

NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S SUNDAY- SCHOOL CLASS!

“Living the Questions” is a video-based discussion series for Lent that moves beyond a dogmatic, either-or faith and encourages a more-authentic and more-dynamic approach to spiritual life. It continues on Mondays from 1 to 2:15 p.m. on April 3, 10, and 17. Come for a refreshing and eye-opening experience! The study meets in the New Room, near the church office. All are invited, and all questions are encouraged.

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 30 AT 4:30 P.M.

The San Diego Children's Choir will be in concert at St. Mark's on April 30 at 4:30 p.m. with a reception to follow for a meet and greet of the choir participants and their directors. The San Diego Children's Choir is the area's oldest and largest choral music program for children involving more than 450 participants throughout San Diego County. The Choir's mission is to provide children with choral music education and performance opportunities that foster performance excellence and collaboration at the highest artistic level, nurturing individual development and creating a foundation for lifelong success. The Choir enriches the cultural fabric of San Diego County through the transformative power of music. Something as small as a song can unite a community. All are invited to come and enjoy this concert presented by St. Mark's Concert Series!

COOKIE CALL!

We need cookies – lots and lots of cookies! On Saturday, April 8, the Mexico bound Mission Team from Rolling Hills Christian Church will arrive for their annual over-night stay on their way to build houses in Baja, Mexico. St. Mark's has the pleasure of hosting this team of 260 students and adults for the night, which includes serving them dinner and dessert. Please bring your home baked or store bought cookies to the Social Hall on Wednesday, April 5, between 12 Noon and 5 p.m. Thank you for your hospitality.

GOLDEN YELLOW BAGS OF OPPORTUNITY

All 150 golden yellow Bags of Opportunity are out in the world now being filled with gifts for children who will be attending a new school in Tijuana later this year. If you have a bag or two in your possession, thank you for shopping. Bags can be returned anytime now through the week after Easter. Big hugs to all from the St. Mark's Sunday School kids.

THE SEVEN ILLEGAL TRIALS OF JESUS

In a too-short period of about 13 hours, Jesus went from a Passover meal with His disciples to His crucifixion on the cross. Blatant disregard for Jewish and Roman law. You are invited to a special dramatization of the illegal trials of Jesus on Holy Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Jesus stands accused, but why?

SPECIAL OFFERING ON PALM SUNDAY

St Mark's is a member of The Joint Commission with Mexico. The purpose of the organization is to support the Methodist churches in Baja California, Mexico; most of which are in very poor areas. Recently the commission has asked for assistance to repair Camp Encinal in Tecate, Baja California, Mexico. It is the only church camp for the whole area. The camp is in good condition, except for the bunkhouses. The repairs will cost about \$2,000 per bunkhouse. On Palm Sunday, April 9, St Mark's will take a special offering towards repairing one bunkhouse. Your contribution will help transform the lives of those who attend this camp. Thank you for your participation.

CPR & FIRST AID CLASS

St. Mark's has contracted with Pacific Safety Center to hold a CPR & First Aid class here at St. Mark's on Saturday, May 13. Class time is 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The cost of the class is \$25 and includes lunch. The instructor will teach infant, child and adult CPR along with basic first aid. The class size is limited so it will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. A second class will be offered during the summer as needed. Sign-up in the church office. Payment is required at time of registration.

MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING

There will be a group of men from St. Mark's that will be meeting for breakfast on April 4, at 7 a.m. at Country Waffles (5252 Balboa Ave). All men are invited to attend!

39ERS MEET FOR LUNCH

If you are 39 or ever have been, you are invited to lunch on Friday, April 7 at 11:15 at Country Waffles (5252 Balboa Ave). Please call Wendy Holman if you plan to attend so she can save you a seat: 858-273-3184.

St. Mark's Messenger

Volume XXXIV Issue 13

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3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117

(858) 273-1480

DEAR FRIENDS,

“One of the greatest hindrances to imagining possibilities is perceptual distortion. Obstacles appear larger and more ominous than they are, keeping us preoccupied with trying to avoid danger rather than discerning alternatives.”

