

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 2018

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.

*Hello
March*

Our Vision:

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

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Greetings Church Family!

As you may have noticed there have been some big changes with regards to our staffing here at St. Mark's in the last couple of months. God's timing is always perfect and we have been blessed to welcome new people on staff and to bring back those who have worked with us before. God is good! All the time!

Wendy Avey is our new full-time Christian Education Director. She is an absolute joy to work with and we are so thrilled with all the wonderful and creative ministries she is working on currently. Look for big things to happen in our Discipleship ministry in the future! Our own June Billman has taken on the reins as the Visitation Ministry Leader. She is busy visiting our folks who are in the hospital, in nursing homes or who find themselves at home in need of pastoral care. She is working on putting together a pastoral care team and starting a healing ministry here. We also want to welcome Erica Kirby back into the fold as our Bookkeeper. Erica brings a wonderful energy and attention to detail and we couldn't be happier that she has joined our team once again. Finally, as of March 12th we welcome back Scott Clausen as our full-time Music and Worship Director. He will be moving back from Louisiana where he has been working full-time as the Worship & Music Director at Aldersgate UMC in Slidell, LA. We are excited to see how God has been working in Scott's life through music ministry in the time that he has been away from St. Mark's. He brings a wealth of knowledge and passion for worship and passing that on to others. I also want to thank Kathy Miller for all that she has done as our Volunteer Coordinator (as a volunteer!) As she steps down from this role, we know that God still has a plan to use her in ministry somewhere in the church! Thank you Kathy for all that you have done to help our church continue to grow and thrive!

Please be in prayer for our new ministry leaders as they fulfill the roles that God has set before them here at St. Mark's. As I said in the beginning, God is good . . .all the time!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Missy



Sign-ups for Pictorial Directory to start Sunday, March 4, 2018

Craft Night, Tuesday, March 13th 5:30p to 7:30p, see page 4

Walk with Jesus! Friday, March 23rd 6:00p to 8p, FSH

Join us for Holy Week & Easter Services! See page 6 for details

PRAISES AND THANKSGIVING

Betty Meyerle on her birthday, March 17.

Bob & Judy Lawrence on their 53rd wedding anniversary, March 20.

Lee & Benita Afflerbach on their 52nd wedding Anniversary, March 26.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Audrey Woolston, by George & Jane Wilson.

Wayne Lewis, by Howard & Jane Keller, Marilyn Deussen, Carolyn Armstrong & Bernie Grove.

Curtis Taylor, by Kathleen Taylor.

THANK YOUS

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry, Just a brief note of appreciation for the beautiful & meaningful Prayer shawl. It is now prominently displayed in our family room & provides a daily reminder of God's abundant blessings that I received during my recent surgery. Thank you for your skillful work & prayers. May God bless all of you, Don Wallenhorst

Dear Ladies of Prayer Shawl Ministry, My heartfelt thanks you for your gift of the most beautiful stitched shawl made by Denise Quinn, for thinking of me & your prayers towards my healing. Our Lord will bless you for your kindness. I was overwhelmed when June Billman brought it to me & I cant thank you enough for your kindness & thoughtfulness! God is looking out for me! My prayers are with you all! Blessings, Margaret Blair

Thank you for all you do for our residents!
Sincerely, Louise Montgomery, Director of Recreation, Bayleigh Chase

Dear Sarah Circle, On behalf of the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, I would like to thank you for your continued support. You provided a sizable amount of spaghetti sauce in December 2017 which was very much needed in our food closet. Additionally, you very generously adopted one of our families for our Christmas Family Adoption Program again this year. Your gifts make it possible for the MSCFV to not only provide for the needs of the victims of domestic violence that we serve, but also bring some joy into the season of Christmas. We rely on the support of individuals, agencies & organizations to help in our work & we very much appreciate your generosity! Thanks again for helping to improve the lives of those in need. Jeanne Yeager, Executive Director

Dear St. Mark's Family, We appreciate all of the prayers, cards & phone calls during my recent operation & fall. A special thank you to Pastor Missy, June Billman for the visits, & the prayer shawl made by Jane Barton. God Bless you all! Wade Dudrow

Thank you to St. Mark's church family for the visits & prayers during my recent illness.

