

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

OCTOBER 2017

A NOTE 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.

September has flown by with a big flurry. As I reflect on this whirlwind month I am reminded that in the midst of our everyday lives, God is always there. As we watched the devastation that Hurricane Harvey and Irma brought, then Jose and Maria, we have also seen the resiliency and goodness of our neighbors. People helping people, no matter what, no matter their political, economic or racial differences. People coming together, realizing that we're all in this together!

This is how the church is supposed to be, people coming together, in spite of differences, working together for the common goal, to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ and to transform the world with God's grace and love through acts of mercy, compassion and justice. Each of us has a role to play in God's great commission. Ask yourself today, what am I doing personally to bring people to Christ? What am I doing to tangibly show the love of Jesus Christ to my neighbors? What can we do as a church to more effectively reach out into our community with the good news of Jesus Christ? How can we seek justice for those without a voice? Are we doing ALL that we can to be servants to all and followers of One? There is no greater force than a group of people who have the same goal and purpose, who want to work together to bring about something that none could do on their own. That is the body of Christ! May we prayerfully and joyfully join with one another to be the church that God has called us to be!

Pastor Missy



Our Vision:

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

UMW Open House October 2, 2017 7p to 8p Gathering space

UMW Fall Lunch October 17, 2017 12 noon Fellowship hall

Operation Christmas Child Kick-off October 22, 2017

Dr. Bill's Organ Recital October 22, 2017 3:00 p.m.

GIFTS IN HONOR of Frank & Betty Meyerle's 50th wedding anniversary by Steve & Gretchen Scherping.

GIFTS TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN MEMORY OF

Parke Hahn by Diane & Jay Nave, David & Sara Bent, Chris Young, Gary & Lee Royer, William Duncan, Charles & Beatrice Broll, Reinhardt & Karen Sahmel, Phil & Jen Eames, Ray & Barb Kraeer & Geoffrey & Lee Ann Fox

Melvin Clarke by Jim & Sheila Scott.

THANK YOU Dear Karen, On behalf of Mid Shore Lyme Disease Association thank you so much to you and to St. Mark's United Methodist Church for allowing us to hold our meetings at the church again this year.

Sincerely, Linda Reilly

Dear St. Mark's, Thank you so much for supporting me and my goals of higher education. It is only thanks to organizations like you that I am able to pursue my dream of becoming a cybersecurity specialist. Again, thank you so much for your generous scholarship!

Best Wishes, Marie McCulley

St. Mark's members & friends, What a special celebration you gave me on Sunday, September, 17, 2017! So many accolades, generous gifts, meaningful cards & well-wishes were presented. And there was the most creative gift—a commissioned organ works, based on Hymn #68—"When in Our Music God is Glorified", by Mark A. Miller, who is currently a faculty member at Drew Theological School & the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. What a challenge it will be for me to master this wonderful piece to play for you later this Fall, hopefully on Christ the King Sunday, November 26th.

Many thanks go out to the organizing committee, church leaders, & volunteers who helped with the communications & so many other details. Blessings to all of you! Fondly—Bill Wharton, St. Mark's Organist (for a long time so far.....)

LET US PRAY FOR

Bayleigh Chase, Marvel Hall — Gloria Lindquist
Atria Senior Living— Harry Jordan
In Home Hospice— Dan Whitzel
Bayleigh Chase— Gardens Audrey Woolston, Lois Dabbert, Don Casson, Ted Lewers, Elva Eareckson
Homestead Manor— Lee Walker
Envoy of Denton— Eudora Fischer
Lakeside— Dave Stavely
Cadia Rehabilitation— Susan Horning

AT HOME

Mary Rabenhorst	Sonny Granger
Dan Pritchett	JoSue Simpson
Chuck & Pat Moon	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. 2nd Class Gary B. Granger, Jr./Navy
 1st Lieutenant Jacob Shores/ U.S. Army

OUR GLOBAL MISSIONS

Wings of Caring, Central Congo
 Paul Lee Webster, Mujila Falls Ag Centre Zambia
 Africa University, Zimbabwe
 Mulungwishi Seminary scholarship
 Lifetime Wells International, Kenny Wood
 Six Special U.M. Sundays
 African Leadership Resources, Rev. Labala

October is

Shhh!!

