

Shalom Newsletter



ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 29, Issue 5

May 2009

To Those Who Share the Journey

Following the congregational meeting that called Gusti Newquist as co-pastor of St. Mark's, we spent March 16-17 getting to know one another better and beginning the work of collaborating as your pastors. Part of our discussion focused on questions of "distribution of labor" for the first program year. Here, in a nutshell, is what we have proposed:

Gusti will begin work and move into the office at St. Mark's on Monday, May 4. We will share preaching duties during May (Stuart preaching May 10 and 31; Gusti preaching May 17 and 24). Gusti will attend the Economic Resource Fair on May 9 and participate as appropriate with the youth program through the end of May, with the hope that there can be some overlap time with Stephanie that month). Gusti will leave for her ordination service in Louisville on Friday, May 29 and return to the office on Wednesday, June 3. With the exception of May 4, Gusti's Pastor

Sabbath Day will be Mondays; Stuart's will be Fridays.

Gusti's key priorities for May will be:

- integrate immediately into the worship life of the congregation;
- develop an effective collaboration with the staff;
- discern appropriate strategies for ministry with youth and children;
- discern key priorities for the summer months of planning and preparation for the 2009-2010 program year.

With these priorities in mind, Gusti will focus her primary energies on working with the Children and Youth Education Committee, the Worship Committee, and the Membership Committee. Stuart will continue working with Personnel, Stewardship/Finance (including the possibility of a Capital Funds Campaign), Adult Education, Deacons, Social Justice, and the Sustainabil-

ity Committees. Stuart will also continue in the formal head of staff role, as the liaison to St. Mark's Pre-school, and in providing background assistance to small group ministries. Gusti will assume primary responsibility for supervising the seminary intern throughout the summer.

Pastoral Care duties will be shared equally, and we plan to jointly review the needs of one Deacon Care group per month as a way of acquainting Gusti with the entire congregation. Gusti's work with Children and Youth will include an intentional emphasis on both pastoral care and social justice.

In keeping with the Co-Pastor commitment, we are both committed to the whole ministry of St. Mark's, even as we focus on our particular emphases for the year. It already feels good to be working together, and we look forward to continuing the journey.

Yours on the journey,
Peace and love,
Gusti Newquist & Stuart Taylor

Special points of interest:

- MS. GUSTI NEWQUIST BEGINS ON MAY 4
- RESOURCE FAIR AT ST. MARK'S ON MAY 9
- LOOKING TOWARD PENTECOST
- NEW MINISTRIES FORMING

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Reflecting on Paradise

If you have been attending St. Mark's since Epiphany, you have heard about Paradise from Gusti, Mike, Sylvia, Rita Nakashima Brock and me. You may have been intrigued, eager to learn more, found deep connections, and/or had old paradigms shattered and something evocative and life-giving offered in its place.

Rev. Cynthia Langston Kirk, friend of St. Mark's, had similar responses and was motivated to create poetry and fabric art focused on images from the Bible or early Christianity. We invite you to experience her work, "Reflecting on Paradise," on Sunday mornings, May 3 and 10 before and after the 11:00 worship service in the courtyard. On May 3, a reception will begin about 12:30, providing an opportunity to visit with Cynthia after viewing her work.

Celebrating Pentecost

May is a busy month for us as we transition into new pastoral leadership, celebrate Mother's Day, host an Economic Resource Fair, finish up the program year, receive new confirmands, and commission our new ministry team structure! We who live in liturgical time will have many opportunities to witness the risen Christ all around us this month, as the Easter Season continues and prepares us for Pentecost on May 31.

Pentecost is the perfect culmination for this month of activities. In Acts, it is the crucial turning point for the disciples of Jesus. It marks the conclusion of their time

of Easter healing as well as the beginning of an uncharted outreach to the world beyond themselves. Now that the physical presence of Christ has left them, the Holy Spirit becomes their guide ... equipping them with language and skills they did not know they had, equipping them with the power to transform a hurting world.

