

Messenger

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

Volume 57, Number 22

October 31, 2017



Missions Care Fair

Knowledge is power! On Sunday, Nov. 5th, St. Mark's, in conjunction with our Stewardship Campaign, will host a MISSIONS CARE FAIR. Organizations and charities that our church supports through our prayers, presence, and finances have been invited to "meet and greet" the congregation on the east patio after each service. Representatives from the following charities and organizations will be on hand:

- † Agua Prieta
- † Borderlinks
- † Community Food Bank
- † Christian Persecution Task Force
- † Emerge!
- † Habitat for Humanity
- † Interfaith Community Services
- † Nash Elementary
- † Our Family Services



- † Primavera
- † Sierra Service Project
- † Stand Up For Kids
- † Thornhill Community Center/So. AZ Aids
- † TMM (Tucson Metropolitan Ministry)
- † Tucson HIV Interfaith Network
- † Veteran's Organizations
- † Youth on Their Own

Tables will be set up to accommodate each organization to disseminate information and speak with members of our church. You will be able to get valuable information, socialize and network with many representatives from many charitable organizations and become more informed and invested about where St. Mark's Missions dollars end up.

PLEASE JOIN US! This is an exciting event. It is the congregation that drives the Missions Committee to consider and reconsider various local, state, national, and international causes to be the recipient of our intentional giving and mission work.

Casey Compernelle, Missions Chairperson

Called to Action ... 2018 Stewardship Campaign

Throughout our 2018 Stewardship Campaign, **Called to Action**, you have seen videos of stories about ordinary people that were led by Jesus' example. So significant were their actions that it resulted in virtually, **Turning an upside down world right side up**. My call to action was not as quick, nor as significant.

Years ago, as a grade schooler, my early Sunday mornings were spent reading the comics in the newspaper. I wanted to be quiet and not wake my parents until it was too late to get me to Sunday school. This is pretty much how it was my whole life until I reached my senior years. Then I started going to church and I began to realize that Jesus had been providing me with comfort and joy without my even knowing. He was resolving issues with solutions, which were beyond my ability to create and control. Now, on Sunday mornings, I am at St. Mark's! There are six other mornings, during the week, to play golf. I would never have believed it, if years ago, you told me I would be

writing an article for the **Messenger**. I have been called to action. This is a wonderful journey full of joy and happiness. If you haven't already, I hope you will join me in this journey and answer your call to action.



One way to do so is by preparing the **Called to Action** estimate of your giving for next year. On Commitment Sunday, Nov. 19th, our **Called to Action** cards will be dedicated as part of the worship services. But if you want to spring into action sooner, you can bring or mail your 2018 card anytime. You may also pledge and give online by going to www.umcstmarks.org, or by calling Ruth Kester in our church office (297-2062) for assistance.

Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Committee Member

National Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

This coming Sunday, Nov. 5, St. Mark's joins with churches around the world to commemorate the **National Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**.

As a Christian community, we recognize the scale of the ongoing persecution of over 250 million Christians facing persecution on a regular basis. Every month, 322 Christians are killed for their faith, 214 churches and Christian properties are destroyed, and 772 acts of violence are committed against Christians.

The number one request from persecuted Christians is for Christians from other countries to pray for them. Persecuted Christians half the world away receive strength and encouragement from knowing that their Christian brothers and sisters are praying with them.

On Sunday, Nov. 5, St. Mark's Christian Persecution Task

Force will have a table in the courtyard where you can pick up prayer resources to assist you in praying for persecuted Christians and also instructions on how to communicate with them if you also desire to do that.

Prayer: **Lord, I am humbled to learn about the millions of Christians who are facing intimidation, discrimination, beatings, imprisonment, and even death for their faith. They know where they stand, and they are fully committed to following you. Help me not to turn a blind eye to their suffering. I pray you would strengthen them and give them the grace they need to endure this persecution.**

If you would like more information about persecuted Christians or to join St. Marks Christian Persecution Task Force, email christianpersecutiontaskforce@gmail.com or, drop us a note at the Church.