Don't tell

Pastor Missy!

Instead show her your

appreciation in anyway that you can!





Holiday Food Baskets for St. Mark's Village

The brown bags to be filled for the Thanksgiving & Christmas holiday baskets will be placed in 2 area of the Gathering Space on Sunday, September 10th.

Please grab one & return the bag with the items listed. We need them no later than Sunday, November 12th.

The residents of St. Mark's Village look forward to receiving a basket. Thank you, Lee Royer, Missions Committee

SAVE THE DATE! OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD KICK OFF WILL BE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017



Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Mission

Please join us in blessing a needy child by packing a shoebox with small toys, school supplies & hygiene items & bring your filled boxes to the church on or before November 12. Wrap the box with Christmas paper if you can (top & bottom separately or wrapped so the top can still be open. We have red & green boxes available for you at 50 cents each. These boxes do not need to be wrapped.

BAD NEWS GOOD NEWS

The Interfaith Hunger Coalition

The bad news is we have far too many community members who do not have enough food to eat; the good news is St. Mark's is helping to solve this terrible problem.

In 2005 a group of churches under the umbrella of the Interfaith Hunger Coalition came together with a plan to provide lunches to a maximum of 100 people every Wednesday. Each faith group is responsible for preparing and delivering these lunches. The people who receive the lunches are referred to the program by churches, Talbot County Health Dept, Social Services, St. Mark's Village or individuals. There are no financial barriers to this program.

This food program originated at Asbury Methodist Church with a "soup day" and expanded to include 10 other Faith Communities enabling it to become a year round program.

Because of the extreme generosity of St. Mark's members we can gratefully say all of the food for this mission program has been donated, prepared & delivered for the past 12 years to those in need at no expense to the our Church.

This is a remarkable testimony of stewardship, love & concern for others. This is also an invitation for you to be a part of this important Mission program that touches the lives of your neighbors who need your help.

If you would like to help by donating sandwiches, dessert or fruit your name will be place on a list (you will not be called often) & you will be called by one of the monthly chairpersons listed below.

Hannah Alnutt, Gabby Nowak, Evelyn Graybeal, JoAnna Thomas, Millie Parrott, Frances Gosser, Judy Coffren, Polly Watts, Claudia Knox, Betty Wheedleton, Betty Todd, Robin Nowak



Save the Date! October 17, 2017

It's time for St. Mark's UMW Fall Salad Luncheon!

Bring a salad to share! Rolls, Dessert and Beverages provided.

Speaker: Mandy Cecil

"Trials and Faith"

Reservations being accepted now:

\$3 per person, please sign up by 10/13/17.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Guest: _____

Drop off or mail to church office. Questions: see June Billman.

St. Mark's Church

100 Peachblossom Road

Easton, MD 21601

Share the gift of Hospitality!

Having the congregation come together between services in the Gathering Area for light snacks and coffee has been a wonderful time of Fellowship at St. Mark's.

Let's continue this tradition in the fall! The coffee will be prepared; we need snacks and servers. In order to get more people involved, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area starting September 10th.

Guidelines will also be available. It's fun and easy. Please talk to some friends and come together to cover a Sunday or two. If you have any questions, (or you are ready to sign up now!) please contact me via email kmiller@stmarkseaston.org or leave me a phone message at 410-822-0001 ext. 308

Music Notes

What an exciting day of celebration we had on Sept. 17th for our own Dr. Bill Wharton who celebrated his 50th year at St. Mark's. What an accomplishment! Thanks to everyone who participated in our music. It was such a great way to give well deserved accolades to such a key person in our church. We were so happy to see so many join our Chancel Choir as we sang in celebration for this special event. Thank you for coming out and lending your voices, and please know that you are always welcome to join us at any time. Chancel Choir meets on Thursdays at 6:30pm. Please consider singing with us again!

The Overtones, our handbell choir, is looking for players! If you would like to give it a try please come to one of our Tuesday night rehearsals at 6:30pm in the bell room, first floor, near fellowship hall. We look forward to welcoming you!

Youth Choir is about to start. Please look for fliers that will be distributed to the Sunday School classes. Anyone who would like to sing is welcome to join.