We at St. Mark's have been preparing for Pentecost for a long while now, taking great care to reflect on our programs and ministry, to select new leadership, to learn alongside a new confirmation class, and to join our voices with those crying out for justice and peace. It is no acci-

dent that we will be receiving our confirmands and commissioning our new ministry structure on Pentecost Sunday. And it is no accident that Gusti has chosen that date for her ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Pentecost marks the culmination of months and years of preparation for all of us. It marks the beginning of an uncharted, but Spirit-led, life together in which we, too, will be equipped with language and skills we do not yet know we have. We, too, will be equipped with the power of Christ to transform a hurting world!

Gusti Newquist

St Mark's Neighborhood Resource Fair—May 9

St Mark's renewed outreach to our neighborhood began with a walk by 30 of us on March 29. In concert with other congregations, schools, and non-profits walking city-wide, we found that Tucson's faltering economy is impacting area families on many levels: 9,000 foreclosures in 2008 and climbing, job loss, and budget cuts – the fallout is apparent everywhere.

Because many families need help to survive during these tough economic times, this walk was a precursor to our Neighbor-

hood Economic Resource Fair on May 9, when we will offer real help to our neighbors as a result of hearing their stories. We will welcome people into our church home to meet with agencies that offer help with mortgages, tenant-landlord relationships, food, utilities, job training, career guidance, and health care.

Will you lend a hand to our neighbors on May 9 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.? We need volunteers to be greeters and guides, registration workers and table staff. Your five volunteer

hours could make a real difference for a struggling Tucson family.

To prepare for the event, we will get together for training on Saturday, May 2 between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Our final after-church sign-up opportunity was on April 28, but if you find you have time to help out, please call the church office at 325-1001 and let them know you are available. We'll get back to you.

Volunteer jobs are listed on Page 3.

Mari Helen High and Jim Butler,
Event Coordinators

Volunteer Jobs for Neighborhood Resource Fair

Event organizers

Supervise day's events and assure that everything is running smoothly.

Registration workers

Staff a table at one of the entrances to St. Mark's, recording names & addresses of individuals who come to the Fair. If all greeters are busy, provide information on opportunities at the Fair and direct to starting point.

Greeters/Guides

Direct participants to sign-in tables and offer directions to participants who are unfamiliar with the campus. Know details of event's schedule and direct people accordingly. Encourage participants to move between tables and house meetings and point out rooms or escort participants to next location.

Facilitators for house meetings

Lead discussion among groups of neighborhood residents regarding what difficulties they are facing, what type of help they need, how they are feeling about their difficulties. Make notes summarizing the concerns expressed and help needed, as well as any other topics the church might want to be aware of.

Logistics coordinator

Be available to answer questions about facility and handle any emergencies or other problems.

Volunteer coordinator

Recruit for and place volunteers in specific jobs. Be available on May 9 to answer volunteers' questions and make adjustments in assignments as necessary for full staffing.

Resource table staff

Staff agency resource table in absence of agency representative, distributing information, answering questions or taking names for follow-up by agency representative.

Childcare worker

Supervise young children at play while parents are attending resource fair events.

Recreation worker

Supervise children playing sports or games while parents are attending resource fair events.

Back-up worker

Be available on May 9 to substitute for a volunteer if needed.

**Tucson Womens Chorus
Spring Concert
Saturday, May 9,
7:00pm.
St. Mark's Sanctuary**

The performance will include a cappella chants, rounds and songs from cultures/traditions around the world (including Native American, Japanese, Russian, and South African), spirituals, and women's chants. The suggested adult donation is \$10. Children are welcome. For further info: 743-0991 or go to <tucsonwomenschorus.org>.

Karleena Ravenwood,

Facility News

First, let me say a big thank you to all who helped at the March 28 workday. We had a wonderful turnout, with close to thirty people here. Special thanks to Rob and Pam Selby for preparing the delicious lunch. Another workday,

scheduled for May 2, will have to be cancelled due to a memorial service being held that day.

Second, we want to let our mobility-challenged members know that we plan to lessen the distance from the handicapped parking spaces to

the Third Street entrance. Presently there are eight spaces to the west of the main entrance. This will be changed so that there will be four spaces on each side of the entrance. Bids are being secured for the work.