Art Shelby

LET US PRAY FOR

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

AT HOME

Dan Pritchett

JoSue Simpson

Chuck & Pat Moon

Ruby Carter

Phyllis Carroll

Cathy Tull

**SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

GySgt. Harold S. Brice/USMC

CPL Sarah Jane Royer Golden/USMC

P.O. 2nd 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 International, Kenny Wood
Six Special U.M. Sundays
African Leadership Resources, Rev. Labala

THANK YOUS Continued

Dear Friends, My staff & I extend our warmest thanks for the Christmas gifts you recently provided for a family. On behalf of the citizens who benefited, we appreciate your generosity. It is heartwarming to know that there is such genuine concern for those in need in our community.

Linda Webb, LCSW Director, TCDSS

Thank Yous were received from the following residents from St. Mark's Village for their Thanksgiving & Christmas baskets. Betty L., Elizabeth S., Loretta, Faye B., Jewel C, Elizabeth G., Ruth W., Doris, Alice S., Barbara M. & Julia.



THE YOUTH NEED YOU Are you at least 21 years old and have a desire to see the youth at St. Mark's grow in their spiritual life? We need your help! Every Sunday 2:00-4:00 we need a second adult to attend our youth group meetings. If you can do once a month or even just a few times through out the year we'll take it! Please contact our Youth Director, Brooke, at the church office if you are interested. If you have not gone through Safe Sanctuary training we can help set you up!

Youth Group News

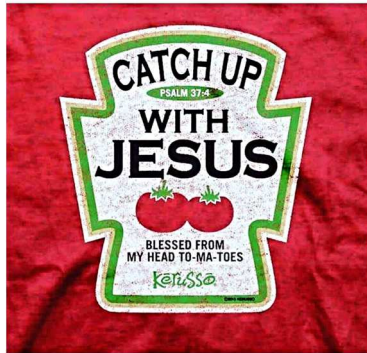
In February the youth group got into the Olympic spirit with some fun games and took a trip to Altitude Trampoline Park!

Chesapeake Housing Mission

St. Mark's will be participating with Chesapeake Housing Mission again Saturday, May 12. In September we built a beautiful wheelchair ramp for a family in Taylor's Island and I can't wait to see what we will get to do this time. The Youth Group is sponsoring this event but we need help from all ages and skill levels throughout the day! Please contact Brooke if you are interested in helping out.



CRAFT NIGHT: Adults & children of all ages are invited to attend a new event. Introducing St. Mark's Craft Night! Our first Craft Night is a Personal Resurrection Garden for your home, scheduled on Tuesday, March 13th in Room #206, from 5:30pm-7:30pm. This is a great craft for both individuals or families. For this craft, participants can arrive anytime during the scheduled time to make their garden. A sign-up sheet & sample of the project is in the gathering area. Space for this craft will be limited to 30 (individual gardens) due to supplies, so advanced sign-up is required. The cost is \$15.00 per garden. All proceeds will go to towards Vacation Bible Camp. Payment can be made by using Pushpay or St. Mark's UMC attention: Wendy Avey



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!

Pecometh Summer Camp for Kids - The United Methodist Women of St. Mark's is offering partial scholarships for the Riverside program at Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries this summer. A total of 8 children's scholarships, for \$250.00 each, are available this year.

For additional information about Camp Pecometh's programs and registration, please visit. www.pecometh.org. If you would like your child to receive one of the St. Mark's scholarships, please contact Wendy Avey or Pastor Missy at the church office for assistance.



HVAC/Geothermal Expansion Project - Update

Frank Meyerle, Chair, Board of Trustees

At a combined meeting on February 13th, after Shove Tuesday Dinner, the Administrative Board on the recommendations from the Board of Trustees & Finance Committee met and a unanimous decision was reached to award the project to Joseph M. Zimmer, Inc. out of Salisbury Maryland. The contract definition will include Geothermal systems expansion into the Sanctuary only.

Since 1982 the company has been an authority in the mechanical industry specializing in hospitals, educational institutions, along with pharmaceutical & research and development facilities. Joseph M. Zimmer, Inc. is also an industry leader for Geothermal Systems in the state of Maryland. Their primary services rendered focus on HVAC, Geothermal & Mechanical Engineering.

Gipe Associates, Inc. will continue to be supportive to us in providing administrative and quality assurance oversight on the project to completion.

WALK WITH Jesus

An EASTER EVENT for FAMILIES

Join us for an
unforgettable
family experience
this Easter!