The **St. Marks Concert Series** is becoming finalized, with a couple more slots to fill. Please call or email me if you know of someone (or an ensemble) who would be willing to present a program. I am specifically looking at November or March dates.

Dr. Wharton will present his annual organ recital on Oct. 22nd at 3pm, featuring and celebrating music influenced by the Reformation begun by Martin Luther in 1517. You don't want to miss this one!

The Mid Shore Community Band, will again play delightful holiday selections following our Christmas Dinner at 6:30pm on Dec. 3rd.

Also scheduled is the biennial Chesapeake Chamber Competition on April 8th, which will feature a group chosen from the event's finalists. These are high caliber artists who come from all areas of the country.

Please plan to attend all or any of these programs. They are free of charge and are always wonderful performances.

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



UMW October Circle Meetings:

Deborah Circle: October 3, 2017 9:30 am
Mary Granger 6400 Neavitt Manor Road, Neavitt, MD

Mary Circle: October 3, 2017 10am
Joanna Thomas 28187 Hemmersley St. Easton

Ruth Circle: October 2, 2017 10 am
Bayleigh Chase

Sarah Circle: October 10, 2017 7 pm
St. Mark's Gathering Space

Tabitha Circle: October 2, 2017 7 pm
St Mark's Rm. 209



Attention all women, St. Mark's UMW
Is Hosting an Open House!

October 2, 2017

7 – 8 pm

Gathering Area

Come out, learn about United Methodist
Women & have a time of fellowship

Open to all ladies,
circle members are also encouraged to
attend

Any questions call:
Ruth Higgins
410-924-4175

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 and ways in which we can serve our Church membership and our adjoining community. All men in the Church are considered members and we look forward to serving the needs of all men. We will meet again on Tuesday, October 10th.

We have received our permit for food service during the Waterfowl Festival, November 10 – 12, 2017. Our famous Rockfish Corn Chowder will once again be the highlight of the kitchen as well as serving our oyster fritters. The plan is to set-up on Thursday, November 9th at 10:00 am and break down everything on Sunday the 12th after 3:00 pm. This way our tables and chairs are not left out another night in the elements. We will need help to make all of this happen so please mark November 9 – 12 on your calendars to work the festival.

We are exploring ways to partner in faith and practice with our sister churches in the area, Asbury UMC and Scott's UMC in Trappe. An opportunity is presenting itself to commune more directly with our brothers in these charges so keep tuned as we explore areas of ministry and interaction with our brothers in Christ.

If you are a man of faith and want to help us in our mission of serving Christ and others, we would love to have you join us. Send me an email to earecksonr@yahoo.com and I will put you on our email list. You don't have to attend our meetings to be involved. We are active and alive for Christ. Come and be a part of our group.

Grace and Peace to you!

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

NEWS FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

UMCOR US Disaster Responses: The original response was for those impacted in Texas by Hurricane Harvey and as of September 10th, St. Mark's has collected \$3,315. for this relief. Then along came Hurricane Irma that hit Florida. If you want to donate specifically for that disaster, indicate this on your check's memo line.

In addition, our mission committee is also providing an opportunity to assemble hygiene kits for disaster relief. I have put together a sample kit/bag, which I was able to assemble for less than the \$12.00 UMCOR says, by shopping at Dollar Tree & Walmart. I have started plastic gallon bags with the material lists inside to help those who would like to participate in this project. These are in a box in the gathering area.

In addition to the bag & list, you will need the following UMCOR hygiene kit packaging instructions:

-All items must be new and not washed.

-It is important that each kit contain only the requested items, no notes or additional items.

-Lay out the hand towel flat on table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

-UMCOR uses the \$1.00 from each kit to purchase toothpaste in bulk to be added to hygiene kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.

Presentation of Donations Program The annual Presentation of Donations Program will be held on October 16th at 10am in room 155. At that time we will be presenting checks totaling \$38,500 to our 20 Local Mission Partners and receiving brief updates from them. Everyone is invited to attend this program to learn more about these agencies that our church supports.

World Communion Sunday In the United Methodist Church, there are six special Sundays. Through St. Mark's mission fund, our church makes a small donation to each when it occurs each year.