Tom Dahlberg



Mark your calendar! Casa Maria sandwich making May 16 in Geneva at 8:00 a.m. Please come and help!

May Youth Schedule

- 3 Middle School Youth Group 4:00 pm
Sr. High Youth Group 7:00 pm
- 10 Happy Mother's Day —
NO YOUTH GROUPS
- 17 Confirmation meeting with session after 11 am worship service
Parent & Teen Potluck at 5:00 pm—Miller's home



Moving from Committees to “Ministries”

The concept of moving from “committees” to “ministries” was introduced in the March issue of *Shalom*. The language of *ministry* helps shape the way a congregation understands its gifts and lives out its calling. It reframes our gatherings (“meetings”) from times for doing business to opportunities for empowering ministry and then dispersing for service. Ministry teams are formed to carry out particular ministries that fit specific ministry objectives.

What is your interest or passion for ministry? On a following page, you will find a list of our ministry areas and the elders who are leading the way. They would love to hear from you.

Music Matters for May

The Sundays of May fill the second half of this year's Easter season. The lectionary texts recount occurrences of the presence of Jesus among his followers after the resurrection. The month comes to a close with, first, the Feast of the Ascension on May 24. Then, we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, on May 31.

Our music reflects the joy of the season. The Gloria returns with a favorite setting by Christopher Lindquist. The Holy is a return to an old favorite. The Music During Communion is *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord*. As May 10 is Mother's Day, the choir will sing an anthem, which Alan Schultz, our Music Director Emeritus, dedicated to his mother. May 17 will be the annual presentation of the Children's Musical. On Pentecost, listen for a set of organ variations on *Veni Creator Spiritus*, the ancient (ninth century) Christian hymn invoking the coming of the Holy Spirit. Finally, check Stuart's Worship column for more special music from the Celtic Choir.

David Gay

Ministries of St. Mark's

Worship

- Christine Wald-Hopkins

Discipleship

Nurturing discipleship in our members of all ages:

- Children and Youth – Pat Muller and Kerstin Miller
- Adult Education – Joeine Green
- Micah 6 Small Groups
- New Member Growth and Assimilation – Sylvia Thorson-Smith
- Women's Education and Fellowship – Mary Angus and Jeanette Jones

- Personal Giving and Stewardship – Irvin Richards

Social Justice

- Mari Helen High, contact Mari Helen for the leaders of various Social Justice Ministries

Our Church Community and Home

- Hospitality – Gwyn Roske
- Website – Jerry Knight-Rubino
- Stewardship of Church Finances – Irvin Richards

- Communications and Publicity – Libby
- Personnel and Staffing – Libby Howell
- Nominations – Pilar Ruiz and Joeine Green
- Stewardship of Our Church Home – George Dunscomb

Environmental Sustainability

A vital concern in all our ministries – Mari Sorri

“All are baptized into ministry,” and there is plenty for all of us!

CYEC News

April brought us many chances to enjoy the youth and children of St. Mark's. They sang and waved their palm branches, presented their One Great Hour of Sharing offerings, scoured the church grounds for Easter eggs, and finally led us in worship on Youth Sunday. The month of May will give us even more opportunities to embrace the contributions of our young people in the life of the church. On May 3, our third graders will be presented with their bibles. The children's musical, *God with a*

Capital “G”, promises to entertain and enlighten the congregation on May 17. Finally on Pentecost, May 31, the spirit will be with us when this year's confirmands are presented to the congregation.

May 17 will also be the day we honor the many teachers and enrichment volunteers who have dedicated time and caring to our children and youth throughout the year. Every one of them has been a

blessing to the children of the congregation. This year we especially honor three who will be stepping back from teaching at the end of this year – Jessie and Margaret Wilkie and Kerstin Miller. While we are sad to see them move on, St. Mark's can be thankful for a generation of young people whose Christian faith and contributions to our church are founded on the Sunday mornings spent in Hudler Hall with Jessie, Margaret and Kerstin.