Christian Persecution Task Force

Israel-Palestine Presentation

Come to Understand the Situation in Israel-Palestine is a three-part presentation, that will be led by Jim Nibbelink (former conference Lay Leader). Jim will share facts about the history of the area, the relevant political realities, and human rights issues.

The goal is to help people have a more complete picture of the situation in Israel-Palestine, dispel commonly heard and believed falsehoods that inhibit open discussion, and hopefully motivate people to search out further information on their own.



Sponsored by St. Mark's Adult Spiritual Growth, and Church and Society, the sessions are scheduled on Wednesday evenings, Nov. 8, 15, and 29, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in Rooms 17/18. You are welcome to join us at Soul Station at 5:45 p.m., in Fellowship Hall, for a community meal, then attend these presentations.

No Plans for Thanksgiving?

Pastor Sharon and St. Mark's are considering a Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, Nov. 23, at noon, especially for those persons or families that are alone on Thanksgiving. We would provide the turkeys, and people attending would bring the sides and desserts. This would be an opportunity to share a **meal of thanks** with other people from church, and enjoy a time of fellowship.



If you would be interested in attending such a meal, contact Pastor Sharon (sharon@umcstmarks.org) or call the church office (297-2062) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 6**. Also indicate whether you would be interested in helping plan, set-up, or clean up. If there is enough interest, we will begin to plan it.

Masterpiece Festival



Don't miss the Arts and Crafts Fair! Over 60 vendors displaying unique gifts and one-of-a-kind crafts of handmade ceramics, jewelry, art, holiday items, and more.

Saturday, Nov. 4, 9a.m. - 3p.m.

Sponsored by our Fine Arts & Crafts Guild
Door Prize Drawings • Food • Free Admission

Counselor-in-Residence

What you should know about our Quiet Ministry!

Lane Harmon to find out more about the Counselor-in-Residence (CIR) program at St. Mark's. They will be sharing their conversation over the course of the next several **Messengers**.

Martha: What is your role as St. Mark's Counselor-in-Residence?

Lane: I think I will start first with, "What is the role of the Counselor-in-Residence program?" and then share my role. The CIR program's role is to provide confidential psychotherapeutic support to our St. Mark's community and also to provide resources and referrals when direct services are not recommended or needed. The Counselor-in-Residence program also interfaces with other St. Mark's caring ministries and staff so we can be made aware of needs within both the church and Tucson communities. If possible, we can expand our offerings to reflect those identified needs. This program is often referred to as **The Quiet Ministry** because you may not know of us until you need us. The Counselor-in-Residence office is located at the Wesley House, away from the bustle of the church campus, to allow for client privacy.

As the Counselor-in-Residence, I provide the services that meet the mission of the program. I feel my work is deeply sacred, because I am entrusted with providing care during fragile times and accompany individuals through the journey of healing to awaken growth and development. I have profound respect for my client's great courage to seek help and engage in the challenging and rewarding work of psychotherapy. I have seen how the work of psychotherapy strengthens compassion and care towards self and others. This can evolve into deepening their capacity to love and enhance and strengthen their faith journey. I also have a strong commitment to continue my own professional and personal development, so I can better serve the St. Mark's and Tucson communities.

Martha: Our conversation will continue in the next **Messenger**. In the meantime, there's **more information** on our CIR program on the St. Mark's website. You can reach Lane at 520-297-6228.



Brochures are also available from the church office.

Save the Date!

This is an event you will not want to miss!

Saturday, Nov. 18, is our Advent Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be three different interactive Bible dramas, hands-on mission projects, and lots of crafts to prepare us for a blessed Advent season. The entire church family, that is families of all ages and stages—single, married without children, married with children—all are welcome. In addition to all the great activities, we will get to know one another better as a church family. Oh, and COOKIES! Please do not miss this chance to prepare for a meaningful Advent.



An Experience of Practical Divinity

Have you had an experience where in the course of a short period of time, say for instance over a long weekend, your life is now different and your priorities have all changed? This can happen through a traumatic experience or through experiencing God's amazing grace first hand.



For me, it was going on the **Walk to Emmaus** in 2001. Up until that point, I had served on various committees and was singing in the choir, but I did it out of a sense of obligation. After that pivotal weekend my whole motivation changed. I realized that God loved even me. Unconditionally. Because of this, I wanted to love him in return. Now I am serving him as a disciple out of love and not obligation.