Where:

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

100 Peachblossom Road
Easton, MD 21601

(410) 822-0001 x305

When:

Friday
March 23, 2018

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Please allow one hour to enjoy this event.

Come celebrate Easter at St. Mark's UMC

All are welcome to come and worship with us!

Holy Week Prayer Stations-March 25-31st in the Gathering Area

There will be several prayer stations set up around the Gathering area to help us remember the passion of Jesus and to remember to pray for others. This is a quiet, contemplative time for participants to draw close to Christ. You can come in any time during the week when the church office is open (8:30-4:30 p.m.) or if you'd like to experience this before/after the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service also. Any groups who have meetings that week in the evenings are also welcome to come and experience the prayer stations.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

6:00 P.M. Soup and Bread meal in Fellowship Hall prepared by the UMW

St. Mark's will be hosting the Epworth Youth Choir of the 1st United Methodist Church of Cuyahoga Falls, OH on March 29th, as they travel throughout the Mid-Atlantic to present an outstanding musical called "Keeping Vigil with Jesus" for our Maundy Thursday service. This musical, written by their Director, H. Dean Wagner traces the events of Holy Week, culminating in Good Friday and God's infinite love for each of us. What a wonderful opportunity to invite you friends, family and neighbors to hear this award-winning group of young people singing praises to God. As part of our "hosting" the choir will join us for our soup and bread dinner prior to the worship service at 7:15p.m., then, after the service, the youth and adults will need overnight housing at our homes. Do you have a spare bedroom or two? The youth will be accompanied by an adult chaperone from their group. There are approximately 34 youth and 10 adults in the group that are traveling. We will have a sign-up sheet placed in the Gathering area along with a sign-up that will be passed around during our worship services. Remember that through your hospitality, you may be welcoming angels unaware!



Epworth Youth Choir, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Good Friday, March 30

Special Worship Service with music & drama, 7:00P.M. in Sanctuary

Easter, April 1

Sunrise Easter Service in St. Mark's Chapel 7:00 A.M.

**Breakfast following the Sunrise Service in Fellowship Hall
prepared by the United Methodist Men 7:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**

Worship Service Celebration of the Resurrection

8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 A.M. Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.

Stewardship Stories

Stewardship stories is a new addition to our monthly Markings. Giving to God and to God's kingdom work is a spiritual discipline that is learned over time and becomes a part of one's spiritual connection to God and to the church. Some of us grew up in churches that taught about the importance of tithing and giving. For others, it's a brand new concept. The truth of the matter is that Jesus talked a lot about how the giving of our time, talents and resources shows in whom and in what we put our trust. Trusting God with our finances is an important part of our daily walk with God. If you have been blessed through giving back to God, would you consider sharing your stewardship story with others? Just let Pastor Missy know or send her an email. Thanks so much to Marion Jackson for sharing your story with us!

I have been asked how did I learn about Tithing & Giving to the Church?

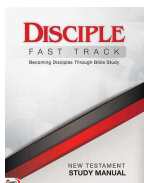
My grandfather was a minister. He also worked, had a wife and eight children. It was his goal, passion, and belief that he must put a \$20.00 bill in the Church Collection Plate. That \$20.00 is probably about \$100.00 today.

His love and faith in the Lord enabled him to somehow run a church, work, and take care of his family. He demonstrated to all, how important it is to give. I have never forgotten this first glimpse of tithing & giving.

I see the Lord working in my life and my husband's life. As we give, God always seems to give back to us in many ways. We know where our good life comes from. It comes from the Lord. Our relationship with God is so binding. We thank Him continuously. He gives life and He gives it abundantly. (John 10:10 "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.") We trust in Him, and we give gladly.

In Jesus' Name,

Marion E. Jackson



Fast Track Disciple Class: Bible Study for Busy Lives!!

Fast Track Disciple Bible study is starting up again on Tuesday, March 6th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Room 8 in the basement of the church. This 12-week course will lead us through an overview of the entire New Testament with videos, readings and discussion time. If you weren't able to join us for the 1st half of the year as we studied the Old Testament but would like to join us for this study, please feel free to come to the first study on the 6th. This is a great opportunity to jump into the Scriptures and experience the Word of God in a deeper, more meaningful way as we study together as Disciples of Jesus Christ! See you on March 6th!





