



THE MARKSMAN

February 2009

Dear Members and Friends of St. Marks,

As many of you recall, early in my ministry among you, I presented an outline for a process I hoped to use during my ministry here. The process is meant to help us be more proactive in creating, maintaining and gaining more ministries. The process is intended also to help build participation in those ministries. The process is also intended to help us be a healthier, more vibrant, representation of the Body Of Christ in Chula Vista.

Part of the process involved forming a Refocus Team, whose members have met regularly (twice a month), who have prayerfully, faithfully, and with much Bible study, with deliberation and discernment, sought after God's Mission and Vision for St. Marks. The Team has also formulated a set of Core Values. We have chosen to reaffirm the existing Mission Statement. Our goal is to share with all of you a Vision Statement by Palm Sunday.

In the narthex (the gathering area of our worship center) you'll find next to our St. Marks prayer quilt, our list of Core Values. Please read them and become familiar with them. They will be our "guiding principles" as we move into the future God has in store for us.

Beginning the first Sunday of this month the sermon focus will be those Core Values; one each week. You'll hear "temple talks" by your Refocus Team members, and I will be preaching on a different Core Value each Sunday.

Process, Progress, & Challenges...

The 2008 church council can have a real sense of accomplishment. (All of those meetings were not in vain!) The dedication of hard-working council members is most appreciated. Some new members will be joining the council after the election at the Annual Meeting, January 25. There will also be new members on the Memorial Endowment Committee and 2009 Nominating Committee. You may be seeing some changes in the responsibilities of some committees and some new committees formed to help us accomplish even more in 2009. We intend to have an expanded youth ministry in 2009.

On one hand, St. Mark's Lutheran Church is still in the process of organizing for ministry. And on the other hand, we have made a great deal of progress in the past year.

Your Refocus Team's prayer and hope is that you'll be open to our work, that it will be accepted in the manner it is presented, and begin the process of discerning how your gifts are best suited to help St. Marks celebrate God's love and forgiveness, while we serve others.

My desire is that each of us becomes an active participant in the Faith-life of St. Marks, beginning first with regular prayer for each other and our ministries. I pray also, that each of us actively take part in at least one area of ministry; an area for which you have a passion; an area in which you are gifted; an area you could bring assistance to others, as we go about doing what God has called us to do.

Imagine the awesome power generated by 500 people doing the work and will of God. Imagine the impact on our community if 500 of us prayed daily and sought to discover more ways to serve God, by serving others. Imagine what St. Marks will look like a year from now; two years from now, ten years from now (I DO!), when the power and will of God is unleashed by YOU, THE MEMBERS OF ST. MARKS.

May God bless each of you abundantly, and may God give you the desire and opportunities, to share those blessings with others.

Pastor Ron



There are more core documents (ie. core values, Constitution, facilities use, wedding & funeral policies, job descriptions for most of the staff) coming into place, with more to come. An employee handbook will also soon be in place.

We have a Wednesday Praise service that is evolving to be a more meaningful worship experience for those who attend.

Your prayers and support are needed as we chart a course to serve others in the year ahead.

Nancy Dreesen
Church Council President

Children's Music:

The **Joyful Ringers** children's chime group is practicing hard for their February appearances at services on both Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

This group rehearses on Wednesday nights from 6-6:25 in the Sanctuary.

We are concentrating on "Praise" type songs this term, to fit in better on the Wednesday night service.

Excitement is high, and there are (as usual) more players than parts to play, so we share parts in order that everyone has a chance to play.

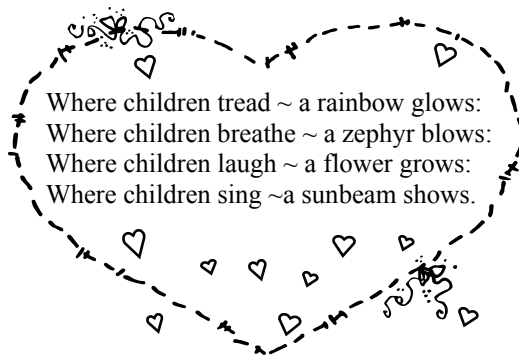
Denise Jones

~ Coming up soon ~

The children begin rehearsals for the Spring Musical Theater production,

"Dr. Newheart's Neck-Up Check-Up ~A Spiritual Physical for Musical Kids"

under the direction of Danya Zimbauer.



**Parents advance information
Check your monthly calendars**

Sunday, Feb 1st 10:30-11:15 am--Musical Informational Parent's meeting in the lower level

Sunday, Feb 15th 10:30-11:15 am--Musical Coordinators meeting in the lower level

Sunday, March 1st 10:15-11:15 am Children's Musical Rehearsals begin! in the lower level

Wednesday, March 4th 6:00-6:50 pm Children's Musical Rehearsals continue in the lower level...(rehearsals will continue on Sundays and Wednesdays through May 13)

Saturday, May 16th and Sunday, May 7th--"Dr. Newheart's Neck Up Check Up" performances ~ (times TBA)

Danya Zimbauer

Brett Perkins Family Ministries Director

Things are starting to come into focus as we plan fun for the children and youth. The new VBS materials have arrived and this year's theme name is "Crocodile Rock"! The setting is the bayous of Louisiana and some of the inhabitants include Flash the firefly, Jaques le Croc, and Tucker the Turtle. Of course, Chadder will be back with a great story of surviving the swamp thanks to his faith in God. It won't be long till we start planning ahead and lining up volunteers.

