

# 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 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](mailto: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.



## ***Our Vision:***

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

Dear Members and Friends,

Listen

***But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus." Luke 1:30-31***

God gave a message to Mary that was amazing! An unexpected child would be born to her and she was to name him Jesus. He would be called the Son of the Most High, and would reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom would have no end and he would take up the throne of his father David. God was doing something huge in her life which had implications for the whole world. THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS IS THAT THE CHARACTER OF GOD HAS NOT CHANGED FROM THAT MOMENT UNTIL NOW. GOD STILL SPEAKS AND HE STILL GIVES DIRECTION. He speaks to us through the person of the Holy Spirit. God delivered a message to Mary, and he seeks to deliver messages to us each and every day. Many times we feel that God has not spoken to us lately or maybe even that he has never spoken to us directly. This is not consistent with the heart and character of God. Our Lord Jesus died so that we would have access to God, that our spiritual lives would be enriched by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. Subtle things can keep us from interpreting the communication that God is trying to give to us. Feelings that our problems are of little consequences or not of concern to God, may block our reception of his love and guidance. Often I encounter people who do not want to "bother" God with little things while holding out for answers to big prayers. Hearing God's voice always starts with obeying the small prompting of the Spirit in any given situation. Following His guidance to send a note, give a gift, or to ask for forgiveness is a wonderful thing. When we do these things, we reap amazing rewards and gain confidence in the leading of the Holy Spirit. When we do something outside of our box but are within the character of God. We have the opportunity to see God's leading confirmed by the blessing that we experience when our acts of kindness are well received. Mary was an amazing follower of God who knew His voice and knew what it meant to be obedient to her Heavenly Father. Mary is a role model for us because of her ordinary faith. She was not a king's daughter surrounded by luxury. She was a simple but profoundly faithful young lady who understood listening and obedience. THIS CHRISTMAS, CARVE OUT SOME TIME FOR LISTENING. At St. Marks we have many wonderful Christmas events for you to attend this month, just check out the calendar in this newsletter. Christmas is always the season of new birth, and Jesus wants to show you the new things He has planned for you.

Linda and I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas!

Peace, Pastor Ed

## PRAISES AND THANKSGIVING

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

**Frank & Eleanor Polkinghorn**, 9187 High Banks Dr. on their 60th wedding anniversary.

**Jim & Wanda Denny**, 308 Mount Pleasant, on their 64th wedding anniversary.

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

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

## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Susan Horning by Dan & Pearl Swann, Christopher & Maureen Hill, Michael & Barbara Sheridan.

Dan Pritchett by Bobbie & Paul Ayers, Dan & Pearl Swann.

Mary Bell Callahan by Dan & Pearl Swann.

## LET US PRAY FOR

### Bayleigh Chase/Marvel Hall

Darlene Baldwin

The Pines - Jim Covey, Nettie Robinson

Candlelight Cove - Joy Kyak, Mary Rabenhorst,

Londonderry- Liz Lechthaler

Heartfields-Jim & Wanda Denny

Bayleigh Chase - Gardens, Don Casson, Gloria Lindquist, Lois Dabbert, Ted Lewers, Elva Eareckson

Homestead Manor - Ruth Pippin, Lee Walker

Lakeside — Dave Stavely

## AT HOME

Bruce Hotchkiss

Ruby Carter

Mort Reed

Pat (Charlotte) Higgins

Richard Douma

Cathy Tull

George & Phyllis Carroll



## SERVING IN THE MILITARY

GySgt. Harold S. Brice/USMC

1st Lieutenant Jacob Shores/ U.S. Army

## OUR GLOBAL MISSIONS

Wings of Caring, Central Congo

Paul Lee Webster, Missionary

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

Central Congo Partnership

★  
 GOD  
 ROCK  
 SAVIOR  
 MESSIAH  
 IMMANUEL  
 HOLY • CHILD  
 MIGHTY • GOD  
 LORD • OF • ALL  
 LAMB • OF • GOD  
 CHRIST • OF • GOD  
 KING • OF • KINGS  
 THE • WORD • OF • GOD  
 ALPHA • AND • OMEGA  
 PRINCE • OF • PEACE  
 LIGHT • OF • THE • WORLD  
 HEAD • OF • THE • CHURCH  
 SON • OF • THE • HIGHEST  
 EVERLASTING • FATHER  
 RESURRECTION • AND • LIFE  
 JESUS

## Holiday Baskets

December is here & we need to restock our food pantry for the 50 Holiday Baskets that we fill & deliver to our friends at St. Mark's village. The brown grocery bags, with food labels, will be placed in baskets around the entrance of the Chapel & Sanctuary. Please take one & fill it with the items. **Return them before Sunday, December 16th.**



Lee Royer

Missions

## **Box Tops for Education and Soda Can Tabs**



How does your **TRASH** become **TREASURE** to others?

