



THE MARKSMAN



Lead Pastor Ron Hovick
(619) 632-7709

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

Church Office
(619) 427-5515

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

June 2011

Vision Statement
"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."

Editor Ruby Hultenius



Piano Concert featuring Melissa Creider

Saturday, June 25th at 3:00 PM

organist / accompanist at St. Mark's who has graciously volunteered to play this concert to benefit and promote choral music at St. Mark's.

A free will offering will be received.

Reception with light refreshments following the concert.



Sonshine/West Cluster Spring Event, Sat. May 14, 2011

Clairemont Lutheran.....approximately 50 women gathered from Sonshine West Cluster and brought gifts for Veterans Village. The Chaplain, Darcy Pavich took home a carload of socks collected by Shirley Fortner, blankets, soaps, etc. to be used at Stand Down in July or before as needed.

Stand Down is where 1,000 homeless veterans are assisted with an opportunity to shower, get haircuts, clothing, socks and some opportunities for counseling and to get off the streets.
-Jill McGrew

St. Mark's reaches out once again. I had the privilege to deliver over 750 pairs of socks on Saturday to Darcy Pavich of Veterans Village for the National Stand Down for Homeless Veterans.

Other items donated as Love Gifts from the women of the Sonshine West Cluster were hand tied blankets (from the Women of St. Mark's), toothpaste, tooth brushes, razors, gently used clothing items, towels, etc.

Thank you to Jim and Shirley Fortner for heading up the sock drive, and to each of you for the support.

For more information on the Stand Down, you may go onto the web and type in Veterans Village of San Diego and click on Stand Down. Volunteers are always needed. We will continue to collect items for these veterans, as there is such a need.

Thank you again, Sue Connors

Sue Connors has a lot of information on the Pacifica Women of the ELCA Convention in November - It is in San Diego so would be an opportunity for our women.



Many of the circles will take a summer break---but some will continue, Joy and Good Book Club. We will have activities again in the fall.
-Jill McGrew

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Please plan to join us as we use our hands and our hearts to make quilts to bring comfort and tangible evidence of God's love and comfort to those in need of healing. We meet once a month in Jacobson Hall - no experience is necessary. We need people to iron, pin quilts together, put ties in quilts and to sew if they are able. Lunch and snacks are provided.

This month we will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
In Jacobson Hall on:
June 18th

God is Faithful.
Does God Control and Rule Everything?
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'God will never give you more than you can handle'

Paul tells us: "God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength but with your testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Over time that promise has become abbreviated to "God will never give you more than you can handle." Like many others, I've derived comfort from these words, though I know God does not "give" me loss, pain and grief.

Like most bumper-sticker theology, this promise appeals to my concerns about myself and my well-being. If I take Paul's words and God's faithfulness seriously, I must also look beyond my self-centeredness to the pain and severe testing others endure. What of the hungry, the abused, the victims of racism? What of the people of the world who have known no other life than a daily existence of war and terror? Could it be that God could use me to provide a "way out" for the hopeless? Could I help others handle life?

A better bumper sticker might be: "God is faithful."

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=4779

Does God Control and Rule Everything?

A Jews believe that there is no beginning or end to God, so *technically*, God does control and rule everything. We also believe that God helps us and loves us. However, God gave all living creatures free will. Because of this, God cannot interfere when those creatures — whether human, animal or even microbes and viruses — use their free will. When something bad happens, I believe that this is because of random factors caused by free will. I don't think that bad things that happen are God's punishment. God can't interfere with free will or it wouldn't be free. This is not to suggest that there aren't miracles, or that we shouldn't pray for God's help. There's a meditation in the Jewish prayer book that says, "Pray as though everything depended upon God. Act as though everything depended upon you."

This reminds us that we are in partnership with God. Prayer and love of God is important in helping us to feel supported and safe. Our own actions are important because we are humans living in a human world. This gives us special power to change things in our life and in the world around us.

INTERESTING TO COMPARE THE TWO.

Those of you with computers must go to the new website as it is being updated....the old websites will be coming down as we only need one site.

www.hilltopcross.org



St. Mark's Town Hall Meeting – April 3, 2010

Church Council conducted a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, April 3 to discuss the Howard Gardner Community Charter School. The Charter approached St. Mark's to house their new school in December, 2010. Since two of the Core Strategies identified in the Strategic Plan 2020 are: *Expand Outreach and Service* and *Nurture Youth*, Church Council agreed to look into the steps required to adapt St. Marks to house an elementary school. After lots of prayer and several months of due diligence, including a series of meetings with the Charter leadership, a Charter architect and the City of Chula Vista, it was determined that St. Marks is not a good match for this Charter School. The critical deciding factors were:

- The school began inquiring about housing 100 students, but by March they were describing a 400 student school—far too many for the St. Mark's site.
- The City returned their analysis in late March indicating that a "Conditional Use Permit" would take three to four more months of study. This would include gathering feedback from the neighbors and analysis of traffic patterns. Only after those hurdles are cleared would the City issue permits for any required remodeling.

- we would need to:
 - Re-grade the sloped walkway to make it handicap accessible.
 - Put fire sprinklers in all buildings
 - Expand and retro-fit all restrooms to meet ADA requirements
- The final, and ultimately most important, issue emerged as it became clear that the amount of space that the Charter school required would seriously interfere with the primary purposes of St. Marks—worship and service.

Charter leadership was very disappointed, but will continue to research sites in the Chula Vista area. Church Council members supported them by making suggestions of other potential sites. In the meantime, Howard Gardner Charter will continue to house their office at St. Marks while they locate a school site. The monthly benevolence contributed by the Charter will cover any additional costs incurred.

The next Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Sunday morning, May 22. With the many activities related to "putting legs on" our *Strategic Plan 2020*, Church Council will be available to provide updates and continue to gather input.

*No matter how steep the mountain - the Lord is going to climb it with you. - Helen Steiner Rice
*Calmness is the way we show that we are trusting in God.
*Every day do your best. God will do the rest
*My job is to take care of the possible and trust God with the impossible.

Homebound Members	Steve Antis	Esther Frederickson
Pastor Seiber	Jan Beck	Wally Hoefs
(619) 575-7212	Franklin Beebe	Esther Kort
	Betty Burgess	Ken Voight
Please keep these	Kaho Chester	Jack Walquist
people in your prayers	Helen Dearmin	