

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 2019

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.

DECEMBER

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,

“And what do you want for Christmas?” Growing up and still today, that is the question floating through the air starting a week before Thanksgiving. As a youngster I enjoyed being asked that question because I hopefully could get all the things on my wish list. But I now realize that question has trained us to have high expectations for this time of year. Unfortunately, I also know the holidays seldom deliver all the happiness and love we've come to expect from them. Hallmark advertising (still makes my eyes runny) with the images of romantic couples and laughing families may sell a lot of merchandise, but they often mock the heartache felt by so many people at this time of year—perhaps even some of you. What should we do? Shove our expectations deep down like cold hands in a winter coat? Put our hopes on long term layaway? Pretend we don't really care? I have a suggestion. Instead of trying to downplay our expectations, why not let our expectations soar toward the highest desires kindled by this Advent season? That soaring hope is echoed in one of Charles Wesley's great hymn:

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,

Born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us;

Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's Strength and Consolation,

Hope of all the earth Thou art,

Dear Desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart.

No holiday can deliver what we long for, but we can find our longings in Christ Himself. When Simeon saw Jesus, he praised God saying: *“My eyes have seen your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.”* (Luke 2:30-32) This Christmas, watch your expectations, and see them wonderfully fulfilled in Jesus. I am reminded from our 40 Day Prayer Challenge to pray these words daily – God, Surprise me **TODAY!**

During this season of Advent I have asked a few friends to come to our Sunday morning worship and share their Christmas stories. Who knows who might show up, perhaps Herod the Great, A Shepherd, or an Inn Keeper; they too had Christmas expectations. 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 everyone a very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!!

Peace,

Pastor Ed

PRAISES AND THANKSGIVING

Jane Barton, Candlelight Cove, 106 W. Earle Ave., on her birthday, Dec. 1

Jim & Wanda Denny, 308 Mount Pleasant, on their 65th wedding anniversary, January 8.

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

Nancy Horsey by Wade & Janice Dudrow, Arnold & Pauline Spicer.

Ted Lewers by Karen B. Manuel, Frances Elliott Taylor, Dan & Pearl Swann, Deborah & Michael Potter.

THANK YOU

To my St. Marks friends,

I would like to thank you for the cards and notes of encouragement, prayers and thinking of me. I appreciate all the love and support.

Sincerely,

Beverly Hahn

LET US PRAY FOR

Candlelight Cove - Jane Barton, Jim Delaney, Joy Kyak, Mary Rabenhorst

Londonderry - Liz Lechthaler

Heartfields - Jim & Wanda Denny

Bayleigh Chase - Gardens - Art & Louise Shelby, Elva Eareckson

Bayleigh Chase - Lois Dabbert

Autumn Lake Health - Nettie Robinson

Homestead - Ruth Pippin, Lee Walker

AT HOME

Betty Fleming

Sharon Maisano

Ruby Carter

Phyllis Carroll

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

LCPL 2 Mitchell Reeley

LCPL. Alexander White

GySgt. Harold S. Brice/USMC

CPT. Jacob Shores/ U.S. Army

Sgt. Sarah Golden/USMC



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

Do not underestimate
a moment of your

kindness.

It has the power to change lives
in ways you may never know.

Sunday, December 15th



Your help is needed!!

Homemade cookies needed! Once again we will be delivering cookie trays to our local police, fire stations, educators, hospital staff & post office. Let's show our appreciation again this year by providing homemade cookies. Please bring them to church on Sunday, December 15th. Our staff & Youth Group will deliver them to those who work so hard to help support our community during the year.

St. Mark's Annual Christmas Dinner & Concert with Mid-Shore Community Band Sunday, December 8, 2019

St. Mark's family will gather together for fellowship, dinner & a concert by the Mid-Shore Community Band on **Sunday, December 8th**. We will gather in Fellowship hall at **5:00 p.m.** for a delicious meal provided by *Personal Touch Catering*. Our meal will be Chicken Casserole, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, dinner rolls, ice tea, lemonade & various desserts.

The cost per person is \$8.00, children \$4.00 or \$23.00 for a family. The dinner is open to church family & guests & the concert which begins at 6:30 p.m. is open to the public. A love offering will be donated to the Brighter Christmas Fund

Sponsored by the Star Democrat.

We hope to see you there!!

Registration forms are in the bulletin

St. Mark's UMC Annual Christmas Ornament Now Available!



NEW for 2019



2018

Once again this year, our Youth Group will be selling ceramic Christmas Ornaments as a fundraiser to help cover the costs of Youth Group activities for the upcoming year. This year's image is "You Visited Me" and it is the second image from the Christian Service Stained Glass Window located in our Chapel.

The price for each individual ornament is \$15 or \$25 for a set of both the 2018 & 2019 editions while supplies last. The ornaments will only be available in the Gathering Area on Sunday mornings starting November 24th.

pen-del.org/youthrally

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES OF THE PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE

inseparable

Zealand

KB

Seth Nirva

speaker Melvin Adams

speaker Erin Weidemann

Phil Joel

Heather Flies

YOUTH RALLY 2020

JANUARY 10-12

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

ROUND E. POWELL CONVENTION CENTER

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

ROMANS 8:38-39

It's time to sign up for the 2020 Youth Rally in Ocean City!