Box Tops for Education are given to the local schools. Schools receive a quarterly check (10 cents for each box top) to use at their discretion. Easton Middle buys books; Easton Elementary, Dobson furnishes school supplies, coats, shoes, etc. for needy students; Easton Elementary, Moton uses the money for their PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) incentives and events. Last school year they earned a Gold rating for the PBIS work at their school.

Aluminum tabs from soda cans are given to Ronald McDonald House. The money from the sale of the aluminum is used to purchase gas for their vehicles that transport families of the patients to hospitals in the Baltimore area.

Remember that your **Trash** is a real **Treasure** to these organizations, so please bring your Box Tops for Education and aluminum soda can tabs to St. Mark's.

**THANKFUL For Your Hospitality!** A big "Thank you!" to everyone who has volunteered to serve as hosts for our weekly Coffee Fellowship. The Hosts names are printed in the bulletin each week – please take the time to look for them & offer your appreciation while you are enjoying the snacks. A lot of love goes into this ministry each week! A new sign-up sheet is available for the months of January and February. Please consider getting involved. As always, the coffee will be ready to go & there is a sheet of guidelines available. You can also ask questions and sign-up by calling Kathy Miller 443-235-0256. **THANK YOU!**



**Making  
generosity  
simple...**

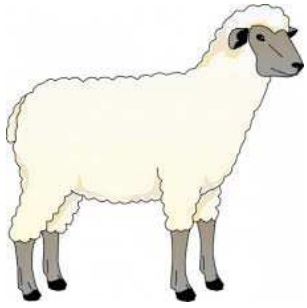


Tired of writing checks? Here is a new, easy way to give! You can now give simply and easily using Pushpay for your tithes, offerings, books, special gifts & even dinners!

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!

## *It's Fall! That means Preschool is Back!!*



Join the *Shepherd's Club of St. Mark's Preschool*. The Shepherd's Club is a great way to "shepherd" the flock of our community's children. We ask for a \$100 donation to become a member. (Your name will be listed as a member on the preschool website.) Funds collected are used towards enrichment programs, scholarships, maintaining the playground, and providing new equipment for the classrooms. The funds last year were used to offer one church family a partial scholarship, it also provided field trips free of charge to our students, and they assisted in providing some new supplies for our classrooms. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sarah Ewing 410-822-0078 ([stmarkspreschooleaston@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkspreschooleaston@gmail.com)) or you may place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday. (Please make sure to write Shepherd's Club in the memo field) MSDE Letter of Compliance #70897

**Panera Bread pickups:** Since our present pick up chart for Panera Bread ends on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, a new chart beginning with January 2019 is now available in the gathering area. Thanks for helping with this mission outreach project.



## **Your help is needed!!**

Homemade cookies needed! Are you willing to bake some cookies for our local police departments & teachers? Let's show our appreciation by baking a few extra dozen cookies. Bring them to church on Sunday, December 16 we will deliver them to the teachers & police departments.



**Tabitha Circle Wreath Sale starts on Sunday,  
December 2, 2018, 12 inch wreaths are \$35.00 each**



## Talbot County Public School's Education Partners

This year on May 23, I attended the TCPS's third annual Community Partner Recognition Breakfast. Herby and I attended the first one in 2016, which as I remember was held at the Board of Ed office. However, last year's event, which I did not get to attend, and this year's event, which was packed, were held at the Easton Fire Department. I was most impressed with what I learned there about the many community organizations & churches that are partners of our TCPS system.

There are currently nine public school buildings in Talbot County. One partner from each was recognized at the breakfast and one organization was recognized as the district partner. Of the nine school partners recognized, three were local churches. Seven other Talbot County churches were listed as partners in the full report and St. Mark's Church was not among these. So it is my goal for the coming year that we become one.

