

St. Mark's Messenger

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DEAR FRIENDS,

“Preserving Our Heritage, Preparing For the Future.”

In 2017, Lent is a curious and crucial season. It is the time each year we set aside to reflect intentionally on who we are and how we are doing, quietly and with humility. Yet both personal quietness and humility are profoundly counter-cultural in a world that lifts the maxim “the squeaky wheel gets the grease” to higher levels of respect each passing day. Whether we realize it or not, each of us begins to accept (or resign ourselves to) the absurdity that “the squeaky wheel has the truth.”

That is why in March 2017 Lent is such an important time, as challenging as quietness and humility are for us. We call it the “Season of Self-Inventory”—when we take time to examine our own integrity and what we stand for, as individuals and as a community of faith.

St. Mark's always has been and always will be a place and a community that stands for what is really true, not what is loudest or most-repeated. We are a sanctuary for hope, justice, and peace. When our visionary founders raised our landmark sanctuary in 1961, they knew it was a beacon for these values. They knew the creative and redemptive purpose for the bold and courageous risk they took. In fact, creation and redemption are built into the sanctuary design.

The leadership of St. Mark's has spent the last 18 months looking at what it will take to carry forward the vision of those who built our sanctuary. It is an extraordinary sacred space, a mid-century architectural landmark, and an unusual and complex facility to maintain.

There are some significant repairs and wear-and-tear that need attention, and there are upgrades and improvements that will vastly improve our hospitality and accessibility.

This Sunday, the task force that has been working on this will share a brief presentation in the social hall after church. I hope you get some refreshments and join us, as we work together on “Preserving Our Heritage, Preparing For the Future.”

This is an important time for St. Mark's. See you in church!

Craig

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.

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 this 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.

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.

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.

THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF

Thanks so much to each of you who made a contribution to Christmas gifts for the office staff. I am so grateful for your thoughtfulness, generosity, and support. It's a privilege to be in ministry with you! **Craig**

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift which I received this year from St. Mark's. I am grateful and honored to be a part of this community of faith. **Jeri**

Thank you to those who made staff gifts possible this past Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. St. Mark's is a very caring place. **Kris**

A very heartfelt thank you to all who made a monetary contribution to the Christmas gifts for the office staff. Your generosity allowed me to make some necessary car repairs that I had been putting off. I am so very grateful to be part of St. Mark's family. God's grace, mercy and peace to you all! **Malinda**

Thank you very much for the gift! **Angel**

HE STANDS ACCUSED: THE SEVEN ILLEGAL TRIALS OF JESUS

With Lent underway, we look toward the events of Holy Week in April. Jesus stood accused before Jewish and Roman authorities, yet no man was ever more innocent or endured such illegal and unfair shenanigans under a legal system. Who were His accusers--the crook Annas, the High Priest Caiaphas, a Jewish Sanhedrin, Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, enemy Herod Antipas? You are invited to attend the St. Mark's Lenten Service on Holy Thursday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. conducted by Ministers and Lay Servants. Witness the action of trials as Jesus heads to the cross. Hear the Law spoken according to the Jewish Talmud, and Roman Code of Criminal Procedure. Consider the illegalities of a 13-hour period that is at the center of our Christian faith today.

SERMON VIDEO AVAILABLE

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017

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

"PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE"

By Jack Carpenter

Thanks to our founders we have great facilities. The sanctuary is one of the most beautiful in San Diego, and is a destination for those interested in mid-century architecture. However, we need to protect and sustain our facilities for future generations. That means we need to catch up on our deferred maintenance. We may not be aware of this because we look past the problems.

We are proud of the church and we want the community to know that. A part of our campaign is to repair and improve our street presence, including new trees, low-water landscaping and painting.

We also want to make improvements such as a much-better system for the hearing impaired and a new center handrail at the south Narthex entry similar to the one at the north entry. There are many more items of needed improvement on the campaign list.

I'd like to share them with you this Sunday after church in the social hall. We'll take a virtual tour of our campus and look at both needs and improvements.

I hope you'll be with us. Also, feel free to contact me through the church office if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE, AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE

The Annual Hunger Walk which raises funds for the Community Christian Service Agency will be on Mission Bay on Saturday morning, April 22, 2017. Please plan to participate!

OUR PRESENCE

Church attendance on Sunday, March 5 was 194.

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 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

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."

- ♥ *Loretta Pierce*
- ♥ *Marilyn Stout*
- ♥ *Johnny Kind*
- ♥ *Mitch and Marisa Boyer*
- ♥ *Gary Childs*
- ♥ *Marlene Larson*
- ♥ *Dave & Marisa Newman*
- ♥ *Terri Dillen*
- ♥ *Erin Reichman*
- ♥ *Tricia Martin*
- ♥ *Ron Hess*
- ♥ *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*

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 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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.

THE PACIFIC SOUND BRASS QUINTET

The Pacific Sound Brass Quintet will perform at St. Marks' on Sunday, March 19, at 4:30 p.m. The brass quintet seeks to educate, minister, and entertain through the performance of quality brass literature. As an ensemble of active educators, the brass quintet has style, substance, and a touch of silliness. There's something for everyone so invite your family and friends. A reception will follow the concert to meet and greet the members of the Pacific Sound Brass Quintet concert. All are invited!

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Remember the monthly blood pressure screening is the fourth Sunday of each month at 10:45 A.M. in the New Room. This is a free screening. Be sure to stop by and get yours checked.

NEXT WEEK @ A GLANCE

Monday, March 13, 2017

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

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

6:30 PM School Board Mtg/Lib
7:00 PM Faith Circle/Offsite

Wednesday, March 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, March 16, 2017

8:00 AM Chair Yoga/SH
9:30 AM Ties of Love/SH
4:15 PM Cherub & Hallelujah Choirs/CR
5:20 PM Chimes/SH
7:00 PM Boy Scouts/SH
Chancel Choir/CR

Friday, March 17, 2017

5:30 PM BSA Court of Honor

Saturday, March 18, 2017

10:00 AM Lenten Art Show/Narthex

Sunday, March 19, 2017

8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30 AM Church /Sanc
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship
4:30 PM PSB Quintet Concert/Sanc

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.