You won't want to miss out on all the fun and fellowship with thousands of friends.

This year's line-up includes:

Music by: Zealand, KB, Seth & Nirva, and Citizen Way

Speakers: Egypt Speaks, Erin Weidemann, Heather Flies, Melvin Adams, and Phil Joel

This Youth Rally is for Grades 6-12 only. Adult Chaperones (at least 23 years old) are also needed. Regular registration until 10/16/19 for \$95, additional late registration fees through 12/16/19. For information & registration forms, contact: Wendy Avey, Director of Christian Ed.

St. Mark's Youth Group is open to all students in Grades 6 – 12. Gatherings are held every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 2:30-4:30pm in the Youth Room. Additional events are scheduled throughout the year. We are also looking for a few Adult Leaders to help this year. If you are interested in attending, volunteering or for a complete list of scheduled events through January, please email: christianed@stmarkseaston.org

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HUNGRY?

By Fran Gosser

It hurts to be hungry. Sadly, there are children in our town who know too well how it feels to have an empty tummy. Fortunately, caring folks in Talbot County make sure our school children are able to have a nourishing lunch through the “Care Packs” program. Unfortunately, there are adults in our neighborhoods who also know too well what it is to be hungry.

Fourteen years ago members of Easton's faith community decided to tackle this problem by joining the ladies of Asbury Church who had been providing about thirty-five people with lunches of nourishing hot soup & bread during the winter months. It was decided that several churches would join the Asbury group & make it a year-round service to the community, substituting a hearty sandwich for the soup during the summer months & adding a fruit & a dessert. Thus was born the “Interfaith Hunger Coalition” & one of the participating churches was St. Mark's.

On the second Wednesday of every month a group of our church members gather to assemble & deliver lunches to approximately one hundred local residents recommended by the Health Department, churches & other service organizations. Using a list, calls are made to our generous church members who have expressed willingness to donate sandwiches & other ingredients, & on the appointed Wednesday the lunches are packed in our kitchen. Then they are divided according to the five routes that cover the town. During the winter months (January through April) the sandwiches are replaced by delicious hot soup, still made by the ladies of Asbury church, & we meet at Asbury to pack the lunches. At Christmas time extra treats go into the lunch bags!

It is a pleasure to get to know the people who receive our lunches. Some are not at home but others are waiting for the knock at the door & glad to receive a lunch & perhaps have a few minutes of friendly conversation. One lovely lady is very likely to bless you for bringing her a lunch!

If you would like to be part of this congenial group in a very meaningful outreach, please contact Sheila Scott at 410-822-7336 for more information. If you would be interested in delivering the lunches (two people go together – usually one person does the driving & the other delivers the lunches) your help would be most welcome! It's a good feeling to know that at St. Mark's we haven't forgotten Jesus' commandment to “feed my sheep.”

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.

Matthew 25:35-36



December Worship Notes

8:15 Traditional in the Chapel

9:30 Contemporary in the Sanctuary

11:00 Traditional in the Sanctuary

December 8th, Cantata Sunday

Featuring St. Mark's Choir, Orchestra and Soloist

“SMALL, Dancing Light”

Join us at 9:30 for the Eastern Shore premier of this most beautiful Advent cantata. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to this special music presentation!

Mark your calendars!

St. Mark's Christmas Dinner

&

Special Christmas Concert

By the

Mid-Shore

Symphonic Band

December 8

Make your reservations NOW

for the dinner

Christmas Eve at St. Mark's

4:00pm Family Service

7:00pm Contemporary Candle-light

10:00pm Traditional Candle-light

(9:30 Christmas Prelude Begins)

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

Communion Servers for December

8:15

Jacqui Yeatman

9:30 service

Curt & Brynja Booth
Robert & Julie White

11:00 service

Harry & Janice Nagel
Inez Smock

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

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

musicdirector@stmarkseaston.org

TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER

The Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) is a temporary shelter serving homeless individuals from Talbot County & surrounding areas. The congregation of St. Mark's has supported TIS since its inception. Currently we provide morning (7a to 10a) & evening (7p to 11p) supervision as well as dinner on the 23rd & 24th of each month. Over these years our list of volunteers has declined.

TIS offers an onsite orientation one Saturday a month at their facility at 107 Goldsborough St. Easton, MD. If you are interested in volunteering or attending an orientation please contact Mary Ann Hicks (410-476-7228) or Barbara Friedman (410-763-7263). You can also view their website (talbotinterfaithshelter.org) for more information.



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 11, 2019

SINGLES MINISTRY

Lunch after the 11:00 service on Sundays. Meet by the coffee pots in the gathering area.

Bible study in room 209 on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Follow the arrows from the front entrance.

Dancing on Saturday evenings at different locations on the Shore.

Additionally events will be added as they come to our attention!

If you have any questions, call Carolyn 443.440.1132.

We look forward to seeing you singles at one or more of these events soon!