--Veronica Miles

As we make our way toward Holy Week and Easter, we reflect thoughtfully on how we see the world. For example, imagine if the only way we could see life was in a funhouse mirror. We'd look at the world and things would be misshapen, and either bigger or smaller than they really are. When we needed to move, it would be hard to see where we're going.

More important, over time we would get used to walking or navigating through life by looking in the funhouse mirror. Over more time, how things looked in the funhouse mirror would become normal to us. We would come to think that how things looked in that mirror was how they really were.

We would also become unable to see more than about 20 feet in front of us. Thus we might begin to live such that nothing more than 20 feet away from us really mattered.

This is how our assumptions work. They begin as a helpful way of making sense of what we see and experience. Over time, they become the way we see and experience the world. As life goes on and the world around us changes significantly, our assumptions become our own version of a funhouse mirror. They distort our view of reality.

At the same time, they can become such a part of who we are that we value them more highly than being able to see the world as it is. Our assumptions may become more important than the truth. We can get very attached to the image in the funhouse mirror!

The Bible is chock full of assumptions. One of the most common is that people (such as Abraham, Moses, David, Ruth, Jesus, and Paul) will and should behave according to cultural expectations or social standing. Often in the gospel stories, the disciples use this assumption. They seem to have their own funhouse mirror.

This Sunday's text is the story of the raising of Lazarus. It presages the resurrection, which shatters all funhouse mirrors. We will share communion, and we will present our pledges to the St. Mark's 2017 Capital Campaign "Preserving Our Heritage, Preparing for the Future."

See you in church!

Craig

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30 AM Church /Sanc

PASTOR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

"PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE"

This week we are concluding St. Mark's 2017 Capital Campaign, which seeks 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.

The Trustees and Church Council have assembled an extensive list of projects including organ repair, stairway replacement, significant landscaping, new sound system for the hearing impaired, electronic media in the sanctuary, and new chairs in the social hall. This is just a partial list--the complete list was mailed last week, and is also available through the church office.

Phase one of the campaign has a goal of \$300,000 over three years. As the campaign began, we already had received generous pledges totaling \$115,000. This Sunday, April 2, we will present our pledges to the campaign. If you are unable to be in church, please mail your pledge card to the church office. Thank you for your commitment, and your generosity!

FLOWER CROSS

On Sunday, Easter morning, at both the 8 and 9:30 a.m. services, St. Mark's adorns the wooden cross with donated flowers and greenery as a way to symbolize new life. Please remember to bring your flowers to continue this tradition of recognizing new life and beauty.

CONDOLENCES

All are invited to come and celebrate the life of *Velma Reynolds* on Friday, March 31 at 1 p.m. at St. Mark's.

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of *Rev. Dale Conrad*, a former St Mark's minister and a retired member of the California-Pacific Conference, on March 25, 2017. He is survived by his sons: Ronald and David. A memorial service is currently being planned. Condolences may be sent to: The Conrad family, 105 Sage Hen Dr., Lewiston, MT 59457-86021.

Below are the lectionary readings for this week:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Roman 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

IN OUR PRAYERS

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."

- ♥ *Family of Velma Reynolds*
- ♥ *Malinda Whiteley*
- ♥ *Spencer Topham*
- ♥ *Jim Weir*
- ♥ *Sandy Modlin*
- ♥ *Debra Birdsong*
- ♥ *Marilyn Stout*
- ♥ *Mitch and Marisa Boyer*
- ♥ *Gary Childs*
- ♥ *Marlene Larson*
- ♥ *Dave & Marisa Newman*
- ♥ *Terri Dillen*
- ♥ *Erin Reichman*
- ♥ *Tricia Martin*
- ♥ *Ron Hess*
- ♥ *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 Taranoo, Navy*

SERMON VIDEO AVAILABLE

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

LENTEN STUDY CONTINUES

The Lenten Book study will continue on Friday, March 31, by reading Pulitzer Prize winning author, Tracy Kidder, "*Strength In What Remains*" about a young man who barely escaped the genocide in Rwanda, to wander on foot without food or money, and eventually come to the United States as a refugee. He's homeless and lives in Central Park, New York, but Deo will eventually conquer these challenges to give back in an extraordinary way. Come and be inspired to give from the heart as these men did.