St. Mark's people who continue to need our prayers: Betty Lou Allen, Elaine Baarson, Gil Barcelo, The family of Jean Carran, Pat Cline, Fran Darnton, Drusilla Delp, Doris Derickson, Betty Edwards, Ocea Goldupp, Chuck Jordan, Edie Lauver, Virginia Levengood, Polly Lightner, Bobbie Marcoux, Jane McKenzie, Lisbeth Olson, Ivan Owens, Carol Patterson, Terry Sheridan, Lucille Showalter, Esther Stuard, Frances Wagle, Paula Weger, our elders, deacons, pastors and staff, our confirmation class, all caregivers and those they care for, those serving in the military, safety and protection for desert crossing migrants.

Welcoming Our Children

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

(Proverbs 22:6)

As a youngster, I was raised to be seen and not heard, and when I was old enough, I moved far away from the church. Much later, when I was in my late 30s, I returned to the church.

I would like our children to have a different experience. It warms my heart to see my daughter learning about Jesus and helping others, enjoying her Sunday School class, singing in church, and being a part of this community. Thank you for being part of her family. Let's continue to widen our circle of

love and friendship. By doing so, we truly can make a difference in the life of a child and the future life of the congregation.

This is an exciting time of renewal in the church. I hope you have enjoyed seeing the children at the front of the church more often. I believe that our children are our future, and we need to nurture them in a life of faith and community.

Having young people in worship allows them to make connections with what we do in worship. More importantly, it makes them feel they are part of the community. If they enjoy church and feel loved and welcomed as children, they are much more

likely to remain part of the church throughout their lives.

The sanctuary has not had nearly enough little feet and young smiles these past few years. A smile or a welcome can leave a lasting impression on young minds and hearts.

What more can we, as a community, do to keep the promises we make to our children at their baptism? I invite you to join me in the ministry of Inclusion for our Children and Youth. Please contact me with your ideas. Together, let's see what we can do to renew and expand our commitment to our children and youth.

Please contact me at Pi-lara1@attg.net or 358-2853

St. Mark's Preschool News

St. Mark's Preschool and Kindergarten's annual Spring Fun'raiser will be held Thursday, May 7 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the courtyard. This fun family event will feature dinner, a raffle, silent auction, and a performance by each of our classes. Come join in the fun! Prizes for the raffle include: jewelry, artwork, books, and many great gift certificates. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance through the preschool office.

Registration continues for our summer adventure camp, which runs May 26—July 24. Boys and girls from 3 ½ to 6 years old are invited to join the fun for part or all of the summer. For more information, call 325-1510.

Jane Hilyard

Library Notes

***Three Cups of Tea,*
by Greg Mortenson**

Three Cups of Tea is the amazing tale of a mountain climber who, after a near-death experience while climbing K2 in Afghanistan, vows to build a school for girls in the village at its base. The book chronicles his travels back to the United States to try to gather funding. His life and his efforts hit many obstacles, but his passion never falters. The central message of the book is

"never give up!" One might think that after the success of completing the school, he would go back to the United States and raise his family, but no, he is only beginning. The rest of the book shares in detail how one man, through his single focus, befriends Pakistanis and Afghans who, under other circumstances, could easily have cut his throat. Because he respects Islam and the Koran, his efforts win friends and he succeeds in building a number of schools. The

children who attend his schools are most appreciative and work very hard. Sadly, we learn that, at the very time Mortenson is building his schools, Osama Bin Laden is being exiled from Saudi Arabia and sets off the successful terrorist attacks of 9/11. In response, America strikes back with violence, and continued war tears these countries apart and creates a fertile breeding ground for young men to become anti-

American. One is left with the feeling that if American foreign policy had been about building schools and setting up water projects rather than making war, much of our history would have been different. The book is a fast read and rewards the reader with a vision of Islam far different than the one received from the popular press.

