

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

DECEMBER 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.

We have always had a “rule” in our house that NO Christmas decorations are to go up until after Thanksgiving. That doesn’t mean that I haven’t rushed my family through Thanksgiving dinner just so I could start bringing down the decorations from the attic! I have always loved the Christmas season, from the lights to the music, to all the sappy Hallmark movies. But over the years I’ve become most excited about preaching and teaching about the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. God knew exactly what we needed when he gave us his greatest gift, his one and only Son. Each Christmas we get to unwrap that precious gift and experience his love and grace all over again.

So, Christmas is really about gifts, not the ones we go out and buy and wrap and then HOPE that someone likes. I’m talking about gifts that will have a lasting impact, ones that people we love will remember for a long time. What are the true gifts of Christmas that we can pass on to others? How about giving the gift of **time**? Is there someone in your life that you’ve been neglecting? Giving them the gift of uninterrupted, unhurried time is priceless! How about the gift of **kindness**? The Christmas rush can cause us to become irritable, harsh and thoughtless. As we overcome those emotions with kindness towards others, they can see the love and kindness of Christ through our actions. We can also give the gift of **encouragement**. Wouldn’t it be great if all of us had the ability to encourage one another when we’re down or disheartened? And finally **love** is the most precious gift we can give. When we love others, we are showing our love for the Christ Child born so long ago. As we have received this incredible gift of love, we are called to pass it on. Time, kindness, encouragement and love. These are gifts that always fit and will last long after the season is over.

Blessings to you and your family this Christmas! Pastor Missy

Our Vision:

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



Join us for A Night In Bethlehem Saturday, December 9th 4pm—6pm

**Christmas Cantata “Born a Savior, Born a King” Sunday, December 17th
at the 9:30 & 11 am worship services. *8:15 no service**

PRAISES AND THANKSGIVING

Jane Barton, 309 Elm St., on her birthday, Dec. 1

Frank & Eleanor Polkinghorn, 9187 High Banks Dr. on their 59th wedding anniversary.

Jim & Wanda Denny, 308 Mount Pleasant, on their 63nd wedding anniversary.

Bob Gosser, 7099 Traveler's Rest Cir., on his birthday, January 8th.

Harry Jordan, #107 1110 Healthway Dr., Salisbury, MD 21804, on his birthday, January 21st.

John Wolcott, 29829 Hillary Ave., on his birthday, January 26th

GIFTS TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN MEMORY OF Revell "Jack" Taylor by Ralph & Margaret Hollingshead & Brantley Hart, Jr.

IN MEMORY OF Charles Howard Sprinkle, father of Betty Barwick by The Koinonia Class.

THANK YOU During a time like this we realize how much our friends & relatives really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. The Powell Family

Dear Friends & Prayer Shawl members, Many thanks for all of your prayers, phone calls, cards & my prayer shawl. It has meant so much. I am recovering & hope to be back at church before too long. Again many thanks, Pat Visgaitis

Christmas is LOVE
in action!

LET US PRAY FOR

Talbot Hospice—Sonny Granger

The Pines—Pat (Charlotte) Higgins

Bayleigh Chase, Marvel Hall — Audrey Woolston

Atria Senior Living—Harry Jordan

Bayleigh Chase—Gardens, Gloria Lindquist. 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

Jack Brodie
JoSue Simpson
Ruby Carter
Cathy Tull

Dan Pritchett
Chuck & Pat Moon
Phyllis Carroll

**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

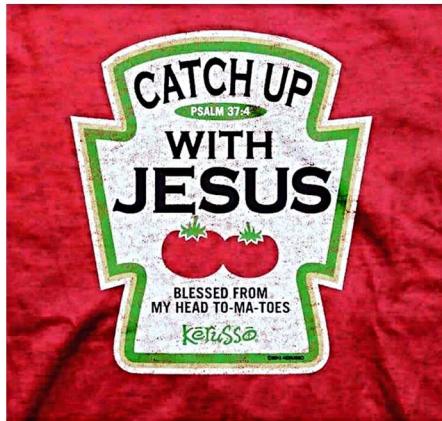
Let's Make this a Season of Using Your GIFTS to SERVE

Thanks to all of you who have served as Greeters, Ushers, Lay Readers, Altar Guild, Sound and Video techs, Communion servers, Coffee Fellowships Hosts & in many other areas this year! Each little thing you do is a response to our call to be the hands & feet of Jesus. St. Mark's is an active church living out its mission. We want to be especially warm & welcoming this busy Advent and Christmas season & we need YOU.