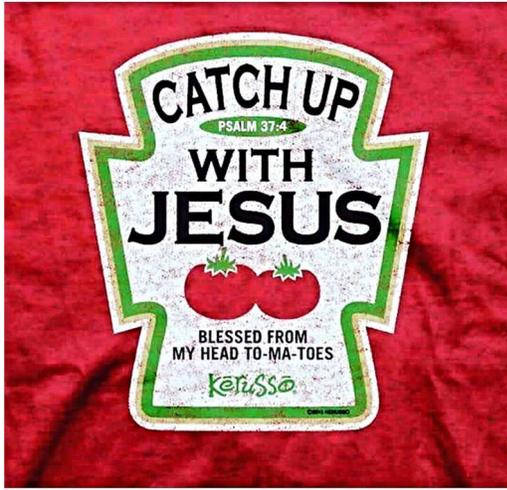
World Communion Sunday is one of these and is celebrated each year on the 1st Sunday in October. Donations here provide scholarships for U. S. racial and ethnic minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels to help change the world. There are copies of a small brochure concerning World Communion Sunday in the gathering area.

Mission Committee Along with Pastor Missy, the following people currently serve on the committee: Audrey Brown, Gladys Makovsky, Claire Rekitzke, Lee Royer, Steve Radis, Sheila Scott, and Eric Steward. Della Andrew & Nancy Harrison are the co-chairs. We appreciate the many years of service represented by these members and are pleased to welcome Judy Leight and Becky Skinner to the committee in 2018.

By the time this newsletter goes out, the committee will have met on September 25th to review the Mission, Thrift Shop, and Needy Funds, finalize the local & foreign mission donations for 2017, and to receive & discuss the mission's various projects. As always, it has been a busy year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year's Sunday School theme is "Catch-Up with Jesus" & all students will sit with their families at the beginning of the 9:30 service. There will be a short children's devotional, then students will go to their Sunday School classrooms. This will give our youth a chance to experience & participate in Sanctuary worship with their families....lettuce praise & relish Him!



"A child shall lead them..... "Washing the feet of Jesus".

12 Ways Sunday School Benefits The Children

1. It promotes their eternal happiness. Children find indestructible joy in Christ.
2. It helps them make sense out of life. Only understanding who made the world, what went wrong and God's plan to fix it can explain this world we all experience.
3. It's their best chance to accept Christ. Research has proven that kids tend to be more receptive to the Gospel than any other age group. We want children to have every opportunity to believe in Jesus.
4. It helps avoid some negative outcomes of sin. Only God's grace can change our hearts, but knowing the consequences of disobeying God is often a wake up call and can lead children to stay on the way of the righteous.
5. It can help counter balance worldly influences. Everyone knows the harmful influences present in our society. Kids need positive influences to tip the scale.
6. It can help them learn to love others. The 2nd greatest commandment is to love your neighbor. We must teach this as a way of life, because it doesn't come naturally.
7. It is something fun to do. Do you know who invented fun? God did. Do you know why? For his own glory. We should not think God is against fun.
8. It helps kids want to come to church. There is nothing wrong with having a program that appeals to the interests of children, especially when it brings more children to hear the Gospel.
9. It helps them make new friends. Some of the best ones children will ever make is in the church.
10. It gives kids meaningful keepsakes. The Bible verses on their keepsakes will remind them of what they have learned for years to come.
11. It gives children special memories. Think back to when you were a child in Sunday school. Can you remember a special teacher or event?
12. It allows them to make friends with adult volunteers in safe context. In our culture child safety is a constant concern, and rightly so. But there is still great value in kids finding adult mentors in the church.

October Markings 2017

“Let the Children Come...”

St. Mark's Preschool is in full swing, getting ready for the start of the new school year. Classes started week of September 4th for our students. We have 6 returning teachers this year with 3 new assistant teachers. We currently have 52 students enrolled. We still have 1 opening in our M/W 2 year old program, & 3 openings in our 4 year old program. (Don't forget active church members receive a 10% discount on tuition.)

As always, we encourage more involvement of our church members in our school. *We are always in need of substitutes*, but we also love having visitors from our community share their talents with us. Past visitors have included a Dental Hygienist, Commander of the VFW & a Fire Fighter! You do not have to have a child or grandchild in our school to help out! Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering. Contact me for more information!