With this goal in mind and because I believe that the quality of the education offered by our public school system has an impact on the quality of our community life, I took copies of the TCPS's 2018 annual report to our missions committee's September meeting. I distributed these to the members in attendance and asked them to review them & to think about how our church might become a partner. Pastor Ed agreed to invite someone to come on our committee at our church charge conference in November to lead our church in achieving this goal—by the way, his name is Chad Nestel (thank you Chad). Support could mean some financial support, but it definitely means that members of our church will be involved with their time, talents, & effort.

As we consider this, we will find that we already have members volunteering as individuals in our public schools. This may be serving as Character Counts coaches in different schools, helping to collect items for the TCPS's care packs, providing school supplies through different collection sites, volunteering in various school classrooms to provide parties or other activities, helping with the production of school plays, etc., etc. If you are helping in any of these or other ways, please let Chad know what you do already, as our committee begins to investigate other avenues of service.

So I also want our church to expand on what we are already doing and to focus on one school with specific, regular activities. This could be an after school club once a week during the school year. It could be providing a birthday party once a month for the children in a classroom who have a birthday that month. I'm sure that many other possibilities exist. We just need to have someone explore which school to focus on, what is already being done there, and what are other possibilities. I hope you are as excited as I am about how our church can expand our outreach into the community.

Della Andrew, Missions

## Why Plant a Rain Garden?

You know how precious freshwater is to life. You probably also know that freshwater is becoming increasingly scarce due to pollution, misuse, overuse and climate change.

So when someone asks you "why plant a rain garden?" you can tell them that you are doing it to help keep clean, fresh rainwater out of the sewer system and you are doing your part to reduce pollution and preserve our water systems.

This sounds like a grand effort that only scientists, ecologists and politicians can do. But you can plant a rain garden and then spread the word and tell others that you plant native plants and rain gardens to improve the world you live in.

Explain to people who question you how rain and melting snow runs off roofs, driveways and even lawns and flows directly to the street, down the storm drain and right to our rivers and lakes. Tell them that this runoff is untreated and carries with it pollutants like oil, salt, fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste, transportation chemicals, sediment and all sorts of other things that shouldn't be in our freshwater.

Tell them that a rain garden can capture that runoff and hold not only thousands of gallons of rainwater that can be used in your own garden and yard but all of these pollutants that contaminate our waterways. Then explain after the capture of the water comes the soaking or infiltrating of the water deep into the ground so that it can be used by the nearby plants and trees. Tell them how the native plants planted in the rain garden also help to soak up the water and how the roots are deep and will break up hard soil and infiltrate water and nutrients deep into the soil.

Then finally, tell them how the plants, mulch and soil break up the pollutants and make them inert, not harmful. Explain how the moderate amounts of water and limited amounts of pollutants people shed from their personal property can easily be handled by the rain garden. And that these same pollutants will cause havoc if combined with pollution from your neighbors on your block and the next block and the neighborhood and the community. Imagine all the pollutants from a whole city moving, untreated into your rivers, lakes and streams that you might be drinking!!!!

You can also explain that a rain garden is beautiful, creates habitat for birds and beneficial insects, reduces pest and harmful insects, makes a great statement in your yard and can be used seasonally to teach kids and adults about the nature of nature.



Our rain garden is located just outside of the kitchen door. Stop by the church and check it out.



## December Worship Notes

8:15 Traditional in the Chapel

9:30 Contemporary in the Sanctuary

11:00 Traditional in the Sanctuary

December 9th, Cantata Sunday

Featuring St. Mark's Combined Choir's Presentation

### *“Do You Hear What I Hear”*

During worship for the 9:30 and 11:00 am services

Invite a friend or neighbor and join us in worship

for this very special Sunday of music!

Mark your calendars!

**St. Mark's Christmas Dinner**

**&**

**Special Christmas Concert**

**By the**

**Mid-Shore**

**Symphonic Band**

**December 2**

**Make your reservations  
NOW for the dinner**

These programs are funded in part by a grant from the Talbot County Arts Council, with revenues provided by the Maryland State Arts Council.

