

# *St. Mark's Messenger*

Volume XXXXIV Issue 15

April 11, 2017

3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117

(858) 273-1480

## **DEAR FRIENDS,**

During this Season of Lent, we have taken time during each week's staff meeting to hold in prayer each person who filled out an attendance card the previous Sunday. We hold each of you in our hearts.

I think part of the unwritten job description for any church staff member is worrying. Yes, it's true that we are supposed to have faith, and in my experience, our faith is strong. But we still worry. About people in the churches we serve who are sick or struggling, and about the churches themselves. Will it be possible for a church like this to grow again? Can we attract younger and more-diverse people into our ministries?

While doing a little worrying during this Holy Week, I've been looking again at census data for areas surrounding the church. Here are three facts about those living in the 92117 zip code, compared to the total U.S:

- College graduates 92117: 37%; U.S.: 24%
- No faith involvement 92117: 50% U.S.: 35%
- Largest lifestyle group 92117: Young singles and couples in the beginnings of their career life.
- Largest lifestyle group U.S.: Classic middle-America.

Looking toward the hope of resurrection in our life together, I hope we can take time in these coming months to think about, and pray about, ways to engage our considerable strengths to intentionally and effectively grow this ministry.

I am looking forward to celebrating Easter with you this Sunday! There are two services, at 8 a.m. and 9:30 am. One of you has shared with me that you're bringing your family who will all be wearing hats, following a long cultural tradition at Easter! I wasn't planning on wearing a hat, but who knows?

We have some wonderful Easter traditions at St. Mark's. Here are three:

- On Easter we ask those coming to church to bring one or more short-stemmed flowers to place on a flower cross just before church, in memory of a loved one. The cross will be brought into church as part of our Easter procession.
- At the end of each service, our choir and musicians invite everyone to join in singing the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's "Messiah."
- After each service, all are invited to enjoy traditional hot cross buns and coffee on the patio, generously arranged by the Higgins family.

There are also Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. And the Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday morning from 9 to 11! See you here!

*Craig*

## 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.

## 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](mailto:info@stmarksnurseryschool.com).

## 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).

## THANK YOU ST. MARK'S!

It is with deep joy and gratitude that I say thank you to St. Mark's for the invitation to lead this year's Women's Retreat. It took a congregation to make the retreat a success; those in the forefront and those behind the scenes, those who attended, and those who were home – your prayers and your love were felt.

The highlight for me was to witness the Lord's presence among us as these women came and shared, laughed and cried, prayed and sang together... who wrote timelines, crossed boundaries, and broke through barriers to discover that Jesus Christ is Lord, and leads us through the difficulties and challenges of life to the place of God's deep and abiding love.

Thank you, St. Mark's, for undergirding us with your prayers and love!

Sincerely,

*Virginia Brown*

## COOKIES! COOKIES! COOKIES!

Thank you to all who responded to the call for cookies! Last Saturday the Mission Team from Rolling Hills Christian Church arrived for their annual over-night stay on their way to build houses in Baja, Mexico. St. Mark's hosted this team of students and adults for the night, which included serving them dinner and dessert. Thank you for your hospitality.

## 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, APRIL 16, 2017**

**PALM SUNDAY**

8:00 AM Easter Service/Sanc  
9:30 AM Easter Service /Sanc  
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship/Sanc

**FLOWER CROSS**

*This 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.*

**“PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE”**

*by Jack Carpenter, Campaign Chair*

Sunday was Pledge day for the capital campaign, and we made great progress toward our goal of \$300,000. We are much closer to our goal, but we have a ways to go. We want to get as many crucial items funded as we can.

We want to get started as soon as possible so that those who have pledged can see the fruits of their commitment. The Education Building stairs needs to get started as soon as possible. We want to install the new sound system for the hearing impaired as soon as possible as well. With new landscaping and trees in front of the church we will look like the great church we are.

We need your pledge to reach our goal so we can start.

If you have not pledged yet please bring your pledge to church Sunday. If you are unable to come, please mail it to the church this week.

This is an exciting time for St. Mark's and we are sure you want to be a part of it!



*Preserving  
Our Heritage*

*Preparing  
for  
The Future*



**FINAL CALL FOR THE 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.

**EASTER LILIES FOR THE ALTAR**

This Sunday St. Mark's will be adorned with lilies as people honor or remember a loved one. If you ordered a lily, please do not remove your lily from the altar until after the second church service.

**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 Monday from 1 to 2:15 p.m. on April 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

**SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 30**

Sunday, April 30 the San Diego Children's Choir will be in concert at St. Mark's. A reception will follow the concert in the Social Hall to meet and greet 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. It was established in 1990 and the program has grown to eight branches with four age-based ensembles, an early-years program, and an after-school neighborhood choir program.

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 this concert presented by St. Mark's Concert Series!

## 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:

*Acts 10:34-43*

*Psalms 118:1-14-24*

*Colossians 3:1-4*

*John 20:1-18*

### 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."

- ♥ Margaret Weber
- ♥ Malinda Whiteley
- ♥ Jim and Cindy Gilbert
- ♥ 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 Tarango, Navy

### OUR PRESENCE

Church attendance on Sunday, April 9 was 409.

## NEXT WEEK @ A GLANCE

### Monday, April 17, 2017

1:00 PM Living the Questions Study/NR

6:00 PM Carillon Bells/SH

### Tuesday, April 18, 2017

6:30 PM Finance Mtg/NR

7:00 PM Church Council/SH

### Wednesday, April 19, 2017

5:00 PM Peace Ringers/SH

5:30 PM Bible Study/NR

6:00 PM Glory Ringers/SH  
Youth Group/Rm.10

### Thursday, April 20, 2017

7:30 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 Chancel Choir  
Boy Scouts/SH

### Sunday, April, 2017

8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR

9:30 AM Easter Service /Sanc

10:45 AM Blood Pressure Screening/NR

11:00 AM Worship Committee Mtg/Lib

12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship/Sanc

## CHAIR YOGA

Stretching our muscles while deep breathing is something everyone knows is important but sometimes we don't know how to get started. Chair Yoga is a great place 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 8 a.m. in the Social Hall.

## HUNGER WALK

Last year the Community Christian Service Agency (CCSA) served more than 28,000 people, and distributed nearly \$1,800,000 worth of food from two locations. St. Mark's, a founding member of CCSA, has always been a strong supporter. Now CCSA needs your help again. Saturday, April 22, is CCSA's Annual Hunger Walk at DeAnza Cove. You can help by signing up on Sunday morning to pledge to support one of the many walkers from St. Mark's. More information about the walk can be found at <http://www.ccsasandiego.org>.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Are you interesting in engaging in friendly and lively study of the Bible? You are always invited to drop in on Wednesday Night Bible Study, which meets weekly from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in the New Room near the church office.