

# *St. Mark's Messenger*

Volume XXXIV Issue 7

February 10, 2017

3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117

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DEAR FRIENDS,

*“What is the answer?” she asked, and when no answer came she laughed and then said, “Then, what is the question?” --Gertrude Stein's last words*

*“Live the questions now. Perhaps then,  
someday far into the future,  
you will gradually, without even noticing it,  
live your way into the answer.”  
--Rainer Maria Rilke*

I've written before about Martin Copenhaver's compelling book entitled *Jesus is the Question*. His subtitle says it all: “The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the Three He Answered.”

It's quite natural that people approach us or come to church and expect answers to their questions. Often they are very difficult questions, such as “why is this happening to me?” Or, “if God is a loving God, how can he let this happen?”

We might feel it's necessary to provide some sort of answer to such questions, but that's not the most-important part of our response. What IS most important is our generously attentive presence in the midst of the question.

When we in the church are sincere and authentic in our life together, we directly engage all kinds of questions, especially the big ones--even though they have no conclusive answers. In fact, you know you're dealing with a big and challenging question when providing an “easy” answer doesn't really answer the need in front of you.

David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy, in their book *Living the Questions*, suggest that answers, especially easy ones, “can provide a false sense of security and pride that can stand in the way of a deeper awareness of the Divine.” But we love those easy fixes. We have much to deal with in our lives, and it can be very appealing to deal quickly with a question and move on.

I guess if we're grand about it we could say the church is called to go where no one else will go. As Harrell Beck said, “the beginning of true wisdom is asking the questions for which there are no answers.”

Beginning on Monday, March 3, I will be hosting a video-based conversation for Lent called “Living the Questions.” I think this will be much more than a educational and social time together. I really believe that there is great interest right now among religious and spiritually-oriented people in transcending a dogmatic, either-or approach to faith. I also believe that, the closer we get to understanding the teachings and life of Jesus, the more we are called to live the questions.

That's why I think that this approach can both renew our faith and begin to seriously revitalize the church. I hope you will be part of it!

See you in church.

*Craig*

*St. Mark's Messenger (USPS 516-260) is published weekly by St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego CA 92117. Periodicals Postage paid at San Diego, CA POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Mark's Messenger, 352 Clairemont Drive, San Diego CA 92117*

## WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 12

This year's retreat theme, "Breaking Through Boundaries", will be an opportunity for each woman to reflect upon who she is and discover what God is calling her to do. It is to acknowledge that barriers are sometimes in the way and to determine when and how God is calling her to break through the boundaries that threaten to hold her back.

All women are invited to attend this retreat in Pine Valley for a fun and meaningful weekend, March 24-26. Through music, discussion, and activities attendees will explore together who we are, and the One who calls us into boldness. Let us discover together what God's written and living Word will show us.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. There are several dates for the remainder of the year that no one has ordered flowers for the altar. Please be sure to stop by the church office to place an order

*The cost for a basic arrangement is \$45, and a rose arrangement is \$50. It is preferable that payment for flowers be made at the time the order is placed. If you have any questions, please contact Malinda in the church office.*

## SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE

"The Hunger walk for the Community Christian Service Agency (CCSA) will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Mission Bay (De Anza Cove) starting at 8 a.m. and is a 5k walk"

## MUSIC FROM THE POINT

The **Vocal Jazz Ensemble** and **Chamber Singers** from Point Loma Nazarene University will perform in our Concert Series on February 26, at 4:30 p.m. under the direction of Dr. Keith Pederson here at St. Mark's. These talented students are selected from performance groups at Point Loma Nazarene University. The Vocal Jazz Ensemble sings various styles of jazz music, both unaccompanied and with rhythm section. The Chamber Singers perform secular and sacred music from the Renaissance to contemporary on campus, in the community, and in local churches. A reception will be held after the concert to meet and greet these students and their director. Please invite your friends and family to attend.

## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Every week two dedicated volunteers clean the pews by organizing the information in the pew pockets, replenishing the pens, and straightening the pew Bibles in preparation for church on Sunday morning. There are currently 16 pew volunteers who rotate services every 8 weeks. We are looking to add to the group of volunteers. So if you are looking for a way to serve in the church but are limited on time, please consider becoming part of the "pew crew." Martha Hilker has been faithfully coordinating the pew crew for well over a decade, so please contact her at 858-273-4393 for more information.

## CHAIR YOGA

Stretching our muscles while deep breathing is something everyone knows is important but sometimes we don't know how to get started. Maybe Chair Yoga is the place for you to begin. You do all the same stretches while using a chair to help provide stability. No headstands or pretzel bending, just moving body and breath. You are invited to chair yoga at 7:30 a.m. through the month of January in the Social Hall.

**Please note:** Class time has changed from 7:30 to 8 a.m. to allow more flexibility to those who need it. Please call the office for more information.

## WEEKLY VIDEO STUDY CONTINUES

**The origins of the Bible and Christianity** are examined in-depth in the video study *First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God*. Filmed on location in Galilee and Jerusalem, these challenging videos feature renowned scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. The study will continue through February, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. in the New Room, near the church office. Rev. Craig leads this discussion, and you are invited to come to as many or as few sessions as you like.

## LET US KNOW!

Picture-taking and video recording are frequently done during church events. Some of those pictures may be published in our church publications, slideshows, on our website, or on our social media pages. If you do not wish to have your picture published, please let an usher know, or contact the church office by phone or email.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017

7:45 AM Pancake Breakfast/SH  
8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR  
9:30 AM Church /Sanc  
10:30 am Worship Committee/Lib  
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship

### FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please be sure to come by the Social Hall on Sunday, February 12, between 7:45 and 9:30 a.m. to share a delicious pancake breakfast with your friends and family. All are invited

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY OFFERING THIS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

This special offering is a request of the California Pacific Annual Conference. The funds are used for programs and projects throughout the Conference that support youth and young adults in their Christian walk, to nurture their faith development, to equip young leaders, and to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ. A special offering envelope will be available in the Sunday bulletin.

### CCSA OFFERINGS

Thank you to everyone who supports Community Christian Service Agency with food, clothing, volunteer hours, and financial support. We are grateful for your continued assistance. Beginning on Sunday, February 5, St. Mark's will have plastic bins in the Narthex of the church to drop off your CCSA Offerings. The food and clothing offerings will be taken to CCSA weekly where they will be distributed to our neighbors in need. All financial offerings identified for CCSA can be put in the offering plate. If you would like to volunteer your time to help CCSA, please contact Connie Villarreal at 858-274-2273.

### PREPARED FOR LENT WITH A TIMELY BOOK STUDY

It takes moral courage to provide a preferential option for the poor in obedience to the imperatives of Jesus found in Matthew 25. Dr. Paul Farmer was solving social as well as physical ills in Haiti before he had finished medical school in Boston, but he did not stop there. The subject of Tracy Kidder's biography, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* continues to inspire healing to this day. You are invited to a study starting February 10, which will meet for four (4) Fridays at the home of Joy Lewis, 4904 Mt. Hay Drive. Please contact either Joy Lewis at 858-735-0691 or Debbie Abbott at 858-717-1632 for details.

### PASTOR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Begins at 8:30 a.m. in the New Room. Everyone is invited. Child care is available.*

Below are the lectionary readings for this week:

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

*Psalms 119:1-8*

*1 Corinthians 3:1-9*

*Matthew 5:21-37*

When we joined the United Methodist Church, we made vows to commit ourselves to support the Church by "our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness."

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

- ♥ *Rachel Psister and Family*
- ♥ *Blayke Bays*
- ♥ *Maria Penalosa*
- ♥ *Dave & Marisa Newman*
- ♥ *Terri Dillen*
- ♥ *Erin Reichman*
- ♥ *Tricia Martin*
- ♥ *Ron Hess*
- ♥ *Bernice Morrison*
- ♥ *Lee Smith*
- ♥ *Felix Mena*
- ♥ *Floyd Murphy*
- ♥ *Forrest Sedgwick*
- ♥ *Christine Kay*

and our military personnel, including:

- ♡ *Kris Brendal, Army*
- ♡ *Robert S. Chisholm, Navy*
- ♡ *Craig Clemans, Marines*
- ♡ *Paul Clemans, Air Force*
- ♡ *Blake Cross, Navy*
- ♡ *Brandon (Dempster) Lewis, Navy*
- ♡ *Samuel England, Navy*
- ♡ *Lenny Hezelett, Navy*
- ♡ *Amanda Hoadley, Navy*
- ♡ *Michael Hunter, Navy*
- ♡ *Brady Jackson, Army*
- ♡ *Jeremy Munson, Navy*
- ♡ *Milo Riegle, Marines*
- ♡ *Nathan Streeter, Army*
- ♡ *Robert Tarango, Navy*

Condolences to the friends and family of Bill Griffith who passed away on February 4. A small private family service is being arranged at Fort Rosecrans.

Condolences to the friends and family of Liz Cotton who passed away on February 5. Service details are pending at this time.

## NEXT WEEK @ A GLANCE

### Monday, February 13, 2017

11:00 AM Cap Finance Committee/NR  
1:00 PM First Light Study/NR  
6:00 PM Carillon Bells/SH

### Tuesday, February 14, 2017

11:00 AM CCO Meeting/NR  
6:30 PM Nursery School Board Mtg/Lib  
7:00 PM Faith Circle/Offsite

### Wednesday, February 15, 2017

5:00 PM Peace Ringers/SH  
5:30 PM Bible Study/NR  
6:00 PM Glory Ringers/SH  
Youth Group/Rm. 10

### Thursday, February 16, 2017

8:00 AM Chair Yoga/SH  
10:00 AM Ties of Love/SH  
1:00 PM SD IDC/NR  
4:15 PM Cherub & Hallelujah Choirs/CR  
5:20 PM Chimes/SH  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir  
Boy Scouts/SH

### Friday, February 17, 2017

11:00 AM Psister Celebration of Life/Sanc  
6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal/SH

### Saturday, February 18, 2017

10:00 AM Art Show/Sanc  
2:00 PM Van Gorder Amati Wedding/Sanc

### Sunday, February 19, 2017

8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR  
9:30 AM Church /Sanc  
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship

## YOUR PRESENCE

Sunday, February 5, church attendance was 159.

## ARE YOU A SMART DRIVER?

An AARP Smart Driver refresher course will be held in the Social Hall on Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This class is open to all who have had a Smart Driver class within the past four years. Cost is \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members. Certificates will be issued which may be presented to one's car insurer for a discount on premium(s). To enroll, sign up in the church office or contact Marie Campilongo, (858) 278-4287, or e-mail: mariecamp@san.rr.com. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 20, in observance of President's Day.

## ST. MARK'S SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Scholarship Committee of St. Mark's has awarded scholarships to the following college students to help them in their pursuit of higher education. Scholarship funds are part of the legacy of St. Mark's and additional contributions are received from members of our church for all qualifying students. We are honoring these 6 recipients this Sunday in church:

Jacob Bradley  
2691 Havasupi Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92117  
San Diego State University  
Criminal Justice Major

Tyler Culp  
4715 W 28<sup>th</sup> St.  
Joplin, MO 64804  
University of Missouri, Columbia  
Mechanical Engineering Major

Nicole Gongora  
4304 Clayford St.  
San Diego, CA 92117  
Cal State Fullerton  
Child & Adolescent Development Major

Chris Peterson  
7671 Stalmer St., #B  
San Diego, CA 92111  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Mechanical Engineering Major

Natalie Tommasino  
2860 Arcola Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92117  
San Francisco State University  
Theatre & Psychology Major

Elizabeth Watson  
3673 Mt Aclare Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92111  
National University  
Teacher Preparation Major

## SERMON VIDEO AVAILABLE

Video of each Sunday's sermon is available via our website: [stmarksumcsd.org/sermons](http://stmarksumcsd.org/sermons) or our YouTube channel: [stmarksumcsd.org/youtube](http://stmarksumcsd.org/youtube).

## ANNUAL MISSIONS GIVING REPORT

The Annual Missions Giving Report for 2016 is complete and included in this week's newsletter.