Will Creamer

M A Y 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Reg. Sunday Events – See additions below 8:15 AM Nursery 8:30 AM Alternative Svc. 9:00 AM Celtic Choir 9:45 AM Adult Ed 10:45 AM Child. Choir 11:00 AM Traditional Service					1 4:30 PM Bell Choir - Hudler	2 9-10:30 AM Economic Resource Fair Orientation 10:00 AM Book Sale Prep - Library
3 10:00 AM Book Sale - Courtyard 12:15 PM New Member Class 6:00 PM Muir Nucleus Group - Calvin	4 7:00 PM No More Deaths - Knox	5	6 7:00 PM Tucson Organic Gardeners - Rooms 6/7 7:30 PM CYEC Church Office 7:30 PM Social Justice - Calvin	7 3:00 PM Preschool fund- raiser- Geneva 6:30 PM Co-anon group	8 4:30 PM Bell Choir - Hudler 7:00 PM C.S Lewis Nucleus	9 10-2 PM ST. MARK'S NEIGHBOORHOOD FAIR 4:30 PM Tucson Women's Chorus Spring Concert - Sanctuary
10 Mother's Day 11:00 AM Children's Musical and Bible Presentation 12:15 PM Called Meeting of Session - New Members - Calvin 7:00 PM Happy Mother's Day - No Youth Groups	11 7:00 PM No More Deaths - Geneva	12 9:30 AM The Gathering Luncheon	13 6:00 PM Sonoran Winds Concert Sanctuary 7:30 PM WMS - Office	14 6:30 PM Co-anon group	15 Shalom Arti- cle Deadline 4:30 PM Bell Choir - Hudler	16 8:00 AM Casa Maria Sandwich Making 12:00 PM Ares Micah 6 Grp. - Calvin 4:00 PM Young Family Nucleus - Geneva
17 11:30 AM Receive New Mem- bers 12:30 PM Ares "Food & Friends," group - Calvin 12:30 PM Confirmands' lunch with Session 5:00 PM Youth Groups meet at the Miller's home	18 7:00 PM No More Deaths - Geneva	19 7:00 PM Tuc- son Organic Gardeners - Geneva	20 4:00 PM Stewardship - Office 6:00 PM Deacon's Pot- luck/Meeting	21 6:30 PM Co-anon group	22 4:30 PM Bell Choir - Hudler	23
24	25 Memorial Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM No More Deaths - Geneva	26	27	28 6:30 PM Co-anon group 7:00 PM Session Meeting	29 4:30 PM Bell Choir - Hudler	30
31 Pentecost 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:30 AM Reception of Confirmands in worship service						

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St. Mark's, a More Light Church, Welcomes all God's Children.

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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We're on the web:
www.stmarkspresbyterian.org



Don't miss the Annual USED BOOK SALE, sponsored by the Church Library from 9:00 to 1:00 on Sunday, May 3 in the front courtyard. There will be tables of fiction, children's books, self-help, inspiration, theology, and biography, as well as reference and a few collector's titles – all for bargain prices! If you have books you would like to donate, drop them off at the library or the church office or bring them the day of the sale.

Upcoming Worship and Music for May

May 3

On Good Shepherd Sunday, Mike and Stuart will share preaching on the texts of the day: Psalm 23 and John 10. Bibles will be presented to the Third Grade children. Anthem: *In All These You Welcomed Me* – William Bradley Roberts.

May 10

Ms. Kathy Nichols, who works for the Sabeel Palestinian Liberation Theology Institute in Jerusalem, will be our guest preacher. Anthem: *Eternal King* – Alan Schultz.

May 17

The Annual Children's Musical, *God with a Capital "G,"* under the leadership of John Snavely, will be presented. Gusti will preach on "Preparing for Pentecost," by reflecting on the story of Peter's transformation in Acts 10:44-48 – and how we at St. Mark's might continue preparing for our own Pentecost experience. Anthem: *Let Me Rejoice* (Isaiah 61:10) – Nancy Telfer.

May 24

Gusti will preach on "The Courage to Teach," reflecting on the role of Jesus as teacher in John 17:6-19 – and our calling to support both church and public education. Anthem: *Awake, My Heart* – Jane Marshall.

May 31

Pentecost Sunday. Stuart is preaching. Our confirmands will be received into the life of the church. Summer schedule begins. Anthem: *Everlasting God* (Psalm 139) – Tom Fettke

Begins May 31
Worship service at 9:30 a.m.

