

THE MARKINGS

MISSION: To share the love of Jesus with and through the people of Talbot County and beyond.

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 100 PEACHBLOSSOM ROAD, EASTON, MD 21601

MARCH 2017

From Our Pastor

Will you share your email address with us? If you have an email address and it is not registered with us or if your email address has changed, would you please share it with us by emailing churchoffice@stmarkseaston.org.

We are sending this and future issues to those of you with email addresses if you have so requested. If you are interested in receiving your issues by email and have not yet requested, please contact the church office.

Greetings St. Mark's family!

While Phil and I were on vacation last week, we had a discussion about how nice it would be to live in a place where it was always sunny and warm. He said that he wouldn't miss the cold, I had to disagree with my husband on this one. I love the different seasons and how they show the beauty and promise of God's creation. It's also a reminder that we have different seasons of the soul. Springtime births faith and hope, summer is a time for maturing in our faith, the fall brings a harvest of blessings, and the winter becomes dark, cold and dreary and we wonder if our faith will be able to grow again. To me, Lent is very much like the winter time—it's a time of slowing down, being more quiet, contemplative, and repentant of the darkness in our souls. But, something miraculous happens as we move towards Easter—spring does come, hope is restored, our darkness is redeemed and faith comes alive as we experience the Risen Christ once again.



What are you going to do this Lenten season to prepare for Easter and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection? There are several opportunities to stay focused on Jesus during these 40 days. You can commit to spending a certain amount of time each day in prayer and reading God's Word. Commit to attending worship services each week as we focus on the life of Jesus. You can choose something to fast from, such as TV, your phone, or an activity that pulls you away from spending quality time with God. You might want to take on a particular ministry during this time, helping in the community or serving somewhere in the church. You can also participate in our Monday night Bible study starting on March 6th at 6:30 p.m. or attend the Wednesday mid-week communion service at noon starting on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. I want to encourage you to first pray about it, then make a plan and commit to following through with it throughout these 40 days of Lent. You will be drawn closer to Christ as He draws closer to you because the season of Spring will be here before you know it!

Blessings to you! Pastor Missy

Our Vision:

St. Mark's Church will inspire people of all ages through acts of love and service to know Jesus Christ.

Dates to remember! Shrove Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5 to 7 pm Fellowship hall see * page six

Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 12 noon Service in the Chapel

Lenten Communion Services 12 noon Chapel March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, April 12.



PRAISES AND THANKSGIVING

Bob & Judy Lawrence on their 52nd wedding anniversary, March 20.

Lee & Benita Afflerbach on their 51st wedding Anniversary, March 26.

GIFTS TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of Mrs. Nagel by Gary & Lee Royer.

NOTES OF THANKS

We wish to thank Rev. Missy, Rev. Gary Moore, & the congregation of St. Mark's Methodist Church for their visits to the hospital, phone calls, cards, prayers & well wishes that you have shown to us, during Sonny's illness.

Sonny & Mary Granger

St. Mark's Church, Thanks so much for the Christmas food basket. Liz Gay

Thank you for Christmas food basket! Barbara Rich

We would like to thank you for the Christmas basket, & for the gifts you donated to the center, which made our village Christmas party extra special. Your thoughtfulness & generosity throughout the year are greatly appreciated. Cheers, Alice & Ken Shearer

Thank you. Your kindness means so much! I want to thank Church members for their prayers & cards during my recovery from open heart surgery with a triple bypass. Also, my sincere thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the warm shawl stitched by Lois Godfrey. Ray Appler

To the staff & congregation: Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to be a part of St. Mark's staff these past 12 years. It was an ideal part-time position for me. I greatly appreciated the service & reception on Sunday & an opportunity to say goodbye to so many good friends. Everyone was very kind. So many of you gave me beautiful cards, personal notes & gifts which I will treasure — thank you very much.

I am most grateful for your friendship & the opportunity to serve. You are in my prayers.