Ranee Reitz hired as St. Mark's Organist

Ranee Reitz, who was active musically in Easton for many years, has been named organist at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. She succeeds the late Dr. Bill Wharton, who died May 19.

Ms. Reitz, who lived in Easton from 1969 to 2000, was organist at Christ Church (Episcopal) and taught music in Talbot County public schools.

Her appointment was announced by Scott Clausen, St. Mark's music director, who said Ms. Reitz brings great talent and experience to the position that was held by the late Dr. Wharton for 52 years.

She most recently lived in Boyertown, PA., where she was organist and director of music at St. John's Lutheran Church for 15 years. She also directed numerous bell and vocal choirs in that community.

Born in Valley View, PA., Ms. Reitz began her music career there at Trinity Lutheran Church. After receiving a degree in music education from Penn State University, she moved to Easton and taught music in the Talbot County public schools. She also began serving as organist and choir director at Christ Church. Later she had the added responsibility of director of Christian education and teacher in the church's pre-school.

In 2000, Ms. Reitz completed a Master's degree in church music at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA., and moved to Boise, ID, where she served as canon for ministry support and education for the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho. During that time she also served as organist and choir director at All Saints Episcopal Church and later at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Boise.

In 2004, Ms. Reitz moved to Boyertown where she served as organist and music director at St. John's Lutheran Church until this year when she retired. In August, she moved back to Easton, where her daughter Rebecca, and son-in-law Tom Crotti, and grandson, Nicholas, live. Another daughter, Maggie, lives in West Chester, PA.

During her previous years in Easton, Ms. Reitz said she was friends with her predecessor, Dr. Wharton. Ms. Reitz recalls, "We performed concerts together and one time about 20 years ago Dr. Bill let me use the St. Mark's organ for my graduate recital."

Ms. Reitz said she believes the organist's job is to enhance worship. "The organ and all music," she said, "should enhance the worship experience and ultimately help people to encounter their God."



UMW December Circle Meetings

Tabitha Circle - Dinner at Doc's in Easton, Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm.

Esther Circle - Luncheon at the Tidewater Inn, Tuesday, December 3rd at 1 pm.

Mary Circle - Luncheon at the Talbot Country 12:00 noon December 3rd.

Sarah Circle - Dinner at Sue Comey's, Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm.

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 and working on various projects to benefit the Church and its members, our United Methodist District and our local community. All men of the Church are considered members and we encourage all men to join us in fellowship and service to our Lord Jesus Christ. Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 10th 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 and Oyster Fritters for the Waterfowl Festival, November 8 – 10. We were in need of cooks to help us this year and members of our church responded. Several of our women members as well as leaders of our Boy Scout troop 190 responded to our need and did a great job both cooking and 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 and cleaned up for us, especially the Pecometh Camp and Retreat Center who gave us the large canopy to use for the weekend. They set it up and took it down for us. This was especially helpful during the wind on Friday.

We are once again planning to host our annual Valentine's Day Luncheon on February 16th, 2020. We will be selecting our menu and dining options at our December meeting. More information to come in the January, 2019 Markings.

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm at the church. Join us and be a central part of our service commitment to our Lord, our church and our community.

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

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

Roger Eareckson, UMM President

**You are invited
to attend the
Parsonage Open House**

**Please join
Miss Linda & Pastor Ed
at 522 Trippe Avenue on
Saturday, December 7,
2019 at 1:00 pm to 5:00
pm for their Christmas
Open House.**



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Ladies Circle

Meetings listed on

Page 10

1 Communion				4 1p Prayer Shawl 2:30p Youth Group	5	6	7 9 a Walk to Emmaus Sponsor Training/155 Parsonage Open House 1p to 5 p
8 Christmas Cantata At 9:30a Christmas Dinner at 5p Concert at 630p with Mid Shore Comm. Band	9	10 7p UMM/155	11	12	13	14	
15 Cookie deliveries	16	17 930a Preschool Christmas/Chapel/FSH	18 2:30p Youth Group Christmas	19	20	21	
22	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00p Family service 7:00p Cont. Candlelight 10:00p Trad. Candle- light	25 Christ our KING is BORN!	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28	
29 NO COFFEE HOUR One Service 10:30a	30	31	January 1, 2020 OFFICE CLOSED				

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY

8:15 am Worship Chapel
9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
11:00 am Worship Services Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY

10:30 am Prayer Group in Chapel
6:00 pm Bell Choir

THURSDAY

1:00 pm Christian Doctrine Course
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. 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

Ranee Reitz, 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



Reminder that we do not publish a newsletter in January.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Staff of St. Mark's



As Thanksgiving is quickly approaching & Christmas decorating begins, please consider purchasing a live wreath lovingly decorated by the Tabitha Circle. This is our largest fund raiser of the year & all the money raised goes toward missions either in our own community or globally.

Wreaths will be sold throughout the morning for all three services on Sunday, November 24th. As in years past they are \$35.00.

These wreaths are decorated with love, smell divine, & have lasted through the end of February. Won't you support such a worthy cause?

We thank you for your support!