### **Christmas Eve at St. Mark's**

4:00pm Family/Communion Service

7:00pm Contemporary Candle-light  
with Communion

10:00 pm Traditional Candle-light  
with Communion

(9:30 Christmas Prelude Begins)

*If you would like to help serve at any of these services, (usher/greeter, communion) please call Scott at the church.*

Scott Clausen, Director of Music and Worship, can be reached at:

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

musicdirector@stmarkseaston.org



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

### UMW December Circle Meetings

**Esther Circle** - December 4, 12  
Noon, Christmas Luncheon @  
Bayleigh Chase

**Mary Circle** - December 4, 12 Noon,  
Christmas Luncheon @ Elks Club

**Sarah Circle** - December 11, 7:00,  
Christmas Dinner @ home of Sue  
Comey

**Tabitha Circle** - December 4, 6:30,  
Christmas Dinner @ Victory Garden  
Cafe



## St. Mark's United Methodist Church 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. All men of the Church are considered members & we encourage all men to join us in fellowship & service to our Lord Jesus Christ. Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in room 155 in the church. For this year, we are studying the Book of Proverbs.

We once again served our fabulous Rockfish Corn Chowder & Oyster Fritters for the Waterfowl Festival, November 9 – 11. We were in need of cooks to help us this year & members of our church responded. Several of our women members as well as leaders of our Boy Scout troop 190 responded to our need & did a great job both cooking & prepping. Financially it appears we made a small profit though the final numbers are not in yet. We are appreciative of all how cooked served, took money, planned, prayed & cleaned up for us, especially Pecometh Camp & Retreat Center who gave us the large tent to use for the weekend. They set it up & took it down for us. This was especially helpful during the rain on Friday afternoon.

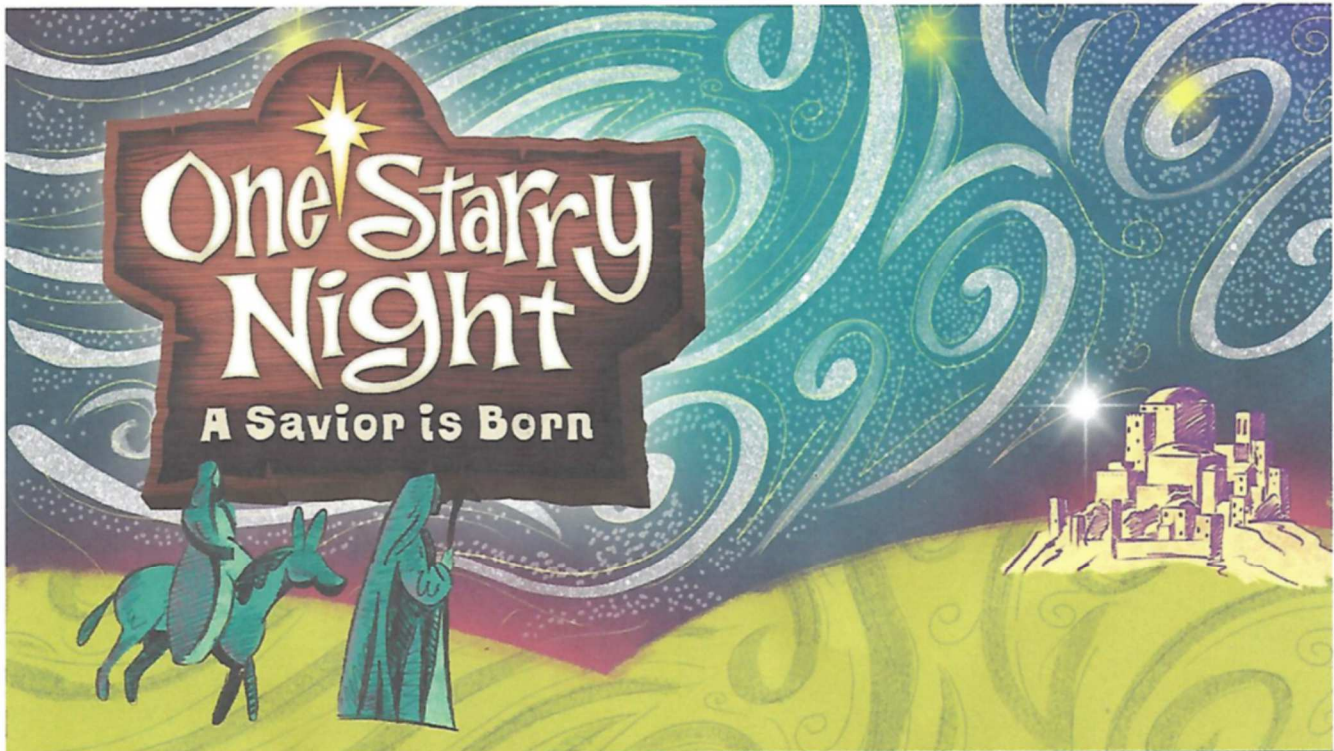
We are once again hosting our annual Valentine's Day Luncheon on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We will be selecting our menu & dining options at our December meeting with the closing of The Barn which had hosted the event the past two years. More information to come in the January, 2019 Markings.