Pastor Gil

Thank you for the many cards & prayers during my recent illness. Nettie Robinson

LET US PRAY FOR

Atria Senior Living—Harry Jordan

Heartfields—Dee Moll & Sarah Baynard

Bayleigh Chase—Lois Dabbert, Don Casson, Ted Lewers, Elva Eareckson

Homestead Manor—Shirley Syner Walker, Lee Walker

The Pines — Anita Fisher

Envoy of Denton—Eudora Fischer

Lakeside—Dave Stavely

Cadia Rehabilitation—Susan Horning

AT HOME

Sonny Granger

Chuck & Pat Moon

Colleen Sewell

Ruby Carter

Phyllis Carroll

Cathy Tull

Mort Reed

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Staff Sgt. Harold S. Brice/USMC

CPL Sarah Jane Royer Golden/USMC

P.O. 1st Class Gary B. Granger, Jr./Navy

OUR GLOBAL MISSIONS

Wings of Caring, Central Congo

Paul Lee Webster, Mujila Falls Ag Centre Zambia
Africa University, Zimbabwe

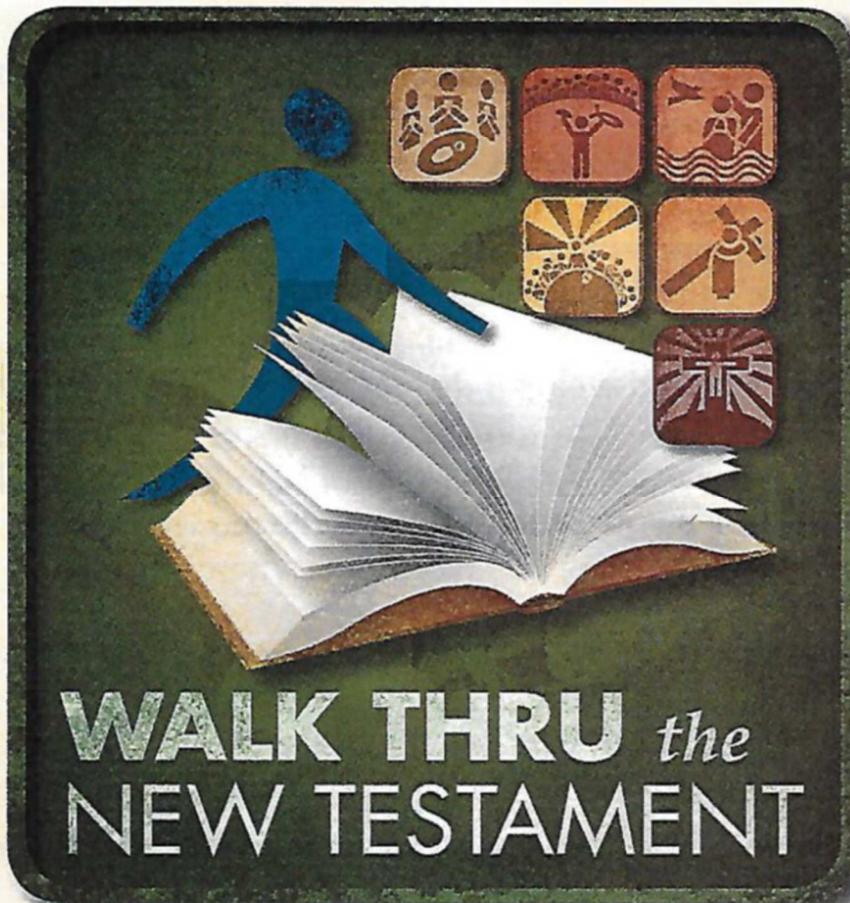
Mulungwishi Seminary scholarship

Lifetime Wells for Ghana, Kenny Wood

Six Special U.M. Sundays

African Leadership Resources, Rev. Labala

TELL ME, I'll forget.
SHOW ME, I'll remember.
INVOLVE ME, I'll understand.



WALK THRU *the* **NEW TESTAMENT**

IN ONLY A FEW **MEMORABLE** HOURS,
UNDERSTAND, LIKE NEVER BEFORE,
77 PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EVENTS
 THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE **FOREVER.**

Church Name: First Wesleyan Church

Location: 620 Goldsborough St., Easton MD

Date: Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

How to sign up: Go to www.shoremosaic.com and
 click **EVENTS** to sign up!

WALK THRU *the*
NEW TESTAMENT
 will serve as the
 kick-off event for:



**God's
 Grand
 Story** The Word.
 Your Life.

—A six-week churchwide Bible adventure!

www.walkthru.org

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

RESTORED!

Lenten Bible study: “Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess”.

Sometimes our lives are in such disarray we can't envision a way through to redemption. But when we look at the mess through the eyes of Christ, we not only find redemption, we can clearly see spiritual restoration. In this study we will reflect & meditate through our own brokenness, showing us that it is only when we focus on the cross as a place to surrender control that we can leave our mess & find true redemption. This 6-week study uses Scripture, devotionals, & the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, & others.