Also, Danya finally surrendered the secret of this year's musical. After consulting with the dynamic trio of Marcia, Tammy and Rachael, it was decided that we should go with: "Dr. Newheart's Neck-up Check-up." It's a funny story with great music wherein children learn how to use their eyes, ears and minds to please God.

Rehearsals begin March 1st and two performances are scheduled for the weekend of May 17th! Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, a new youth activity has begun that should be pretty awesome. The youth of Pilgrim Lutheran and Church of Joy (another Lutheran church on 'H' street) are putting together a monthly "youth" worship service and have invited us to be partners in the project. There will be a social hour followed by a service that is totally run by the teens. It will take place the last Sunday evening of each month and will be a great opportunity for our local Lutheran youth to combine their talents and enthusiasm. Lets make sure we are well represented on February 22nd! More details to follow.

Prayer Quilt Ministry

We have wrapped 380 recipients in our prayers and love this year!

Each of you are a part of this ministry of prayer, hope, love, and caring. As we pray during service and tie knots in the prayer quilts themselves we are wrapping someone in need in the warmth of God's "feel-able" love. So many tell me of fingering these knots of prayer when they are most down and being assured of God's love for them through our prayers.

Please join us and check us out! We meet one Saturday a month. Check you bulletin, the Marksman, or the website for dates. We will meet on February 7th and March 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Snacks and lunch are provided. We meet in Jacobson Hall where we cut, sew, pin quilts together, and put ties in them. No experience is necessary.

Please put one or both of these dates on you calendar and come.

We are thankful for your love, your prayers, and your donations of time, materials, and money.

Donations need to be made out to St. Marks and they MUST have PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY on the memo line as we have two quilt groups.

See or call Roz (619) 422-5463, or call the church office to request a prayer quilt.

Roz

Family of the month

Each month we will select five families from the directory to pray for in turn, as well as those families who have a special need at this time. Please pray for these families:

Marie Bergfors Myrna Bolin Alma Bolt
Jim Biddle Roy & Marianne Biddle

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

Pastor Bill & Sheri Bengtson will be leading an HfH build trip to El Salvador from **Friday, March 27th - Sunday, April 5th**. This build is sponsored by Thrivent in conjunction with the Lutheran Church in El Salvador. Wouldn't it be great if a full team of 8-10 volunteers could come from St. Mark's as a special Lenten service project! This date was just approved this past week and response time to organize a team is limited.

For details, go to www.Thriventbuilds.com and click on Worldwide Trips, or call Bill Bengtson at (619) 501-5422.



02-28-09 St. Mark's Friendship Tea

The annual Friendship Tea for St. Mark's women will be at 1:30 p.m. in Jacobson Hall on Saturday, February 28, 2009.

The program will include fashions by Bon Worth with our women as models, special music with Denise Jones on bells accompanied by Margaret Gaillard, and a silent auction.

All donations will support our benevolences.

As customary, individual women will serve as hostesses, provide table decorations and refreshments.

Everyone is invited.

If you would like to hostess a table or come as a guest, please contact ~

Joan Harshman ~ joanharsh@cox.net ~ 426-1231



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Pastor Sieber, our Visitation Pastor, is currently calling on the following homebound members. If you would like a visit from Pastor John, please call the church office at **(619) 427-5515**.

Please keep these people in your prayers :

Betty Burgess - Bob Whittier - Elinor Scavo - Esther Kort
Florence Harris - Gene & Olive Kramp - Helen Dearmin
Jack Walquist - Joe Wingo - Kaho Chester - Ken Hultenius
Nora West - Peter Honrud - Reuben Haas - Verna Werstlein

PLEASE CONTACT

Pastor Ron directly if you anticipate an upcoming hospital stay.

Phone number: **(619) 632-7709**
Email address: **rhovick@cox.net**

Prayer Request:

rhultenius@cox.net
joanharsh@cox.net

PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED!

If your family had a portrait taken last summer, please look for the directory labeled with your name in the box in the Narthex.

They are in alphabetical order.

If your family had a portrait taken and you don't see a directory labeled with your name, please contact the church office at (619) 427-5515.

The Women of the ELCA committee is suggesting that every circle include bringing a gift of food for Project Hand to their meetings. Now more than ever there are needs to be filled for people, and our church wants to be part of the solution.

I am late but not ungrateful.

Thanks St Marks for your prayers, cards, food, tapes, flowers, love and friendship this past year.

God bless you. **Jean Myers**

Tammy Lower Announces A Workshop

Foreclosure Workshop

February 17, 2009 at 6:30 pm in Jacobson Hall

J. Alan Enochs, Attorney at Law
619-694-4693

New Deadline For Newsletter

The deadline for items in the printed hard copies of *The Marksman* is the 20th of the preceding month.

Send newsletter items to rhultenius@cox.net. This information will also be used for the online version. Thank you, Ruby Hultenius

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

With the addition of the online version of *The Marksman*, we have noticed some confusion about where to send information, particularly in regard to bulletin announcements, calendar items, etc

If you have an item for the announcements, inserts, or calendar in the weekly bulletin, or if you are requesting to reserve a date for an upcoming event, if you have moved, changed home or work phone numbers, email addresses, or cell phone numbers, added family members, or added or deleted anything else that you would like us to know about, please contact Melody at:

(619) 427-5515, or
office@stmarks.sdcoxmail.com.

Information in writing, including full details with regard to dates, times and locations is appreciated.