On Christmas Eve Sunday 12/24 we will have one combined church service in the morning, followed by our evening services at 4pm, 7pm, & 10pm. What service will you be attending & what can you do to take an active part in worship? We also need Advent Wreath Lighters for the month of December. Please email or leave a phone message for Kathy Miller 410-822-0001 ext 308 or kmiller@stmarkseaston.org Thank you!



We turned in 333 shoeboxes to the Box Depot! Thanks for helping us make our goal!! Sharing the love of Jesus AROUND THE WORLD!



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!

Making
generosity
simple...



We are really excited to introduce a new, easy way to give! You can now give simply and easily using Pushpay for your tithes, offerings, special gifts & even dinners!

To start, text **STMARKSEASTON** to 77977 with your smart phone and you will receive a link to our custom giving page, visit our website and click on the **GIVE ONLINE BUTTON**.

Pushpay currently accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover, as well as ACH (bank account) gifts!



Looking for something meaningful AND fun to do with your family this Christmas?

Come and experience "A Night in Bethlehem!"

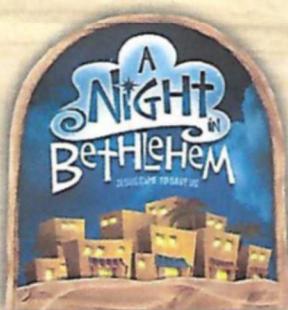
When: Saturday, December 9th from 4-6 p.m.

Where: St. Mark's United Methodist Church - Fellowship Hall
100 Peachblossom Road, Easton, MD

This is a FREE event!

To find out more call the church office at 410-822-0001 or check us out on the web: www.stmarkseaston.org

At A Night in Bethlehem, kids and their families will explore the city at the time of Jesus' birth. Through hands-on experiences they'll find out about the most important baby ever—and learn that Jesus came to save us.



Order your Poinsettias



We sometimes receive orders for more flowers than we really need & because there are other ways you can help enhance our worship services at Christmas, the form below will allow you to decide what you would like to do. All gifts will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

I/We _____ Phone _____

Wish to make the following gift to enhance the Christmas services at St. Mark's:

In honor of _____
(Name of living person)

In memory of _____
(Name of deceased person)

No. of Poinsettias _____ (at \$12.00 each, 6 inch pot)

\$_____ To help cover costs of decorations other than flowers.

\$_____ To be used as needed.

Checks can be mailed or dropped off at the church office. Please make checks payable to:

St. Mark's UMC
100 Peachblossom Rd
Easton, MD 21601
Memo line: Poinsettias

Orders must be received by Sunday, December 17, 2017

UMW December Circle Meetings:



**United
Methodist
Women**

Ruth Circle: Not Meeting

Deborah Circle:

**Tuesday, December 5, 12:00 p.m.
Lunch at The Tidewater Inn.**

Mary Circle:

**Tuesday, December 5, 12:00 p.m.
Lunch at the Elks.**

Sarah Circle:

**Tuesday, December 12, 6:00 p.m.
Home of Sue Comey**

Tabitha Circle:

**Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Home of Pastor Missy**

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, December 12th.

We just finished another successful Waterfowl Festival where we have once again provided support to this community effort & enjoyed the fun & fellowship of working together as brothers in Christ. While the final financial numbers are not in as of this writing, we are confident we made a small profit. Our rockfish corn chowder & oyster puffs (not fritters!) continue to be a hit with the festival goers & for the price, is certainly one of the best bargains in the town. Many thanks to the men & women who helped make the burden light & especially Camp Pecometh who partners with us & provided the large canopy to protect us from the elements. Thanks again to all who helped.

We need some man power on Saturday, December 2nd as this is St. Mark's Saturday to provide help for the "Habitat For Humanity" Port Street Project. Every other month, we provide workers for the project & it is a great time to help the community & serve our Lord in work-service. You don't have to have any special skills or tools, just a loving heart for the community. We meet on site from 9:00 am to noon. If you can help, please email Jim Scott at jscott@goeaston.net so we can get an idea of who & how many will be willing to help. Thank you for your service.

We are beginning our planning for our annual Valentine's Luncheon, scheduled for Sunday, February 11th after the 11:00 am Sunday Service. This annual event has become a popular meeting for all men & their spouses so mark your calendars now for the event. More details to follow next month.

