

St. Mark's Messenger

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Preserving Our Heritage, Preparing for the Future

Last Sunday morning we celebrated the culmination of the St. Mark's 2017 capital campaign, as members and friends presented their three-year pledges at the end of the service.

And, WOW! Right now, thanks to the generosity and vision of so many of you, our pledge total is 90% of the \$300,000 goal! This is very good news, and we also know that some of you have been intending to make a commitment but simply haven't gotten around to it. Help us go over the top! Please put your pledge card in the mail today, or bring it with you to church and put it in the offering. Any amount you can give will help a lot. If you need a pledge card, or want more information, please let us know!

The money raised in this campaign is over and above annual gifts to the church operating budget, and will enable us to complete a number of projects to sustain and upgrade the church's facilities. A list of these projects was mailed out a few weeks ago, and we appreciate the input and suggestions we've received--some additional projects have been suggested, as well as some possible changes in priorities.

It's exciting to think that, as soon as we reach our goal, we will begin to see repairs, improvements and upgrades. Some will be obvious, such as replacing our organ console, which will put the sanctuary organ out of commission for a few weeks later this year. We'll be researching and purchasing comfortable new chairs for our social hall, and adding an up-to-date hearing-assistance system to the sanctuary. We also hope to be noticing the absence of termites after the sanctuary is tented.

Perhaps the highest priority will be invisible to most of us, and that is the establishment of a much-more significant Major Maintenance Reserve fund. Right now, we are able to allocate \$45,000 a year to this fund, which is an increase over last year. We plan to increase this allocation each year, as much as possible. This seems like it should be adequate, but our facilities are glorious, unusual, complex, and aging, which means that these funds are regularly depleted, leaving nothing in reserve.

Right now, it is very difficult for us to cover both planned and unexpected major repairs. That's why the capital campaign includes \$75,000 to be added to our Major Maintenance Reserve fund. This amount will certainly help us sustain our facility over the longer term--especially since our finance committee and trustees have a long history of prudent resource management. In a real way, pledges to the capital campaign are direct gifts to the sustenance of the ministry of St. Mark's into the future.

Thank you for your generous, supportive, and continuing stewardship of our ministry together, as all of us "*Inspire the world as passionate followers of Jesus Christ, so that all may experience God's life-giving love.*"

See you in church!

Craig

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.

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 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

SERMON VIDEO AVAILABLE

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

EGG-CITING NEW AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

The Easter Bunny will be making an egg-stra ordinary 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.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017

PALM SUNDAY

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

"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 next 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*



COOKIE CALL!

We need cookies – lots and lots of cookies! ***This 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 Saturday, April 8, between 12 Noon and 5 p.m. Thank you for your hospitality.

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. ***This 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.

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.

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.

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?

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:

*Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 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."

♥ *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 2 was 157.

NEXT WEEK @ A GLANCE

Monday, April 10, 2017

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

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

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

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

9:30 AM Chapel Time/Sanc
9:30 AM Friendship Circle/NR
3:30 PM UMW Exec Mtg/Lib
5:00 PM Peace Ringers/SH
5:30 PM Bible Study/NR
6:00 PM Glory Ringers/SH
Youth Group/Rm.10

Thursday, April 13, 2017

7:30 AM Chair Yoga/SH
9:00 AM Chapel Time/Sanc
4:15 PM Cherub & Hallelujah Choirs/CR
5:20 PM Chimes/SH
6:30 PM Holy Thursday Service/Sanc
7:00 PM Chancel Choir
Boy Scouts/SH

Friday, April 14, 2017

6:30 PM Good Friday Service/Sanc

Saturday, April 15, 2017

9:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt/Campus
10:00 AM Lenten Art Show/Sanc

Sunday, April 16, 2017

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

HUNGER WALK

Last year the Community Christian Service Agency (CCSA) served more than 28,000 people, and distributed nearly \$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>.

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.