Volunteering to substitute in class not your “cup of tea?” Please consider becoming a member of the 2017-2018 Shepherd's Club. The cost of becoming a member is \$100 & you will find your name listed on our website with other contributing members. The Shepherd's Club assists our school in providing the “extras” for our students such as field trips, at no additional cost to our families. Last year we were able to have the “Juggling Hoffman's” visit & we were able to send our three & four year old classes to the pumpkin patch. In the past the Shepherd's Club has also allowed us to maintain our playground & buy new furniture & learning toys for our classrooms. The Shepherd's Club is an opportunity to help “shepherd” the flock of our communities' children. You may place your donation in the weekly offering plate, in the black box outside the preschool office door or you may give the donation directly to Karen Reed or Christina Kinnamon in the church office. Please note on the check or envelope that the money is for the Shepherd's Club.

Please contact me with any questions! Thank you so much for your generous donations & support. We are looking forward to another outstanding year!

Sarah Ewing, St. Mark's Preschool Director



SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION OF: “MATTHEW”

DATE: NOVEMBER 8TH AND 15TH

TIME: 1:00 AND 6:30

LOCATION:

6:30PM SHOWING IN THE SANCTUARY; 1:00 SHOWING IN THE PARLOR
ST MARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The video presentation of Matthew is an opportunity to go through the complete book and experience the background and preparation of the ministry of Christ to His triumphal victory over death.

The showings will be offered at two times to split the video showing in half. The first half will be shown on the 8th and the second half will be shown on the 15th.

Come, bring a friend, or just be blessed as you relax for a time that will allow you to feel the love of Christ!



DALE WHITZEL

Our new full-time Director of Christian Education, Dale Whitzel, returns to the Eastern Shore after living and working in Texas for 25 years. Dale was born in Baltimore and graduated from Parkville High School. After high school he served in the U.S. Navy in the Medical Corps, stationed in San Diego, North Carolina, and Hawaii and aboard the USS Harold E. Holt.

Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Dale studied acting at Chabot College in CA before moving to the Eastern Shore in 1983. He graduated from Chesapeake College and then went on to earn his B.A. in Communications from Salisbury University. He was Director of Children's Theatre at Salisbury U. and was Guest Artist for Children's Programs at the Academy of the Arts in Easton. In 1990, Dale was awarded the Governor's Citation of Excellence for work with youth in Easton. He also managed Deziner's Hair Studio in Easton from 1987-91.

While in TX, Dale earned his Master's in Education from the University of TX and taught English and Theater in various schools in the Rio Grande Valley. He was Teacher of the Year in his school districts in '96, '08 and '09 and a finalist for TX State Teacher of the Year in '96. He was listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers in '99, '05, and '06.

While dedicated to teaching, Dale's other passions include Kairos, a national prison ministry, with which he was very active in TX and intends to resume here in MD. Also, Bikers for Christ, a motorcycle ministry, is something he is devoted to, being a founding member of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter. Dale has been active in the Chrysalis and Walk to Emmaus groups and as a certified volunteer chaplain for the TX Dept. of Criminal Justice.

Dale's parents, Dan and Beverly, have been members of St. Mark's for 32 years. His brother Jeff and wife Tracey and sister Pam Showacre are also members. We welcome Dale to our staff in this critical role for our church. Please be open to his requests for help in the Christian Education ministry.



DAVID CHERRY

The new Music Director for our 9:30 Service is Easton native, David Cherry. David's family owned Cherry's Store on W. Dover Street, an Easton institution for 81 years until closing in 2007. David worked there for 15 years alongside his father Mike.

David attended Country School from pre K-5th grade, Salisbury School for 6th-8th grade, and graduated from J. M. Bennett Senior High School in Salisbury. He is also a Salisbury University graduate, with a B.A. in Education, as well as holding a M.A. from UMBC in STEM.

Karla (Wieland), his wife, is a real estate agent with Long and Foster. Their family is completed by Katelynn, 16, whose lovely soprano voice has enhanced our services many times, and Joshua, 15, who is busy with Boy Scouts and 4-H.