United
Methodist
Women

UMW February Circle Meetings:

Ruth Circle - March 5, 10 a.m. @
Bayleigh Chase

Tabitha Circle - March 5, 7 p.m. at
church

Deborah & Mary Circles - March
6th at 10 a.m. Room 155

Sarah Circle- March 13, 7 p.m. in
Gathering Area

St. Mark's United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men of St. Mark's United Methodist Church meet every month on the second Tuesday, except July at 6:30 pm at the church. Our agenda consists of a monthly bible study & working on various projects to benefit the Church & its members, our United Methodist District & our local community in general. All men of the Church are members & we encourage all men to join us as we meet in fellowship & service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

During this past month we sponsored our annual Spouse's Valentine's Day Luncheon at the Barn in Easton. 17 couples participated in the luncheon & our church Lay Leader Raymond Harrison served as the Master of Ceremonies. Also we continued to support the Church's Boy Scout Troop 190 with a financial presentation during the Boy Scout Sunday service on February 11th. And finally we served about 160 people at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13th. We provided this supper free-of-charge to the people who showed up. Many thanks to Hugh Dawkins & the "Hugh Crew" for preparing & serving this annual gathering of the faithful how can attend.

In March, we will be holding a dedication service for the competed cross project at Camp Pecometh on **Sunday, March 11th at 3:00 pm** at the camp in Centreville. Our men designed, constructed & arranged for installation the 25 foot beacon of Christianity at the camp & the surrounding river front area. This marks the third project the St. Mark's United Methodist Men have completed for the Camp & Retreat Center & we are justifiably proud of all of them but are humbled to have had the opportunity to serve our Lord with these tangible efforts. Many thanks to Jim Scott, Tom Barwick, Phil Rekitzke, Richard Van Slambrook, Raymond & Paul Harrison & all the men who assisted in the construction & completion of this major project for Pecometh & our District. Also a special shout out to Choptank Electric Cooperative for the materials (Old telephone/electric pole) & the manpower & equipment to install the 25 foot cross 8 feet in the ground. Praise God for raising the resources to complete the project. "Our God is a Mighty God".

In March, we will be erecting our Easter "Tomb" Project with its erection on the front lawn of the church. If you can help with this project, please contact me. We appreciate the help. Also put **Saturday, April 6th** on our radar as that is the Saturday we work with the Habitat for Humanity project on Port Street. More on this in the April "Markings"

Finally, put **Easter Sunday, April 1st** on your calendar as the men will be cooking & serving the annual **Easter Morning Breakfast from 7:00 am to 10:00 am**. More about this in the March "Markings" but a heads-up for what is coming soon.

Men – we hope you will keep involved in the mission & vision of the Church & join us in service to our Lord, his Church & our local community. If you would like to receive email notices of our meetings & projects we are working on, please email Roger Eareckson, President of the UM Men at earecksonr@yahoo.com & I will put you in our email bank so you will know what we are doing & how you can help.

A Local Mission Partner of St. Mark's Church

The Dixon House: Just like home

Nestled in the heart of Easton's Historic District, The Dixon House is a spacious and elegant Victorian house offering affordable assisted living services for elderly men and women in a "just like home" setting.

In 1889, a time in history when women were fighting for their right to vote, five respected Talbot County women recognized the burdens for women left with the responsibility of maintaining their farms after the death of a spouse or family member. Understanding the societal limitations on women for land ownership, these visionaries in their own right, devised a plan. Thus was born the idea of "The Home for Aged Women of Talbot and Caroline Counties."

Mrs. Amanda Dixon, one of the original founding "mothers" and her husband, Robert deeded a small tract of land on a quiet street in Easton and after gathering support from the local community, were able to build a comfortable and affordable home for senior women. In May 1903 the first resident moved into The Dixon House. To commemorate the Dixon family, the Board of Directors renamed the "home" in 1984 to The Dixon House. It was at this same time that men were accepted for admission.

Today, The Dixon House consists of nineteen private rooms, each with a private bath. Nineteen residents enjoy all the comforts of a home-like setting with around-the-clock-care, three home cooked meals a day plus snacks, housekeeping services, laundry services and planned activities. The staff is compassionate about the care of the residents and strives to provide the best service to everyone. Moving to The Dixon House not only provides quality care and comfort, but also peace of mind that someone is here to help when assistance is needed.