The class will meet on Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. beginning March 6th and ending April 10th. Sign up in the Gathering Area! Cost for the book is \$10.00.

Have you liked us on Facebook yet?

Get up to date information on what is happened in & around the church!



St. Mark's United
Methodist Church

Join us for the Ash Wednesday service on **March 1 at noon in the Chapel**. We will have a time of reflection & prayer, receiving the ashes & sharing in Holy Communion. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin the Lenten season with an attitude of repentance & thankfulness. Everyone is highly encouraged to come & spend that time with the Lord as we prepare our hearts for our 40 day Lenten journey together.



“On the
Road to the
Cross”

Come join us as we journey on the road to the cross from Ash Wednesday to Easter week, every Wednesday at noon in the Chapel. We will experience Easter through the eyes of the everyday people who witnessed the triumphal entry, saw Jesus drag his cross to Calvary, & cried through Christ's last words. Each perspective opens the door to a fresh understanding of Easter & impact on their lives and on ours.

Music Notes

The Overtones, our hand bell choir, is looking for some new members! You don't have to read music; you just have to enjoy it! We have several fine musicians in our group who would be more than glad to teach you. Please consider joining us on Wednesdays, 6:30pm in the hand bell room (1st floor, near Fellowship Hall).

St. Marks Concert Series Upcoming Concerts:

Future concert series programs include *District 5*, a woodwind quintet from Washington, DC, on March 12th; and Ismar Gomez, Cello and Wan-Chi Su, Piano on April 2nd. All programs are held at 3pm, are free of charge, and always wonderful performances. Please mark these special events on your calendar now. You don't want to miss any!

Special Music opportunities are available and I am always looking for people willing to share their artistic talents. Please contact me if you would like to present something for our very appreciative congregations.

Penny Renoll, Music Director, can be reached at:

Music Office (410) 822-0001, ext. 306

Cell (570) 690-0946

musicdirector@stmarkseaston.org

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Presents

District 5

in

"Prelude to a Waltz"

featuring original arrangements by Brahms & Chopin, as well as Hindemith's classic wind quintet



Sunday, March 12, 2017—3 P.M.

St Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 Peachblossom Road, Easton, Maryland 21601, 410-822-0001

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Talbot County Arts Council, with revenues provided by the Maryland State Arts Council



UNITED METHODIST WOMENMarch UMW Circle Meetings

Ruth: March 6th 10 am
 Bayleigh Chase
 Deborah & Mary: March 7th 10 am
 St. Mark's rm 155
 Tabitha: March 8th 7 pm
 St. Mark's rm 209
 Sarah: March 14th 7 pm
 St. Mark's Gathering Area

HAVE YOU SAVED THE DATE on your calendar for LADIES DAY APART on APRIL 25th?

This delightful & meaningful mini-retreat for Christian ladies (& their friends or neighbors) will be from

9am-3pm. It is being sponsored by our UMW & will be held at the beautiful Solitude Farm right off St. Michael's Rd.. Plan to come & give yourself (& maybe a friend) the gift of these few pleasurable hours of Christian fellowship & hearing God's message for us that day. Our main speaker will be Jackie Cruse from the Kent Island UMC healing ministry team who will speak from Scripture on "God Our Healer" & also share her personal testimony of her miraculous God given total body healing. You really don't want to miss this! **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW** & watch the next issue of The Markings & the church bulletins for the Day Apart registration forms.



**St. Mark's United Methodist Church
 United Methodist Men**

The United Methodist Men of St. Mark's United Methodist Church meet the second Tuesday of every month, except July at 6:30 pm at the Church. Our monthly agenda includes bible study & ways in which we can serve our Church membership & our adjoining community. All men in the Church are considered members & we look forward to serving the needs of all men.

We will meet again on Tuesday, March 14th.

The United Methodist Men had a successful Valentine's Luncheon at The Barn in Easton on February 12th. 17 couples took part & we had a great time. The food was very good & the fellowship was excellent. Couples had marriages ranging from 3 years to 64 years. What a testimony to God's love & our commitments to our spouses. Hope you will look to join us next year.