David's love for music and other performing arts has found him performing in such venues as Parker Playhouse Community Players in the late '80s and early 90s and currently the Tred Avon Players in Oxford. He has had starring roles in South Pacific, The Fantastics, and Fiddler on the Roof, as well as roles throughout college.

As our 9:30 Music Director, David will be utilizing his 20 years of piano studies and 4 years of Voice and Music Theory studies. He has also taught private piano students. David has performed with the Salisbury University Choir, the modern rock band Spin Cycle, Asbury United Methodist Church and St. Mark's United Methodist Church. For the past 11 years, he has taught at Matapeake Elementary School on Kent Island.

David's goal for his new position is to encourage faithful worship of God through the incorporation of music and dance. Welcome, David, to our staff!



October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ladies Circle Meetings on Page 6						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Youth Group 2-4 pm	UMW Open House 7p to 8p Gathering Space	6:30p Disciple I 6:30p Overtones		6:30p Disciple 3 6:30p Chancel Choir		UMW District 9a to 1 p FSH
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Communion Sunday Youth Rally registrations due!		6:30p Overtones 6:30p Disciple I	12p Prayer Shawl MD office	6:30 Disciple 3 6:30p Chancel Choir		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Presentation of Donations 10 am Rm 155	9:30a UMW UMW Fall Lunch 6:30p Overtones 6:30 Disciple 1	Markings deadline	6:30 Disciple 3 6:30p Chancel Choir		
22 Youth Group!	23	24	25	26	27	28
Operation Christmas Child Kickoff 7:30a Jubilee Choir 3p Dr. Bill's concert		6:30p Overtones 6:30 p Trustees 6:30 Disciple 1		Markings mailed 6:30 Disciple 3 6:30p Chancel Choir		Trunk or Treat Parking lot 3p to 4p
29	30	31				
Sunday school 9:30 One Service at 10:30a						

Weekly Fall Schedule

SUNDAY

8:15am Worship Chapel
9:30 am Worship Sanctuary
9:30 am Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am Worship Services Sanctuary

TUESDAY

6:30 pm Overtones

WEDNESDAY

10:30am Prayer Group in chapel

THURSDAY

6:30 pm Chancel Choir

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

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RETURN SERVICE
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Staff

Rev. Missy Rekitzke, Pastor

Rev. Gary L. Moore, Minister of Visitation

Dale Whitzel, Director of Christian Ed

Sarah Ewing, Pre-School Director

Penny Renoll, Director of Music

Dr. William F. Wharton, Organist

David Cherry, 9:30 Music Director

Brooke Christensen, 9:30 Worship Leader &
 Youth Director

Karen Reed, Church Administrator

Christina Kinnimon, Bookkeeper

Bill Gunther, Building Superintendent

Phone: 410-822-0001

Fax: 410-822-0002

Email: churchoffice@stmarkseaston.org



Help for victims of Hurricane Harvey from UMCOR:

As you have witnessed on TV, much of southern Texas and parts of Louisiana have been devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Please be in prayer for those whose lives have been impacted by this disaster. If you would like to do something to support the work of UMCOR as it responds to this and other disasters in the US, I encourage you to help financially at this time. Please write your check to St. Mark's with UMCOR US Disaster Response/Texas in the memo line. Thank you for giving from your heart so that others may know that we care!

CARE PACKS

In Genesis 12: 2 God tells Abram that he will bless him & in turn, Abram is to be a blessing to others. For several years St. Marks has been a blessing to Easton area school children who live in food insecure homes. On Fridays those children go home with backpacks of food that has been donated. The children in need are identified by school staff such as teachers, counselors, nurses & others, as having an inadequate food supply in their homes. And so they are given the Care Packs to help sustain them on weekends.

At the front door of the church near the office is a large box to receive donated food. There is a list of recommended food items that can be donated. Those items include cracker packs, individual servings of fruit, applesauce, pudding, cereals & pasta dishes. When the donations are received in the box, a member of the Mission Committee takes them to Easton Elementary School. From there a member of the school staff takes them off campus where volunteers pack the food items in the Care Packs. They are then returned to the school for distribution. It seems so easy to be a blessing and it is. Making donations makes a difference in the lives of local children. What a blessing St. Marks is to our local community. Thank you on behalf of the Mission Committee.