



# MARKSMAN



## Mission Statement:

Celebrating God's love and forgiveness, we serve others.

## Core Values:

Prayer, Accessibility, Service, Communication, Education, Worship, Youth, Healthy Relationships

## Our Vision:

Following Jesus' example "we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, nurse the sick, and visit the imprisoned as we see Jesus in the faces of those we serve. "

**December 2009**

Members and Friends of St. Mark's, Advent blessings and peace to each of you.

Each year, a new Church-year begins with the season of Advent. So, I guess it's appropriate to say, "Happy New Year!"

With the season of Advent, we begin a journey, following the prophecies, the birth, the teachings, and life of Jesus.

The year reaches its peak on Resurrection Sunday, and then comes the season of Pentecost, when we discover more deeply the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The last Sunday of the Church-year is Christ the King Sunday; a great day of celebration within the Church, when we recognize that Jesus is KING, and bring him honor and worship, as such.

Advent often becomes a time of focus on the coming of Christmas. That would be a natural result, given the fact that we live in a society which has commercialized so much of our Christian Heritage. But, while Advent leads up to Christmas, the time is actually to be used to think about, and prepare for Jesus' second coming. Jesus first came, humble, weak and homeless. When he comes again, when he returns, he'll come in Glory, Majesty and Power.

Advent means "coming" or "arrival". John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, by preaching and teaching repentance, renewal and commitment.

We are called to do the same; prepare the way for Jesus to come again, by sharing his name, sharing his life, sharing his death, with those around us.

May you all be blessed beyond measure this Advent and Christmas Season. And may each of us seek ways to bless others out of our abundant blessings from God.

In Christ, Pastor Ron



Isn't it amazing to have such wonderful music groups at St. Mark's? To have such beautiful sounds week after week really is a treat, and to know that it is glorifying God's name is something we can really be thankful for.

That said, I often take our music volunteers for granted. I show up at the service and they sound amazing. It's an unspoken arrangement we have and I'm quite comfortable with it—mostly because I don't have to do anything but listen and feel the emotions that bring me closer to God. Every now and then, however, I come out of my own little world long enough to appreciate the work that goes into this beauty. You'd think it would be easy with my own son and mother-in-law being part of bells and chimes and seeing them go off to practice. Maybe it's because they have such a passion to make music that I don't see it as work, but work it is.

For the musicians at St. Mark's it requires hours of practice every week. It requires arriving early for service, being involved in nearly every special program we put on, working with other churches, and arranging their lives around these commitments. Most of the participants will tell you they like music and they love using their gift in service to the Lord, but the gift of time and commitment really is something special.

And what an array of special gifts we have. This past Sunday morning, I heard the practices of our Chancel Choir, our Choristers, our Joyful Ringers, and our Little Bitty Bells groups. I even heard some women working on a flute piece. Later that evening our praise band practiced, Monday night our adult bell and chime groups gathered and Thursday our Chancel Choir will meet again. And there is no telling when you will suddenly hear the organ, piano or even a set of drums being played for practice.

And while I'm appreciating, I don't want to forget the leaders of these groups who spend so much additional time preparing beyond practice and performance. This wonderful, beautiful, amazing music is such a gift and it seems to permeate every corner of the church. St. Mark's is so blessed to have it and even more blessed to be able to share it.

Brett Perkins

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."

- Johann Sebastian Bach

**December 11<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM:**

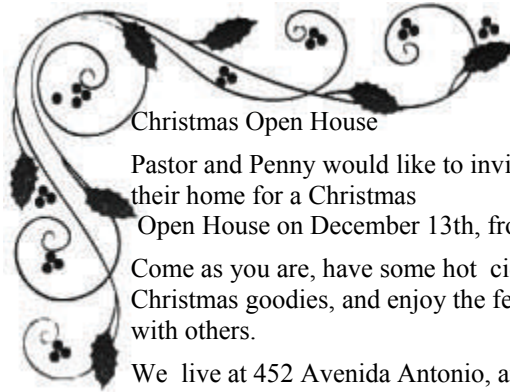
Christmas concert at Chula Vista Presbyterian Church (at Hilltop Drive near "L" Street). Six of St. Mark's musical ensembles will be participating. Benefit (fund raiser) for the Inner Faith Shelter.



**December 20<sup>th</sup> , 9:00 AM worship service:**

Chancel Choir will be presenting our Christmas cantata at the . "Winter Rose".

Barbara Atwood



**Christmas Open House**

Pastor and Penny would like to invite you to their home for a Christmas Open House on December 13th, from 2 – 5 pm. Come as you are, have some hot cider, some Christmas goodies, and enjoy the fellowship with others.

We live at 452 Avenida Antonio, and we will have directions when it gets closer.

Put it on your calendars, and we hope to see you there.

(Parking is limited; car pooling is advised!)



Valet Parking for Sunday Worship

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- If you or your loved one(s) have mobility issues that make it difficult for them to attend Sunday worship, we now can help.
- Several members have agreed to meet those folks at the rear of the church near the Conference room, help them with walkers, wheel chairs, etc., and then park the car for you.
- In order for this plan to work, we do need to know that you are coming and the approximate time of your arrival.
- You may either call the Church Office (619-427-5515) during the week Or call Pastor John (619-575-7212) on Saturday to notify us.
- When you come, please use the I Street entrance near Project Hand and stop near the bench outside the rear of the Worship Center.