*** The United Methodist Men will once again sponsor the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in Fellowship Hall of the Church. Dinner will be served from 5:00 until 7:00 pm. Price is \$5.00 per adult, children 6 - 17 years old for \$3.00 & children under 6 eat free. Price for supper includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, scalloped apples & beverages**

Plan to join us for dinner on the 28th. We will be setting up Fellowship Hall for this event on Monday evening at 5:00 pm. If you can help set up it will be greatly appreciated. Kitchen clean-up will be Wednesday the 1st of March at 9:30 am.

Upcoming Events:

In April we will be going to Camp Pecometh for our annual St. Mark's cabin cleaning & repair work on Saturday, April 22nd. We will have more information about this annual program in the next Markings but mark your calendars with the date.

The United Methodist Men will once again be preparing Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 16th from 7:00 am to 10:00 am. Hugh Dawkins & his reliable "Hugh Crew" will once again be bringing out the best that breakfast has to offer. Mark your calendars for this event & please help with the set up & break down for the meal.

Grace & Peace to you!

**"TO HELP MEN GROW IN CHRIST,
 SO OTHERS MAY KNOW CHRIST"**

**A Local Mission Partner of St. Mark's Church:
Neighborhood Service Center Equips Citizens for Becoming Self-Sufficient
By Amelia Blades Steward**

For many years, St. Mark's UMC has been a community partner of The Neighborhood Service Center, Inc. (NSC) in Easton. The Neighborhood Service Center, Inc. is a non-profit Community Action Agency whose mission is to improve the quality of life both socially & economically for low-income residents in Talbot County by equipping them with the tools & potential for becoming self-sufficient. The Center began in 1968 as an off shoot of the Tri County Community Action Agency & with the vision of Dorothy W. Black, began as a small non-profit that provided not only emergency services but hope, stability & support to hundreds of families in Talbot County.

St. Mark's Mission funds are used for the Center's Emergency Service Program. Local government funding, as well as private donations & state & federal funds, allows NSC to assist low-income & elderly residents who are facing eviction &/or utility cut-offs & to provide hotel placement when needed. Customers moving into their homes for the first time can also be assisted with first month's rent. When funds are available, NSC can also help with Maryland I.D.'s, prescription medications & other emergency situations through this program.

According to Marilyn Neal, Executive Director, requests for services have increased in every area over the 49 years the Neighborhood Service Center has been operating in Talbot County. The Center serves 2000 families a year. She comments, "The Emergency Service Program tugs more at my heart than any other program – helping to prevent homelessness, keeping people healthy, & helping people keep & get jobs. Ninety-eight percent of our clients are working people who just need a hand up."

She adds, "St. Mark's funds have been a blessing to the Center – a stabilizing source of funding for us. The church has also helped us to connect to other agencies in the community through their annual event."

Unlike other local service providers, The Neighborhood Service Center serves the total family. NSC's focus is to promote self-sufficiency, not dependency. With other community partners, NSC can provide its low-income residents the right mix of assistance, encouragement & incentives to become self-sufficient.

The Center is located at 126 Port Street in Easton. The Dorothy W. Black Youth Center, located on the second floor of 126 Port Street, provides an **After School & Summer Program** for youth ages five through twelve. The Center also has other programs in place to help the citizens of Talbot County, including an **Emergency Food Pantry**, a **Summer Youth Program**, the **Maryland Energy Assistance Program**, the **Electric Universal Service Program**, a **Rental Allowance Program**, & a **Representative Payee Program**.

The Center's Ridgeway House Transitional Shelter is located at 120 North Aurora Street & provides a 90-day stay for homeless individuals. Residents here are assisted by case management – helping them to find jobs & permanent living arrangements. In September 2016, a 28-room low-income rental property at 36 West Street in Easton, MD was donated to the Neighborhood Service Center by Gregory Webb. The Center is currently seeking civic & faith-based organizations & businesses to adopt a room in the building or a part of a room to help with its renovations & furnishings.

The Neighborhood Service Center accepts donations of furniture, clothing, household items & food from local residents, organizations & businesses. For further information about the Neighborhood Service Center, visit nsctalbotmd.org or call Marilyn Neal at 410-822-5015



People are waiting in line for the Neighborhood Service Center's food pantry & daily clothing giveaway.

Financial Report for 2016 & 2017 Budget

2016 was a successful year for St Mark's both spiritually and financially. The financial results can be attributed to the "Fearless Generosity" of our members and supporters, as well as improvement in the financial market in which our funds are invested. The 2017 budget forecasts both lower revenue and expenses because of three factors. In 2016 we had one very generous donation to support last year's budget, we withdrew \$72,873 from investments and the year included an extra ordinary amount of building maintenance.

