

St. Mark's Messenger

Volume XXXIV Issue 10
3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117

February 28, 2017
(858) 273-1480

DEAR FRIENDS,

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. There will be an imposition-of-ashes service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m., and I hope to see you there. I also hope that for this season, instead of giving up something you will add a spiritual practice--that you will invest in your growth and in the future of the community.

It's a vital time to do this, not so much because of what St. Mark's needs, but because of what the world around us needs and is so hungry for right now: to be part of a trusting, caring, compassionate community that is working daily to make the world more just and more peaceful. More than ever, we are called to reach out.

So, for this Lent, consider making an additional commitment to spiritual growth through study, fellowship, service, mission, and investment in St. Mark's future. Some suggestions:

- Be in church for six consecutive Sundays through Easter, and invite someone!
- Drop by one of our small groups.
- Make a Lenten commitment to service or mission.
- Make a commitment to the future of St. Mark's.

Come to one of our study/fellowship groups:

- The Women's Retreat, March 24-26, Pine Valley,
- The Men's Breakfast, March 7, 7 a.m. at Country Waffles,
- Wednesday Night Bible Study, 5:30 p.m. weekly,
- "Living the Questions" video series, Mondays, 1 p.m.,
- United Methodist Women circles, various times--just ask!,
- Pastor's Sunday School, weekly, 8:30 a.m.,
- "What Would Jesus Brew?," March 8, 6:30 p.m., Bitter Brothers.

A service or mission commitment might include working with:

- Community Christian Service Agency, distributing food, clothing, helping clients,
- Our support for refugees at the Christ United Methodist Ministry Center,
- Our plan to help build a school near Tijuana in late spring,
- Our partnership with Marston Middle School,
- Planning for an interfaith dinner and service here on the National Day of Prayer, May 4,
- Being in touch with those who have trouble being with us on Sundays.
- A prayer partner--invite someone to be your prayer partner for Lent. Also be in prayer for members of any group you are part of.
- Our hosting of the 250-person mission team from Rolling Hills Christian Church on Palm Sunday weekend, April 8-9.

A commitment to sustaining the future of St. Mark's might include learning about the long-term needs of this great community of faith. Our church leadership has prepared a presentation called "Preserving Our Heritage-Preparing for The Future." which they will share after church on Sunday, March 12. Please plan to come!

This Sunday, March 5, we have the honor of dedicating the new automatic door to the church office area. We all can be very proud of the youth of the church, who worked to raise money for this project, and to everyone who took part in the Medieval Dinner, which was a fundraiser in support of it. Longtime St. Mark's member Joan Johnson gave the youth the idea for the door, and on Sunday it will be dedicated in her memory.

For information about anything in this letter, look through the Messenger, see our website, email Rev. Jeri or me, leave a note in the offering, or call!

See you in church, as we begin Lent, "The Season of Self-Inventory."

Craig

BLESSINGS AND GRATITUDE

By Kris Nieder

-Did you know **Debbie Abbott** is an expert on C.S. Lewis? Special thanks to Debbie for meeting with our youth for a The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe book study. She spent many a cozy evening up in the youth room discussing the story, crocheting and enjoying book-themed dinners.

-**Judy Edelblute and her Art Show team** made the youth art show possible. Thank you for your willingness to highlight the talents of our local young digital artists.

-**Karen Scanlon** is hosting a six week youth small group study in her home on Sundays. Twelve - yes twelve! - youth are attending. Thank you Karen for your gracious hospitality and whimsical leadership for our youth.

-**Tessa Adkins**, a recent college grad from Kentucky, continues to bless our Wed. Youth Group with her musical gifts. Thank you Tessa for your consistent willingness to mentor our youth.

-**Our Valentine's Friendship Story contributors** took the time to share about their lives with our youth. Our youth were captivated by your stories! We will continue to discuss the collection in the upcoming weeks.

-Thank you to **Phyllis Drewett** and **Mary Sue Smith** for teaching our youth the art of crocheting with such patience. Thanks go to **Marilyn Stout** for the yarn and inspiration.

-Our youth are continually supported by their music directors, **Frank Williams, Robin Haber, Christina Peer**, our **Education Committee**, our **Worship Committee chair Diana Starnes**, and our acolyte organizer **Tim Higgins**. We are blessed as a community to have such wonderful youth, and so many people who care about them. Thank you!

SIGN UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Registration for the Women's Retreat will continue through March 19. Don't miss out on this great weekend of fun and renewal for all women. If you have questions please contact Millie McKibbin, millie.mckibbin@bannerbank.com or Jan Hess, jmh921@icloud.com.

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, 3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego CA 92117

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

By Jack Carpenter

In March we will begin a campaign to secure the future of St. Mark's. Following the example of the visionary men and women who built this church, we seek now to build a legacy to ensure the long-term care of our facilities, and to provide improvements to meet the demands of ministry over the next 20 years.

You may have heard that termites are chewing away at the sanctuary, or that the stairs on our education building are rusting away. We need a much easier and more-effective sound system for the hearing impaired. The large planters in front are damaged, and we need to replace the trees and install water-efficient landscaping. These are just a few examples. Our church needs your help. The deferring of these and other maintenance items is costly.