St. Mark's Church through our mission fund has provided a small donation each year to The Dixon House for as long as I have been on the missions committee; approximately fourteen years. I also know of the facility because my 4-H club visits the home at least three times each year to provide the residents with a musical or public speaking program; birthday, Christmas & Valentine cards; egg hunt & games; and other treats.

Della Andrew

Thank You to Mary Bell Callahan

The Chancel Choir and others in our church would like to thank Mary Bell Callahan for being a faithful steward of music in our church since its beginnings.

We look back on all she has contributed to our music program; namely, being an administrator and music teacher for the St. Mark's Preschool for a number of years, founding and directing our Overtones Bell Choir for many years and then being a bell ringer herself. She served on search committees for music directors and has directed the Chancel Choir and filled in on various occasions. Mary Bell has graced our services with her lovely soprano voice over the years and has always been an advocate for music at St. Mark's, whether it was for the children or the adults.

Unrelated to music involvements, she has helped document the history of our church. Generations to come will appreciate learning about St. Mark's past and present.

We thank you so much, Mary Bell, for your many contributions and look forward to seeing you in the congregation and leading others in song around you. May God bless you richly.

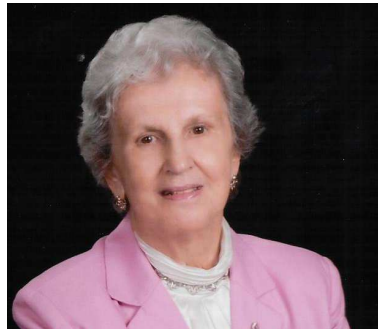
With love from the Chancel Choir



Mary Bell (far left) pictured with the Overtones.



Mary Bell (far left) pictured with the Chancel Choir.



Music Happenings

The Chancel Choir has been rehearsing since Christmas under our interim director, Dr. Mark Higginbottom, well known for collaborating on the piano with Dr. Bill Wharton on the organ Sunday mornings. We appreciate Mark's "stepping up to the plate" to lead us until our new choir director comes on board March 12th!

The Chancel Choir is now rehearsing at 7:00 p.m. until about 8:30 p.m. and would welcome new singers to the group. If you would like to sing, please contact Mark Higginbottom through the church office at 410-822-0001 to let him know of your interest. We meet in the Choir Room on the ground floor and enter by the side door.

If you would like to help us make a joyful noise, please come and sing to the Lord.



March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ladies Circle				1	2	3
Meetings on Page 8						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sign up for pictures 2-4 Youth Group	6p Pause for Lent	6:30 Fast Track Disciple	Lenten Study 12-1p & 6:30-7:30 p Chapel	6:30p Disciple 3 7:00p Chancel Choir		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sign up for pictures 2-4 Youth Group	6p Pauses for Lent	6:30 Fast Track Disciple	Lenten Study 12-1p & 6:30- 7:30p Chapel	6:30p Disciple 3 7:00p Chancel Choir		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sign up for pictures 2pm Youth Group	6p Pauses for Lent	9:30a UMW 6:30 Fast Track Disciple	12p Prayer Shawl Rm. 155 Lenten Study 12-1p & 6:30- 7:30p Chapel	7:00 p Chancel Choir	6p Walk with Jesus FSH	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Palm Sunday Prayer stations- Gathering area- all week!	6p Pauses for Lent	NO Trustees 6:30 Fast Track Disciple		Soup & Bread 6pm Maundy Thursday service 7:15 with Epworth Choir performing "Keeping Vigil w/ Jesus"	Good Friday Service 7pm	

Weekly 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

THURSDAY

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

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

June Billman, Visitation Ministry Leader

Sarah Ewing, Pre-School Director

Wendy Avey, Director of Christian Ed

Scott Clausen, Director of Music

Dr. William F. Wharton, Organist

David Cherry, 9:30 Music Director

Brooke Christensen, Youth Director

Karen Reed, Church Administrator

Erica Kirby, Bookkeeper

Bill Gunther, Building Superintendent

Phone: 410-822-0001

Fax: 410-822-0002

Email: churchoffice@stmarkseaston.org



Church Pictorial Directory

We will begin signups for our church directory starting on Sunday, March 4th in between services. You will also be able to sign up on Sunday, March 11th & 18. We want to make sure you are included in our new directory, after all you are FAMILY!

**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!