own congregation. Participants will be encouraged to Spend Joyfully (giving thanks for their blessings), Spend Justly (supporting global fairness), Spend Less (reducing consumption), and Give More (helping the church and the world). The class will start on Sunday, January 8 at 11:00 a.m. in the church library and run for seven sessions.

Mark Hrabe

### Women to Study David

God will never give up on YOU! Please join us to explore how David's life proves this promise to be true through a new women's bible study, *David: Seeking a Heart Like His* by Beth Moore. This 11-week interactive study features personal, daily assignments and weekly group sessions with DVD.

Mondays 9:30 a.m.-Noon  
Room 17/18.

Beginning January 9; Ending March 19.  
Workbook cost is \$15.00.

Scholarships and childcare available.

Sign up in the courtyard on the Education bulletin board, or phone Susan Gerstad. Studying God's Word in this format is truly life-changing!

### Upcoming Study of *Pilgrim's Progress: Journey to Heaven*

A six-week study of John Bunyan's powerful allegory *Pilgrim's Progress* using the modern film adaptation *Pilgrim's Progress: Journey to Heaven* will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 11th. 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

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.

We will meet in the library, 10-11:30 a.m. Each week we will discuss a separate part of the movie (story), so feel free to come to any or all sessions. There is no book necessary, unless you choose to read along as we view and discuss each segment of the movie. The text for *Pilgrim's Progress: From This World to That Which Is to Come* is available free online as a PDF, e-book, Kindle book, etc. This will be an awesome study so sign up on the Adult Ed bulletin board and join in the journey.

Kelly Deyoe



### A Different Take on What It Means to Believe

Beginning on Sunday, Jan. 15th, the Family Life Adult Sunday School Class will be reading and discussing *Faith from the Back Side: A Different Take on What It Means to Believe*, a new book by J. Ellsworth Kalas. In his popular *Back Side* series of books, Kalas looks at Christian topics through a new lens, takes unique starting points on those subjects, and uses creative retellings from different points of view. In *Faith from the Back Side*, the author explores faith, something that is central in a Christian life but often difficult to understand. Join us as we discover Kalas' unique perspective on faith and how it can transform our lives. The Family Life Class meets Sundays, 9:45-10:45, in Room 23. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to join the class for this study, please email Terry Majewski (tmajewski@sricrm.com) or Dana Bugbee (drbugbee@comcast.net) as soon as possible. We will have a few more books available for the special price of \$10.00, but once they are gone, you will need to find one at a local book store or online. At the beginning of each new study, the class establishes a covenant among the members who are committing to the study.

St. Mark's UMC

Health and Wholeness Ministry Presents:

# From Anxiety to Depression: Preventing Suicide in Teens and Young Adults

Did you know that . . .

- most depression hits families naturally, without trauma?
- anxiety is a common occurrence between the ages of 16 and 22?
- unidentified anxiety can shift into depression and isolation?

Do you know . . .

- how to identify the warning signs of anxiety?
- how to respond to the warning signs of anxiety and early depression?
- how to get help for someone you care about?

**Speaker:**

**Dottie Poczulp, MSC, NCC**

**Saturday, January 7, 2012**

**9:00-11:00AM**

**St. Mark's UMC Fellowship Hall**

**To register for this FREE event,**

**Call Chris Bahnson at 297-2062**

**Childcare available, if requested by Thursday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## Epiphany Brunch

There will be an Epiphany brunch on Wednesday, January 4th from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate a time of fellowship, fun, food, a little learning and just get to know each other a little better. Anyone, whether you've been in the Wednesday class before or not, is welcome to come join us in this time of celebration, The Feast of Epiphany.



You might ask, "What is Epiphany?" I'm glad you asked. Pastor Meridith will be joining us to tell us more about this Christian celebration of the revelation of God in human form, the day we recognized that God had become one of us. She will briefly describe what Epiphany is, why it is important, and maybe share a few other interesting facts, as well.

So, join us as we celebrate Epiphany with a brunch. We'll take a break from study and just have some good old-fashioned conversation. All are welcome. Drinks will be provided, just bring yourself and a dish or snack to share, and be prepared to enjoy yourself.

*Kelly Deyoe*

## For Our Prayers ...

In the hospital: **Richard Rhoads, Jim Stauffer** (NW), **Shawn Pickart** (St. Joseph's).

Upcoming surgery: **Marge Sogn** (12/30).

Rehab or care facilities: **Connie Belmar, Lillian Carroll, James McInnis**.

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

At home: **Marlene Anderson, Kay Blackburn, Roy Gaskin, Cynthia Langston Kirk, John Lennarson, Ray Loughney, Irene Olson, Thelma Strang, Chuck Wachsmann, Roseanna Wagoner** (in Mesa).

We offer our Christian love and sympathy to:

- ♥ **Bill and Karen Hasselbach**, upon the recent death of Karen's mother.
- ♥ **Andy and Julie Eblen and Family**, upon the death of Andy's sister on Dec. 10th.
- ♥ The friends of **Jean Tantillo**, and especially her son, **Ken Martin**, upon Jean's death on Dec. 12th. A memorial service will be planned after the holidays.

## 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.

**Mallory O'Brien** (daughter of Lisa Brobeck and granddaughter of Bob and Marialene Brobeck), deployed to Qatar, assigned to an Army Air Defense unit.

**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.



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*Sandy M. Karen Ruth Henry*

*Finde*

*May God's love shine  
through all of us  
in the coming year.  
Merry Christmas,  
from the St. Mark's Staff!*

*Brian Fran Jane Lane*

*Meridith Elizabeth Cindy*

*Frank Bill Sandra H. Sandra*