John Wesley and the early Methodist Church wanted people to experience God's grace first hand. Wesley called this **Practical Divinity** and this has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today.

If you want to know more about the Walk to Emmaus weekends, you can attend an information session on either Sunday, Nov. 5, or Thursday, Nov. 9. At the Sunday session, you can drop-in anytime between 9:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. The Thursday session will be from 6 – 8 p.m. Both sessions will take place in Room 23.

Mark Hrabe

Kitchen Angels Needed!

We are in need of some additional volunteers to help clean the church kitchens one Monday, each month. We currently have two teams, of two people, and would like two more teams. With two people, it only takes 45 minutes to one hour, to go through the list of items to clean for both kitchens. We do not clean floors or handle the garbage. With four teams available, each team would only need to clean once a month.



Please consider serving St. Mark's in this way. We can explain the items to be cleaned on our check list in about ten minutes and help you the first time. THANK YOU.

Please contact Mary Ann Brewer (see directory) to sign up or get more information.

Open Minds Book Study

For November, the Open Minds Book Study will meet on Friday, Nov. 17, in the church Library from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The earlier date is due to Thanksgiving!

For this month, we will read **Spare Parts** by Joshua Davis, a true story about four undocumented teens: Oscar, Lorenzo, Cristian, and Luis—all born in Mexico; one ugly robot dubbed Stinky; and their fight for the American Dream. It takes place in Phoenix and addresses an issue so very pertinent for us.



Open Minds Book Study is using a number of styles of writing. Our first book (September) was **Love Wins** by Rob Bell, addressing Biblical issues.

Last month (October) we read the novel, **A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman. It presented very real human situations and challenged us as Christians to find ways to better understand our neighbor, no matter how contentious! We also discussed how our own personal past histories help shape who we are today.

Now for November we turn to a current topic—immigration, DACA, Dreamers, and the young people who live daily in fear of deportation. Read the book and then join others to discuss **Spare Parts** and the issues it raises. There is no expectation that we will all agree! Bring a friend. All are welcome. Refreshments are served.

Care Notes Have Moved!

As years pass and our campus needs updating, we make adjustments for various reasons. In a recent review, centered on making our campus more welcoming and safe, it was necessary to reorganize the narthex (entry to Sanctuary). During that process, the Care Notes literature cabinet was moved from next to the women's restroom to the Prayer Room (Rm 21) which is open every day except Saturday.



Care Notes are small brochures, on a variety of topics. They offer strength, help, and healing with emotional recovery, health, grief, and eldercare support and information.

If you are in need of this literature, please take this opportunity to visit the Prayer Room. You'll find this meditative space a welcome respite for your troubles and you will have adequate time to browse the literature, without interruption, and may include prayer time, if you wish.

Card Recycling



Thank you to the many people who have been saving greeting cards for our recycling group and to all who purchase our cards.

Beautiful Thanksgiving cards are ready and on the card rack in the Library. The cards cost \$1 each. All proceeds go to charities that benefit women and children in need. We recycle *Birthday, Thank You, Thinking of You, Sympathy, Get Well, and Anniversary cards*, in addition to cards for a few holidays. We do not recycle Christmas cards.

If you are donating cards (Thank You!), please remember that we need the entire card — the verse inside as well as the card front. Place your donation of cards to be recycled in the gold-colored box in the Library (sitting somewhere near the entry doors).

Please contact Sharon Hunter (see directory), if you are interested in being a part of the card recycling group or have any questions.



- Next meeting Nov. 14, 9:00 a.m.
- Kelly Deyoe, Coordinator
- Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday
- No Registration Necessary
- Old Times Kafé, 1485 W. Prince Rd. (near Flowing Wells Rd.)