We are continuing to explore ways to partner in faith & practice with our sister churches in the area, Asbury UMC & Scott's UMC in Trappe. We are following-up on ways 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 & want to help us in our mission of serving Christ & 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"**

A Local Mission Partner of St. Mark's Church

Talbot Community Connections

Meets Unmet Needs of Talbot County's Children and Adults, by Amy Blades Steward

It's hard to imagine the unthinkable - families torn apart when sexual abuse occurs within the family. Who treats the victim, investigates the crime, counsels the family, and provides the support system for rebuilding the lives that are shattered? Over the last 14 years, Talbot Community Connections (TCC), a nonprofit organization, has the mission to raise and distribute funds to answer unmet needs that are fundamental to the safety, security, health and well-being of Talbot County's children and adults.

Specifically, TCC supports the Talbot County Department of Social Services, which assists people in economic need, protects children and vulnerable adults, and promotes the safety and well-being of the citizens of Talbot County, Maryland. Since 2003, a portion of its support has funded the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center (TCCAC), a collaborative effort of several Talbot County agencies, to provide services to Talbot County children and families victimized by sexual abuse. The Center also provides an effective, collaborative response to the investigation of child abuse in the Mid-Shore Region.

Led by the Talbot County Department of Social Services, in partnership with Shore Health System, the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center is housed at Memorial Hospital at Easton, MD. It opened in 2003 when a group of professionals and volunteers dedicated to serving victims of child abuse set out to find a more compassionate and effective way to bring services to Talbot County children victimized by sexual abuse. Prior to 2003, many services necessary for child sexual abuse victims and their families were not available in the Mid-Shore region. A child-friendly setting with children's furniture, decorative murals, and suspended kites, the facility offers a neutral environment for the investigative team to conduct interviews, provide medical examinations, and deliver advocacy services for abused children while pursuing the prosecution of offenders. Over the years, TCC funds have assisted non-offending caregivers who needed assistance in gaining the access to services during the course of the healing process due to sexual abuse in the family. For one Talbot County family victimized by child sexual abuse, the support TCC provided for dependable transportation to TCCAC meant that the family members were able to attend appointments. Donations from donors such as St. Mark's United Methodist Church to Talbot Community Connections help meet many types of needs in the community, including support for the TCCAC.

For further information about Talbot Community Connections, visit www.talbotcommunityconnections.org.

Caption: Pictured is Lauren Krasko, new Coordinator at the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center, a collaborative effort of several Talbot County agencies, to provide services to Talbot County children and families victimized by sexual abuse. The Center was recently re-accredited by the National Children's Alliance. Lauren stands before a mural in the Center that was painted by local artist Maggie Sarfaty.





It's that time of year again, time to start thinking about mittens & scarves! Coming soon to the gathering area will be our MITTEN TREE! As you are doing your holiday shopping please keep in mind those less fortunate than us. Throw a couple extra gloves, mittens, scarves & hats into your cart.

It will warm your heart. Bring them to church to adorn & help decorate the tree.



MUSIC LOVERS NEEDED: Do you sing or play an instrument? The 9:30 Praise Band needs you!! Rehearsals are Thursdays 5:30-6:30 & Sunday mornings at 8:30 in the sanctuary. Contact Elaine Tama 410-200-2194 for more information or see David Cherry after the service.

Music Notes

It is cantata time again! St. Marks will present “**Born a Savior, Born a King**” at the 9:30 and 11am services on December 17th. Slated this year to join the singers will be flute, clarinet, violin, cello, handbells, and of course, our keyboards. Please consider lending your voices to this special program. It is a great way to participate in choir, especially if you are super busy, don’t have much time to commit, and have the desire to sing with the choir, even if just for a smaller amount of time. Chancel Choir meets on Thursdays at 6:30pm. Feel free to join in the fun!

The Overtones, our handbell choir, is getting ready for our second holiday gig at the Inn at Perry Cabin. We will play at 5:30pm on Saturday, Dec. 9th, welcoming Santa, lighting the tree, and literally ringing in the Christmas season. Please come out and listen, and perhaps even sing along to your holiday favorites.

Youth Choir meets at 9:15am (prior to Sunday School) in the hand bell room. Any child who would like to sing is welcome to join. We will sing at 9:30 services on various dates throughout the year.

Upcoming St. Marks Concert Series Programs:

The Mid Shore Community Band, will again play delightful holiday selections following our Christmas Dinner at 6:30pm on Dec. 3rd. This is always a family favorite and not to be missed!