Pastor John

**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS**

PASTOR SEIBER (619) 575-7212

If you or someone you know has a need and would like a visit from Pastor John, please call the church office at **(619) 427-5515.**

Please keep these people in your prayers. Remembering that most of them might appreciate visits from you.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Hilda Aubol     | Esther Kort    |
| Rocky Beebe     | Olive Kramp    |
| Betty Burgess   | Lorrie Malonne |
| Kaho Chester    | Arthur Mosen   |
| Helen Dearmin   | Ken Voight     |
| Carol Graham    | Jack Wahlquist |
| Florence Harris | Nora West      |
| Peter Honrud    | Bob Whittier   |

December is the perfect month to make some special requests...

**C** -call people you notice aren't attending and let them know they are missed.

**H**- have a blessed Christmas

**R**- reach out & support those in the military, in financial difficulty or in need

**I**- invite friends & neighbors to attend our Cantata or a worship service.

**S**- say a prayer that St. Mark's be given clear direction & discernment as we work to become a healthy congregation

**T**- thank God for the blessings St. Mark's has received this year.

**M**- make St. Mark's a regular part of your prayers.

**A**- ask God to continue to lift up leaders to assist us as we, His people, continue along this path of change.

**S**- say a prayer for a spirit of willingness within each one of us to put the needs of the church before our own desires.

2010 promises to be an exciting year of:

Changes, Hope, Risk, Issues, Serving, Teaching, Mileposts, Aspiring, Striving.

God bless you and St. Mark's in 2010.

Nancy Dreesen  
Council President



Mary's Little Boy Child  
Was born on Christmas Day.

### Social Concerns Corner

The Social Concerns Ministry Team would like to thank the members of St. Mark's for their continual support of Project Hand.

A special thanks to the Women of St. Mark's, Diane and Ron Nissen, and Jill McGrew for special donations that made the needed renovation of Project Hand a possibility.

The shelves are filling and people are being fed. The renovation has brought a new life to Project Hand, which many of you took the opportunity to see on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our Music Department along with Chula Vista Presbyterian graciously collected a free will offering at the end of their concert to benefit Project Hand.

These monies along with those collected from members of St. Mark's has made shopping possible and helps keep the blank spots on the shelves filled.

Next year our focus will be on getting other congregations around St. Mark's involved in the collection of food and donations that will further feed those in need.

Have a wonderful holiday, and remember when shopping for your holiday meals to pick up extra items that can be used by those that otherwise wouldn't have a meal.

Five families to pray for:  
December 2009  
Cris Ferguson  
Mark, Kristin & Joshua Flint  
Tom & Pam Fore  
Jim & Shirley Fortner  
Robert, Thea, Emily & Sarah Fowler

### Church Attendance

	10/09	10/08
Week 1	214	240
Week 2	208	235
Week 3	203	243
Week 4	183	270
Week 5	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>
Total	808	988

Confirmation Classes: began Nov. 18, 2009 in the Lower Level, and will continue every week on Wednesday until 12/22/2009

Sixth graders will meet with Pastor Ron in the Lower Level of the church. Be sure to bring your Bible with you!



### PRAYER QUILTING CORNER

May we all be blessed to blessings to others this season of Christ's birth, and may the light of the Christ Child, our Savior, shine in your hearts and lives now and throughout the coming year.

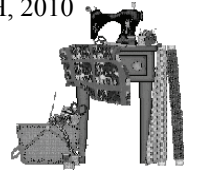
We want to thank each of you for being a part of the Prayer Quilt Ministry in 2009 - tying prayers into quilts, sewing, helping put them together, putting ties in, etc. We have brought comfort to many through the prayers in these quilts and have been truly blessed to do so.

We will not meet as a group in December, but will meet again in January.

I hope you will be able to join us. No experience necessary. We need helping hands and hearts to put quilts together, iron, put in ties, sew, and so much more. We meet from 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. in Jacobson Hall - lunch, snacks, and fellowship provided.

Next meeting date:  
JANUARY 16TH, 2010

Roz Nelson



### NEWS FROM TACO

December Blessings to you from TACO! Five months ago, we started our fifth annual Christmas in July push. It's taken five months, but we have reached our goal!

We are now able to purchase 250 sleeping bags to distribute to our patio guests at Christmas.

Because of your donations, 250 people will have a gift to unwrap and enjoy. You may be wondering...*who will wrap the sleeping bags?* YOU!

We need volunteers to help at our Wrapping Party on Wednesday, December 9. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and stop when they are all wrapped. If you can, please bring a roll of wrapping paper!

To thank you all for all your work throughout the year, TACO will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12, at noon, at First Lutheran Church. Please bring a dish to share. You can bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert. Bring your specialty!

RSVP to Rachel at 619-235-9445, ext. 2 or at [rachel.taco@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:rachel.taco@firstlutheransd.org) so we know you're coming!

In this season of Advent, we anticipate the birth of Jesus.

We remember his birth in a manger because there was no room in the inn.

We keep in our prayers those who still cannot find room in an inn.

We remember that even in Jesus' ministry he often had no place to lay his head.

We keep in our prayers those who have no place to lay their heads without fear of others.

We remember Jesus' death on a cross where he felt the agony of being alone.

We keep in our prayers those who may die alone on the streets with no one to remember them.

Thank you for your continued support of TACO. We are blessed to have support from congregations like yours.

Rachel Line  
Volunteer Coordinator

People often overestimate what will happen in the next two years and underestimate what will happen in ten.

Bill Gates,  
The Road Ahead

THE POWER OF PRAYER.  
I believe that God only gives three answers to prayer:

Yes  
not yet  
I have something better in mind

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