James Black & Patricia Kaltenberger In Concert

St. Mark's will host an exceptional concert of violin and piano music presented by artists Patricia Kaltenberger, piano and Jim Black, violin. **The concert will be presented at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12, in the Sanctuary.**

Patricia Kaltenberger is an accomplished pianist, who collaborates with the Sonoran Chamber Music Ensemble, with her sister in duo-piano performances and with instrumentalists throughout Southern



Arizona. Pat came to Arizona in 2002, after an exciting career in Lincoln, Nebraska, and quickly became one of Tucson's most loved and respected musicians, serving as staff organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, interim organist at Catalina United Methodist Church and

Christ United Methodist Church, as well as interim music director at Apostles Episcopal Church.

James Black is a graduate of the University of Illinois and Northwestern University and until his retirement,

served as orchestra director for various schools in the Chicago suburbs. He is a member of the National Association for Music Educators, the National School Orchestra Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda and the American String Teachers Association.



Before moving to Arizona Mr. Black was a member of the Evanston Symphony Orchestra and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra and various other Chicago-area ensembles. In Arizona he has been a member of the Southern Arizona Symphony, the Tucson Civic Orchestra and the Tucson Repertory Orchestra.

This is a unique opportunity to enjoy these two talented and delightful musicians in a collaborative ensemble second to none. Please plan to join us and invite your friends and family to come with you. The concert is free; a free will offering will be collected.

Learn About Wesley Works!

St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, Nov. 14, in the church Library. Please come at 9:30 a.m. for light refreshments and fellowship. The program, **WESLEY WORKS!** will be presented by Betty Mathis, CEO of Wesley Community and Health Center in Phoenix. Wesley Community Center is a Valley of the Sun United Way Primary Partner and a National Mission Institution of the United Methodist Church. They provide programs, services and activities for primarily Hispanic families. They provide primary healthcare services and preventive/health management classes for everyone among many other services.

We will have a *World Thanks Offering* and pledge service at this meeting. The World Thanks Offering provides United Methodist Women members an opportunity to show their gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children and youth. The United Methodist Women's 2017 Pledge to mission service is **A Community United by Giving**. The annual mission pledge provides support to national, international and regional mission programs. It also provides support to active and retired deaconesses and home missionaries.

If you have questions or need a ride, please contact President, Virginia Tupper (see directory), or leave a message at the church office.

Handy Hands Ministry

No job is too small! If you would like to request the Handy Hands Ministry to perform a handy-hand type job, remember to fill out a request card. They are located in the back of the church pews, or in the Handy Hands mailbox in the church office. Place your completed cards in the Handy Hands mailbox, and someone will contact you regarding your request.



A Thank You Note for Handy Hands from Marlyce Wright: *"Thank you so much for the Handy Hands Program. I not only have working lights on my balcony now, but I was able to meet St. Mark's members I might never have met before. What a blessing the program is."*

Over 50s Meet for Lunch!

Have you been thinking about a delicious Mexican food lunch? Then join the Over 50s at Ole' Mexican Grill on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 11:30 a.m. It's located on the northeast corner of Orange Grove and La Cholla. Please contact Sandra Rush (see directory) to reserve your spot.



WASS UP?

October 31, 2017

Volume 18, Issue 22



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

November 5, 2017—
4:00 to 6:00
Board Games to Share



November 10, 2017—
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Veteran's Day
High Ropes Course

November 12, 2017—
3:00 to 4:00
Youth Council
4:00 to 6:00
Mystery Game

November 19, 2017—
4:00 to 6:00
Tbd by
Youth Council



MYSTERIES MYSTERIES MYSTERIES

The Mystery game has been rescheduled to November 12.

The Youth Council will meet at 3:00 p.m on November 12 to plan the program for the following Sunday.

EVERYONE is invited to Youth Council. We would love to have you come and share your ideas.

YOUTH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

The Youth Council will vote to allocate the proceeds from the Pumpkin patch at their meeting on Nov. 12. They will also make plans for Sunday programs in the coming months. Your opinion matters. Come dazzle us with your ideas.

WE NEED YOU!



YES, YOU!

a note from the

YOUTH DIRECTOR

THANK YOU! To all of you who unloaded the pumpkin truck and worked one or more selling shift. (Especially parents and other adults.) We have a great church family and an outstanding youth group.

During pumpkin season, I've had the opportunity to tell lots of pumpkin customers that part of the profits go toward your summer mission. They were all impressed. Many even bought bigger pumpkins to support you.