Let's get our church in shape for the coming generation! This Sunday, you may have coffee on our patio, or in the remodeled Social Hall. Both were made possible by past campaigns. We can do it again, St. Mark's!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Are you in need of some stimulating, mid-week time with people who love to look into Scripture for meaning and purpose? You are always invited to the on-going group that meets in the New Room on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.. Bible teacher/leader extraordinaire, Bill Galante, has facilitated this study for many years. Among the benefits of Bible study and time together are making some really wonderful friends and comrades of our faith. Come and be with us: Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. in the New Room.

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.

OUR PRESENCE

Church attendance on Sunday, February 26 was 175.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017

8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30 AM Church /Sanc
11:00 AM Door Dedication Ceremony

AUTOMATIC DOOR OPENER DEDICATION: MARCH 5

Right after church this Sunday, March 5, you are invited to celebrate the installation of the new front office automatic door opener, in memory of Joan Johnson. A special plaque will commemorate this gift. Joan inspired our youth to take on this project. And your generosity as a community made it possible! Our huge team of Medieval Dinner volunteers significantly contributed. Please welcome members of Joan's family who are coming for this special occasion.

WANT A MORE-AUTHENTIC FAITH? *LIVING THE QUESTIONS* BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 6

People know that at its core, Christianity has something very, very good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity may be a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people are encouraged to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice.

Living the Questions is a video-based study which moves beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. **It will help seekers and long-time members alike to discover the profound significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what an authentic faith can look like in today's world.** The study begins on Monday, March 6, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. in the New Room, near the church office. It will run through Lent. All are invited.

WHAT WOULD JESUS BREW?

What Would Jesus Brew? Benjamin Franklin once said, "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." That said, Kirk Hinkleman and Rev. Craig would like to invite you to the first ever meeting we are calling "What would Jesus Brew?" You are invited to Bitter Brothers Brewing Co. on Morena Blvd. We'll meet on Wednesday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m. The agenda will be...we have no agenda! Just being together and embracing our happiness, sharing a pint and maybe some stories big and small. Kids are welcome-- Bitter Brothers is kid-friendly. See you there!

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:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalm 32

2 Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

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

- ♥ *Marilyn Stout*
- ♥ *Johnny Kind*
- ♥ *Mitch and Marisa Boyer*
- ♥ *Gary Childs*
- ♥ *Blayke Bays*
- ♥ *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*

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

There will be a Celebration of Life Service this Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. for Liz Cotton. All are invited to come and show your love and support to Liz's friends and family. Please bring something Liz has knitted.

PARENTING WORKSHOP

Parents and caregivers of preschool-aged children are invited to a workshop on March 11, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., in the Social Hall. Learn more about the physical, social-emotional and cognitive development of your child. You'll hear parenting tips on how to build your child's capacity for calm (and maybe yours, too!) Presenters are Karen Scanlon, Childhood Educator and Author, and Lizzie Scanlon, Pediatric Occupational Therapist. Register by March 8 by contacting the church office. Fee is \$10 and includes lunch. Childcare available for ages 2+. This workshop is made possible through the St. Mark's Education Committee.

DARE TO DREAM

A series of six small-group gatherings for youth has begun and continues each Sunday through March 19. Kids gather at Karen Scanlon's house from 11 am to 1 pm. And lunch is on the house! Through a short video study called *Dare to Dream*, kids are building a mission statement for their lives. We look at dreams, desires, and temperament. Pretty soon you'll see our kites 'soaring' in the courtyard! All youth are welcome: It's not too late to jump in. There's merry-making, singing of silly song, and partaking of some playful interaction. Questions? Please connect with Karen at kwscanlon@gmail.com or call 858 272-7357. We make the dearest of friends in small-group gatherings.

ISLAMIC CENTER OF SAN DIEGO OPEN HOUSE

The Islamic Center of San Diego is holding a special Open House as a thank you to our neighborhood for showing so much support. The Open House is Sunday, March 12, from 2-4 p.m. There will be a tour at 2 p.m., followed by a Q&A session, and finally light refreshments and time for conversation. The ICSD is located at 7050 Eckstrom Avenue off of Balboa Avenue.

39ERS MEET FOR LUNCH

Are you 39? Were you 39? Then you are invited to lunch at the Country Waffle at 5252 Balboa Ave on March 10 at 11:15 a.m. Please contact Wendy Holman at 858-273-3184 to RSVP.