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the church. Join us & be a central part of our service commitment to our Lord, our church & our community.

If you would like to receive email notices of our meetings & the projects we are working on, please email Roger Eareckson, President of the UM Men at [earecksonr@yahoo.com](mailto:earecksonr@yahoo.com) & I will put you in our email bank so you will know what we are doing & how you can help.

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





## A Bible-Times Christmas Event for Families

Come visit Bethlehem and celebrate Jesus!

Friday, December 7, 2018  
St. Mark's UMC - Fellowship Hall  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

A night filled with kids crafts & snacks.  
This is a FREE event, so bring a friend or two!

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**Group**  
Real. Bold. Love.

## 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 \$12.50 each, 6 inch pot)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation Only, No poinsettia needed.

Checks can be mailed or dropped off at the church office, or placed in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to:

St. Mark's UMC

100 Peachblossom Road

Easton, MD 21601

Memo line: Poinsettias

Orders must be received by Wednesday, December 12, 2018



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
UMW Circle meetings see page 8						1
2 5 pm Christmas Dinner/FSH Concert at 6:30pm No youth group	3 6pm Women of Christmas/Chapel	4	5	6	7 6:30pm A Starry Night/FSH	8
9 9:30 & 11am Christmas Cantata	10 6pm Women of Christmas/Chapel	11	12 Poinsettia Deadline	13 9:30am Preschool Christmas Pro- gram	14	15
16 <b>Youth Group Christmas</b>	17 6pm Women of Christmas/Chapel	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve 4pm 7pm 10pm	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29
30 No Sunday School One Service 10:00	31 <b>Church office closed</b>	<b>January 1 Church office closed</b>				

## Weekly Schedule

### SUNDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

10:30am Prayer Group in chapel

### THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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

**RETURN SERVICE  
 REQUESTED**

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 EASTON, MD  
 PERMIT NO. 239

## Staff

**Rev. Ed Kuhling**, Pastor

**June Billman**, Pastor of Visitation

**Sarah Ewing**, Pre-School Director

**Wendy Avey**, Director of Christian Ed

**Scott Clausen**, Director of Music & Worship

**Dr. William F. Wharton**, Organist

**David Cherry**, 9:30 Music Director

**Karen Reed**, Church Administrator

**Erica Kirby**, Bookkeeper

**Bill Gunther**, Building Superintendent

**Phone: 410-822-0001**

**Fax: 410-822-0002**

**Email: [churchoffice@stmarkseaston.org](mailto:churchoffice@stmarkseaston.org)**



**Thank you!**  
**St. Mark's collected**  
**245 boxes! Thank you to the**  
**volunteers who came in & sorted the boxes. Many hands make**  
**light WORK!**

*Advent*  
 A Season of Hope  
 & Expectation

**Dec. 2nd** 1st Sunday of Advent

Christmas Dinner at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship hall, Concert with  
 Mid-Shore Community Band starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 7th** A Starry Night Fellowship hall.

**Dec. 10th** 2nd Sunday of Advent, Christmas Cantata 9:30 a.m. &  
 11:00 a.m. **NO 8:15 service.**

**Dec. 24th** Christmas Eve Services 4:00 p.m. Communion/Family Service, 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight  
 Communion Service, 10:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Service.

**Dec. 30th** One Service 10:00 a.m. **Dec. 31st** Church Office Closed

**Jan. 1st** Church Office Closed