February 25th will feature the All Children’s Choir of Annapolis, joined by the Bates Performing Arts Chorus. This is a great program for all ages! Join us at 3pm.

Also scheduled is the biennial Chesapeake Chamber Music 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



FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

We are pleased to share some very good news concerning PLRCA (Partners for Leadership Resources for Churches in Africa), A ministry funded by Saint Mark's UMC. At a recent forum of UMC educators in which 20 African Theological Institutions were represented, PLRCA resources were introduced in the E-library Project. The E-library Project is a ministry sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the UMC. This project provides, especially professors teaching in African theological schools and colleges, and their students with textbooks and other needed reading resources on kindle. The need is dire! This project is really a library in E-books as a kindle may have hundreds of books. PLRCA has twelve of its resources included in the E-library.

PLRCA as you know, produces Leadership Resources along with theological textbooks to equip and train pastors called to serve the rapidly growing Body of Christ in Africa. (More than 30,000 converts are added daily to the Christian church in Africa.) So far, PLRCA has distributed more than 2,000 resources to pastors and teachers in addition to the more than 2,000 kindle edition with PLRCA resources made available to teachers in collaboration with the E-library Project. PLRCA is blessed to be a major source of resources for the E-Library Project. And with this new opportunity the reach of PLRCA will be greatly increased.

We give hearty thanks and praise to the Lord for St. Mark's UMC support and sponsorship of this ministry and its commitment to ministry, especially St. Mark's UMC commitment to PLRCA. We are very grateful to St. Mark's UMC for the support! Thanks.

Jefferson S. Labala

Executive Director, PLRCA



UMCOR Hygiene Kits Many thanks to everyone who assembled UMCOR hygiene kits. And thanks to Judy Leight for heading up this project for our missions committee. Judy reports that she turned in 78 kits to the local collection location for our district, which was at a church in Denton. In addition, we have 36 completed kits stored here at our church, until we are told where to deliver them. Thus we have taken down the display with the starter storage gallon bags and the list of supplies needed & instruction for assembling the kits. The dollar bills that are included in the list of supplies needed is to pay for tooth paste. St. Mark's deposits these one dollar bills and sends a check to Mission Central for them. Prior to the kits being distributed to people in need of them, the dollar bills are then used to purchase tubes of tooth paste. In this way, the 'best use' date is still current, when the kits are actually used. When we get word that more kits are needed and/or we hear of possible storms that are headed this way, Judy will again put up the display.



December 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Ladies Circle

1 2

Meetings on
Page 6

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5:00pm Christmas dinner with concert to follow 2-4 Youth Group	6:00p Hit Pause	6:30p Disciple I	12pm Faithful 6:30p Overtones	6:30p Disciple 3 6:30p Chancel Choir		4pm A Night in Bethlehem/FSH
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2-4 Youth Group	6:00p Hit Pause	6:30p UMM	12p Faithful 6:30p Overtones	6:30p Disciple 3 6:30p Chancel Choir		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 & 11am services only Christmas Cantata 2pm Youth Group Christmas	6:00p Hit Pause	9:30a UMW	12p Faithful 1p Prayer Shawl 6:30p Overtones	6:30p Chancel Choir		
24 Christmas Eve 10:30 am	25	26	27	28	29	30
4:00 pm Family service 7:00pm Cont. Candlelight 10:00pm Trad. Candlelight	Christ our Savior is BORN!	Church office Closed				
31	January 1, 2018					
10:30 am	Office Closed					
One Service						

Weekly Fall Schedule

SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

6:30 pm Chancel Choir

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

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

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
David Cherry, 9:30 Music Director
Brooke Christensen, 9:30 Worship Leader & Youth Director

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



Dec. 3rd - 1st Sunday of Advent, 9:30am Reception of New Members & presentation of Bibles to 3rd & 4th grade class

Christmas Dinner at 5:00 pm & Concert with Mid-Shore Community Band

Dec. 10th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec. 17th - "Born a Savior, Born a King" Cantata at

9:30 am & 11:00am services, NO 8:15 am service!

Dec. 24th - Christmas eve services One morning service at 10:30 am

4 pm service - Family service w/ Children's Pageant

7 pm service - Contemporary Candlelight Communion Service

10 pm service - Traditional Candlelight/Communion service

Dec. 31st - 1 service at 10:30 am