---Friday morning at 10 a.m. at Joy Lewis' home: 4904 Mt Hay Dr, San Diego--- Contact Joy Lewis 858 735-0691 or Debbie Abbott 858-717-1632 for more information.

THE CARNIVAL IS COMING!

St. Mark's friends and families are all invited to join the fun on *Saturday, April 29th, when St. Mark's School hosts their Annual Carnival*. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the church grounds will be filled with games, activities, food, and an incredible silent auction with something for all ages.

Children are invited to play and win prizes or sit in *the fire truck from our local crew*. Join in the fun that has a theme of - "Forest Friendly" Kids and adults will be able to participate in games inspired by the outdoors!

There will be Seisels's Hot Dogs, Fresh, handmade and authentic tacos, shaved iced, some popcorn and nachos.

The Silent Auction is not to be missed. It's NOT just for kids. There are dinners around town, museums, tours, and activities all over San Diego plus a two-night stay at the US Grant Hotel, Golf at the Doubletree, massages, and more. Our auction items always go for less than full value, so this is bargain shopping for a great cause.

When you look around at the grounds and classrooms of St. Mark's, you know the carnival is important. Cabinets have been refurbished, carpets replaced, playgrounds improved, interiors painted, fencing upgraded, added shade, and now, bathrooms are being updated. Carnival proceeds add to our Financial Aid Fund as well, so it's terribly important to our children also.

We hope you will come. And if you can't, please tell a friend or two. If you want to help, another pair of hands is always needed. If you have a student 13 or over who needs Community Service Points, we would LOVE to provide them the opportunity to help at the carnival. To volunteer, or for more information, contact the preschool office at 858-273-1489 or info@stmarksnurseryschool.com.

EGG-CITING NEW AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

The Easter Bunny will be making an egg-straordinary stop at St. Mark's this year on Saturday, April 15. He has planned some egg-crutiatingly fun activities beginning at 9:30 a.m. and egg-pecting up to 60 children to help him look for his missing eggs. Little ones ages 1-10 should bring a bag, sack, basket, or make a Bunny Bag at the event to help collect those eggs. In addition, there will be several egg-tracurricular shops to visit between the three hunts to keep everyone busy. The shops will consist of a cake walk, face painting table, coloring/crafting table for assembling a Bunny Bag, egg decorating and story book reading of *The Velveteen Rabbit* and other classic bunny stories.

Of course, the Bunny will need some adult egg-spertise in all phases of the following events such as:

- Donations for Paas basic egg decorating kits and two adults to man the station
- Hardboiled eggs (store in fridge at church two days before event in the egg carton marked "hard-boiled"). To insure a minimum of spoilage, let me know if you plan to donate cooked eggs using my email address, calling the office, or calling me.
- Small candies to fit inside small plastic eggs and volunteers to stuff them. We would like to stuff the eggs on Wednesday, March 12, at 1 p.m. (Please no chocolate or nuts due to allergies)
- Adult helpers to hide eggs and read stories.

Please contact Renee Anderson, Coordinator at renee.anderson@gmail.com or 909-583-7495. Or you can leave a message for her at the church office at 858-273-1480.

EASTER LILIES FOR THE ALTAR

Every year St. Mark's is adorned with lilies on Easter Sunday as people honor or remember a loved one. You have the opportunity to order your flowers between April 2 and April 9. The cost for the Easter lilies will be the same as last year, \$8 per plant. Orders can be placed using the special order envelope in Sunday's bulletin or you can place your order in the church office.

OUR PRESENCE

Church attendance on Sunday, March 26 was 136.