I'm always proud to talk about the youth of St. Mark's. You're amazing followers of Jesus.

Blessings,
Kim

Middle School Moments

There went October! Boy, that was sure fast! I can't believe we are already in November. Before we know it, 2017 will be over. But we still have these last two months to really make it count, right?

I am really looking forward to everything coming up at the end of 2017! The South District event over Veteran's Day, then Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas! I'm sure it'll be a whirlwind, but so much fun.

When I am in races, that last sprint is usually the most fun. I think it'll be the same with the end of 2017. I can't wait to see you all at all of the fun events we have through the end of the year.

See You Sunday,
Rachel



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11-1 Nathan Mayerle
11-11 Cameron Drescher
11-12 Samm Attebery
11-12 Sam Hala'ufia

HOLD THESE PEOPLE IN PRAYER!

Upcoming Surgery:
Ray Loughney (11/11)
Roger Shuma (11/14)



Hospital:
Yvonne Yare

Rehab or Care Facilities:
Patricia Keele, Harold Mull, Bob Ross,
Howard Russell, Earlene Schock, Tom Walker

Hospice Care:
Judy Mitzenburg

Undergoing Treatment at Home:
Jude Anderson, Gail Blevins, Judy Drescher,
Breanne Hallam, Megan Krzmarzick,

Karen Linebarier, Dell Long, Ruth
Macthly, Cynthia Rayner, Don Watt,
Connie White

Recovering at Home:
Clara Campbell, Donald Chester,
MaryAnn Glazier, Harmon Harrison



Birth Announcement:
Congratulations to Danielle and Tim
Weiler on the birth of their son, Jonah,
on Monday, Oct. 16, 2017. Big brother,
is Isaiah, and all are doing well.

PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community
at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday
worship, you may submit
a prayer request by email
prayerchain@umcstmarks.org
or on our website at
[www.umcstmarks.org/
contact-us-prayer-request.php](http://www.umcstmarks.org/contact-us-prayer-request.php).

Also, visit our Prayer Room on
campus and leave a prayer on
our prayer wall.



St. Mark's Messenger

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St. Mark's UMC
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Website:
www.umcstmarks.org

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Tammy Hallam

Sunday Worship:
8:15, 9:45, 11:15 a.m.

Soul Station
Wednesday Nights:
Community Meal
5:45 p.m.
Music/Programs
6:15-7:15 p.m.

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
Jon Chytka, nephew of Roger & Donna Severson
Jayce Cunha, son of Rich and Blanca Cunha
Zachary Dojaquez, grandson of Roger & Donna Severson
Brandonn Eto, friend of Zirnheld/Compernelle family
Rob Eubank, son of David & Johanna Eubank
Mike Freeman, son of Ken & Ann Freeman
Patrick Harris, grandson of Marilyn Vaughn
Greg Haynes, son of Bob & Melinda Haynes
Matthew Hughey, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick
Rachel Kester, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester
Chad Long, grandson of Pat Long
Joshua Miller, grandson of Ginny Johnson
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
Joshua Ruth, son-in-law of Marjie Walp
Adam Seia, son of David & Vonda Seia
Jason Smith, grandson of Jerry & Judy Smith
Alex Snow, brother of Shelley Shelton
Clint Staschke, son-in-law of Cliff & June Young
Michael and Karisa Szczygiel, daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Flick
Timothy Trexler, great-nephew of Gail Blevins
Brianna Walker, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of Joan Fradenburgh



Third Thursday each month
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. , St. Mark's Library
Coordinator:
Nancy Bautzmann (248-5814)

Calendar Notes

Sat., Nov 4

9:00 a.m. Masterpiece Festival

Sun., Nov. 5

Missions Care Fair Courtyard

3:00 p.m. Pumpkin Patch Clean Up

4:00 p.m. Preteens

4:00 p.m. Youth Group

Mon., Nov. 6

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

Tues., Nov. 7

6:00 p.m. Sacred Rythems, Fellowship Hall

Wed., Nov. 8

10:30 a.m. Chronic Pain/Illness, Library

5:45 p.m. Soul Station, Fellowship Hall

6:15 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

Thur., Nov. 9

12:00 **MESSENGER DEADLINE**

Fri., Nov. 10

5:00 p.m. Food Truck Café

Sat., Nov. 11

7:00 a.m. Meditation Gardens Work Day

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary UMC Women's Retreat

Noon New Members lunch/refersal, Rm 17/18

Sun., Nov. 12

Sunday Dinner Sale for THAN

12:30 p.m. Holy Land Meet/Greet, Fellowship Hall

4:00 p.m. Preteens

4:00 p.m. Youth Group

Dear Church Family...