Significant progress was made in paying down our debt; however \$191,000 of that pay down was the result of the sale of 510 Trippe Ave. We are now at the point where more than 50% of each monthly payment goes to loan principle.

Last I would like to highlight the great work of our missions committee. Our members have generously contributed almost \$60,000 over and above funds needed to fund our operating budget. In addition the Thrift Shop has provided approximately \$25,000 in profit for missions. The Thrift Shop provides many families with low cost clothing and household items so serves as a mission project itself.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and financial support for St Mark's!!!!

Brad Watts, Chair - Finance Committee & Hugh Dawkins, Chair – Administrative Board

2016 Operating & Trustees		2017 Operating & Trustees Budget	
Income	\$606,098	Income	\$556,388
Expenses	\$614,475	Expenses	\$588,092
Shortfall	-\$8,377	Shortfall	-\$31,704
Transfer from Endowment	\$72,250	Transfer from Endowment	\$39,600
Surplus	\$63,873	Surplus	\$7,896
2016 Missions Contributions		Loan Fund Balance	
	\$59,190	Beginning Loan Balance	\$1,210,077
Net From Thrift Shop	\$24,779	Regular Debt Service	
Total Income	\$83,969	Pmts	\$101,436
Mission Support	\$80,639	Gifts Directly To Principal	\$24,265
Carryover	\$3,330	Total contributions	\$125,701
		Interest Expense	\$44,402
		Proceeds from 510 Trippe	\$191,000
		2016 Ending Loan Balance	\$937,968
		2016 Debt Reduction	\$263,109
Investments			
2016 Beginning Balance	\$1,686,901		
2016 Ending Balance	\$1,869,659		
Net Gain Before any Disbursement for operations.-	\$182,758		



Pastor Missy leading a class on Spiritual Gifts.



Men's St. Mark's Walk to Emmaus monthly breakfast group a time for sharing & experiencing life's ups & downs together!

St. Mark's Walk To Emmaus & Chrysalis Fourth Day Groups Present:

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED AT CHURCH – HUMOROUS MOMENTS IN 55 YEARS OF MINISTRY

PRESENTED BY: REV. DR. JACK GIGUERE

Everyone Welcome – Free Event

Donations will benefit the St. Mark's Youth Mission Trip

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

3:00PM – REFRESHMENTS IN THE GATHERING AREA

3:30PM – FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHAPEL – SONGS FOR THE SOUL

4:00PM – REV., DR. JACK GIGUERE'S PRESENTATION

5:00PM – CLOSING SONG

A funny thing happened at church!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

“Hugs from St. Marks”

This ministry began just a few short years ago knitting & crocheting shawls & lap robes. In that short time we have stitched over 500 wraps & ‘gifts of love.’ These gifts include hats for our military, teddy bears & blankets for baptisms & sick children, blankets for the hospital for heaven born babies, lap robes for our veterans, chemo caps, & hats for the homeless. Our ministry keeps growing in both production & membership. The yarn is provided by our members, with an occasional gift now & then. As they are stitched, & after these gifts of love are completed, they are prayed over & tagged with a prayer card from St. Mark’s.

We need your help! How (?) you might ask. There is no way just a few of us can know all the people out there who would benefit from our ministry. We need your help getting our shawls & lap robes to the folks who “need a hug.” Perhaps they are ill, having surgery, lost a family member, or going through a rough time. All you have to do is contact Ann Yingling, Carole Shadle, or come to the church office to sign one out. There is a list for you to add information to as you choose your shawl or lap robe.

Our ‘hugs’ have reached far & wide—from Easton to across the seas. Please help us continue to share the love of Christ with all God’s children in ‘Talbot County & beyond.’



COFFEE + SNACKS + FRIENDS = FUN FELLOWSHIP!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who have served as hostesses for our Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship. This is such a great time for everyone to come together between services and enjoy conversation. Please consider becoming a part of this ministry! We would like the help of new volunteers, in addition to those who have been serving for years. Easy guidelines are provided. You can be as creative as you like! There will be a sign up sheet in the Gathering Area so volunteers can choose the Sunday they want to serve for the months of April and May, before we switch to our summer schedule. You can also call the office to volunteer. Thank you!