SERMON VIDEO AVAILABLE

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

NEXT WEEK @ A GLANCE

Monday, March 6, 2017

1:00 PM Living the Questions
6:00 PM Carillon Bells/SH

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Offsite

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

9:00 AM Chapel Time/Sanc
9:30 AM Friendship Circle/NR
5:00 PM Peace Ringers/SH
5:30 PM Bible Study/NR
6:00 PM Glory Ringers/SH
Youth Group/Rm. 10

Thursday, March 9, 2017

8:00 AM Chair Yoga/SH
9:00 AM Chapel Time/Sanc
4:15 PM Cherub & Hallelujah Choirs/CR
5:20 PM Chimes/SH
7:00 PM Boy Scouts/SH
Chancel Choir/CR

Friday, March 10, 2017

11:30 AM 39ers/Offsite

Saturday, March 11, 2017

10:00 AM Lenten Art Show/Narthex
10:00 AM Preschool Parents Workshop/SH
1:30 PM Art Show Awards/SH

Sunday, March 12, 2017

7:30 AM Pancake Breakfast/SH
8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30 AM Church /Sanc
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship

SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN GIVING PROJECT

The season of Lent is underway and the kids in Sunday School will be learning about the Tijuana School Build where volunteers from St. Mark's join others in building rooms of a school house. Fifty golden-yellow school bags will be hanging in your visual range for the next few Sundays to remind us that we'll be collecting five items to put inside each school bag. Would you help us, please? It's a simple list of items easily purchased and brought to church to fill a bag.

1. Pencils
2. Pack of lined notebook paper
3. Clorox clean-up wipes (or any brand)
4. Crayons
5. Box of tissues

Sunday School kids will take an active roll in collecting these items. Our prayer is that you will be blessed for coming to the aid of school children in Tijuana.

SCOPE

St. Mark's United Methodist Women
President: Phyllis Drewett

March 2017
Editor: Debbie Abbott

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Sisters in Christ,

This month all three circles will gather together on the 8th to participate in "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial". We have done this for many years. I started wondering how this event started. So I looked it up on the UMW website. Below is a brief version of that history.

It began in 1887 with the Women's Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South with a week of prayer. They realized that even though they were half a million women strong, they were not collecting enough money to support 20 women missionaries. The collection at the end of this week of prayer totaled \$7,000.00. (Today the yearly offering totals nearly one million dollars.)

In 1893, women celebrated the Call to Prayer the first week of February to commemorate John Wesley's arrival in America. In the late 1890's, it was held during the week of Thanksgiving and culminated in thanks offerings. In 1910 it was changed to October. (Today there is up to each unit to decide when to celebrate.)

Since 1991, United Methodist Women and the Women's Division have embraced the emphases of our mission-minded foremothers by funding projects in a four-year cycle. The first year supports programs at institutions related to the General Board of Global Ministries; the second year is an open theme; the third year funds buildings and institutions related to GBGM; and the fourth year supports pensions and medical care for retired missionaries and deaconesses.

See the article in this issue for more information on the time and date of our meeting.

Phyllis

MARCH CIRCLE MEETINGS: A CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF DENIAL

In preparation for our Prayer and Self Denial Annual Observance, please read Exodus 1:6-2:18 and plan to bring a half cup of chopped vegetables to add to the "Stone Soup". Join members of Faith, Friendship, and Harmony Circles as they gather in the Social Hall at 10 A.M. Drop off your vegetables next to the pot on the stove so they can be added to the soup. (Contact Joan Williams if you have further questions about what to bring). The program covers our ongoing commitment to fund missions that promote Women's and Children's health.

Friendship Circle will gather at 9:30 A.M. for a short business meeting in the New Room before joining in.

WORLD THANK OFFERING

How many pairs of shoes do you have in your closet? Let's donate this month in gratitude for having more (probably WAY more) shoes than we need. Let's donate to our thank bank & then maybe donate a pair or two to charity to help those in need.



BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

6 Gee Gee Ferrier
 6 Judy McRae
 7 Karen Scanlon
 8 Dorothy Kay
 16 Molly Barrett
 24 Marilynn Chisholm
 24 Georgia McNeil
 25 Merrie Dorval
 27 Katie Guevara



TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT	1/25/17	\$3,649.28
---------------------------	----------------	-------------------

CREDITS:

Faith Circle Pledge	550.00
Friendship Circle Pledge	330.00
Harmony Circle Pledge	200.00
Magnet	5.00
Thank Offering	23.55

MISSION OUTREACH FUND

PET (Personal Energy Transportation)

International – PET is a 3-wheeled hand-cranked mobility device for use in developing countries. To those who cannot walk a PET cart can be a miracle. The gift of mobility can provide a disabled person the chance to support themselves, go to school, go to market, or their place of worship.

COMING EVENTS

March 8, 2017 Prayer and Self Denial Annual Observance, 10 A.M. in the Social Hall. All Circles invited to attend "Stone Soup Luncheon" and participate in programs funding Women's and Children's health.

BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH

As UMW members, each of us can enhance our Spiritual Growth during the Lenten season through intentional participation in the UMW reading program. Please see Judy McRae for details on how you can select a book that is right for you.

Total Credits	\$15.00
----------------------	----------------

DEBITS

Reading Program purchases	99.20
District Pledge	500.00
MOF(Redbird Mission, Kentucky)	50.00

Total Debits	\$649.20
---------------------	-----------------

Balance of Account 2/22/17	\$3,808.63
-----------------------------------	-------------------

Purpose of United Methodist Women



The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.