I would like to thank you all for your support since my father's death and my daughter's wedding two weeks afterward. It has been a very emotional and bittersweet time for us, but I have felt God's presence with us, and your love and care surrounding us.

Blessings, Margaret Synhorst

Thank you all, for your cards and for the outpouring of prayers over the last few years. We felt blessed to have each of you – our church family! You gave us strength to get through this difficult journey. We are truly blessed that you helped us through this most difficult part of life. I believe Bill got his strength from your love, prayers and of course, the prayer shawl.

Thank you, Patricia Duryee and family

Thank you very much, friends in Christ, for all your congregation does for us! Thank you and God bless!

Don Strauch President, TMM Family Service

Thank you for your gift of \$500. Because of you, we can provide powerful early literacy programs that ensure children have books at home to gain critical skills they need to succeed in school and beyond! We are exceedingly grateful for your generosity!

Jenny Volpe, CEO, Make Way for Books

What a surprise to find a check for \$1,500, as well as your generous food donations! It was like the Holy Spirit was fundraising for us!

Blessings, Kim Sisson Exec. Director, Stand Up For Kids

Thank you for the assortment of bulletins and envelopes that your congregation donated to **St. Johns UMC** through the kindness of Kelly Deyoe. We will put them to good use.

Gratefully yours, Pastor Ivan Schwenn

The Animal Ministry Team deeply appreciates the congregation's support of the 2nd Annual Rummage to the Rescue(s) on Saturday, Oct. 21. Three rescue groups had to cancel, but twelve animal shelters and rescues brought their rummage items to our parking lot and earned a combined total of more than \$5,000 for the animals in their care! They were thrilled, and even community shoppers commented on how great it was that St. Mark's provided this opportunity for them.



We're especially grateful to the congregation members who volunteered to load the ReStore Truck after the sale, allowing the leftover items to benefit TMM Family Services. We couldn't have pulled off this event without you! So we offer our special thanks to John Shattuck, Curt Adams, Dave and Jan Shelton, and Pat and Linda Alcivar!



The Animal Ministry Team



1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson AZ 85704-2116

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Reflections

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever. With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever. Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Psalm 89:1-2



Parts of that sound pretty repetitive, don't they? That's because the words are meant to be sung, or at least read like poetry, with a rhythm that falls deep into us – *I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever ...* It's a song of gratitude for God's unending presence and love not just now, but deep into the past and forward into the future. It's a song of faith, that we trust what God says, now and always.

We move into a season of gratitude, so it's good to let the words of Psalm 89 enter into our hearts, and work on us, and spill forth as our words of thanksgiving. Today my words spill out in gratitude for our church staff, and Pastor Tammy, who worked so hard to prepare for our October 30 Church Conference. I'm also grateful for our church's excellent leaders, who helped show our District Superintendent Rev. Mark Conrad, that St. Mark's is a

strong and Christ-focused church. I'm also grateful to the Finance Team who are faithfully leading us in our 2018 Stewardship Campaign, **Called to Action ... Turning an Upside Down World Right Side Up**. The videos have been fun and engaging, with gratitude to the actors, Nick Hiratsuka for filming, and Pastor Evy for directing them. Remember that our Commitment Sunday is Nov. 19.

What songs of thanksgiving spill forth from your heart today? For cool breezes in the morning, spectacular sunsets, and late October rain? For the joys and challenges of family? For the freedom and privilege of worshipping at St. Mark's? All this, and so much more are gifts from God, not rights or guarantees, but undeserved gifts. So we sing... *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne, O God. Your steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Thank you, Lord God.*

Blessings, Sharon