March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ladies Circle Meetings on Page 6		Feb 28 Shrove Tuesday FSH	1 Ash Wednesday 12 noon 6:30 Handbells	2 6:30 Disciple 2 7p Chancel Choir	3	4
5 Communion 2p Youth Group	6 6:30p Restored Con. Rm.	7	8 12p Lenten Communion 6:30p Handbells	9 6:30 Disciple 2 7p Chancel Choir	10	11
12 2p Youth Group	13 6:30p Restored Con. Rm.	14	15 12p Lenten Communion 1p Prayer Shawl 155 6:30p Handbells	16 6:30 Disciple 2 7p Chancel Choir	17	18
19 2p Youth Group 4p Drum Circle	20 6p Consider the Conversation FSH 6:30p Restored Con. Rm.	21	22 12p Lenten Communion 6:30p Handbells	23 6:30 Disciple 2 7p Chancel Choir	24	25
26 2p Youth Group	27 6:30p Restored Con. Rm.	28 6:30p Trustees	29 12p Lenten Communion 6:30p Handbells	30 1:00p Disciple 4 6:30 Disciple 2 7p Chancel Choir	31	

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY

8:15am (Chapel)
9:00 am Youth Choir 3rd & 4th Sundays
9:30 & 11:00am (Sanctuary) Worship Services
9:30am Sunday school for all ages
9:15-11:00am Coffee Fellowship (Gathering Area)
6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group

THURSDAY

7:00 pm Chancel Choir
Disciple 1 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

10:30am Prayer Group in chapel
6:30 Overtones

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
100 Peachblossom Road
Easton, MD 21601

**RETURN SERVICE
 REQUESTED**

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT NO. 239

Staff

Rev. Missy Rekitzke, Pastor

Rev. Gary L. Moore, Minister of Visitation

Sarah Ewing, Pre-School Director

Penny Renoll, Director of Music

Dr. William F. Wharton, Organist

Ellen Barry Grunden, 9:30 Music Director

**Brooke Christensen, 9:30 Worship Leader &
 Youth Director**

Karen Reed, Office Manager

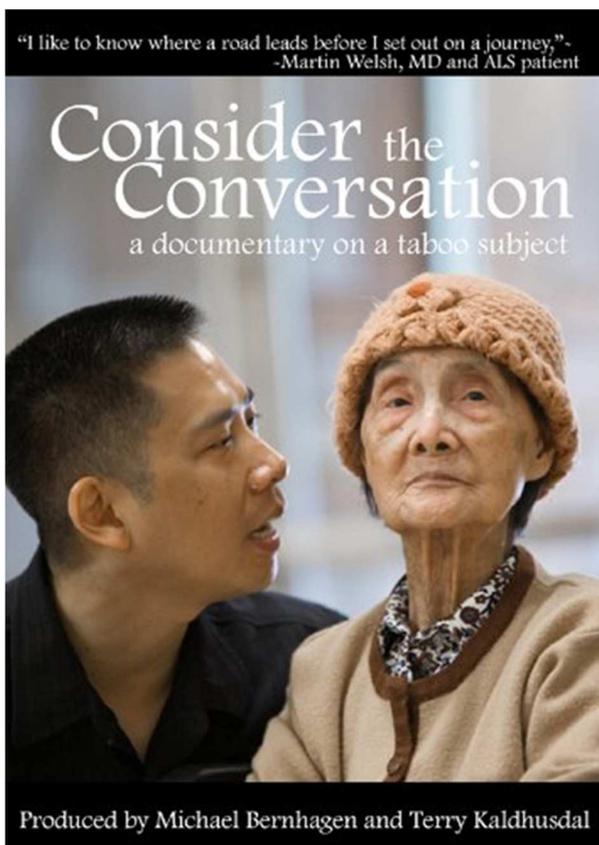
Christina Kinnimon, Bookkeeper

Bill Gunther, Building Superintendent

Phone: 410-822-0001

Fax: 410-822-0002

Email: churchoffice@stmarkseaston.org



CONSIDER THE CONVERSATION. This film addresses the often difficult topic of death and dying and the importance of advance care planning. The documentary will be shown at **St. Mark's UMC, 100 Peachblossom Road, Easton, on Monday, March 20, 2017 6-8 pm** in Fellowship hall. After the showing there will be a Q & A session with Talbot Hospice Staff. **FREE EVENT** for those 18 years or older. You are encouraged to bring your Health Care Agent or POA.

Register to attend by calling the church office 410-822-0001, or emailing kreed@stmarkseaston.org. You can also sign up in the Gathering space.