



MARKSMAN

October
2010



Mission Statement

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

Core Values

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

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."

Pastor Ron Hovick
(619) 632-7709

Visitation Pastor Seiber
(619) 575-7212

Church Office
(619) 427-5515

Prayer Quilts - Roz Nelson
(619) 422-5463

Prayer Chain Ruby Hultenius
rhultenius@cox.net

Brett Perkins - Family Ministries Director

Nancy Dreesen Council President

Newsletter editor: Ruby Hultenius



Credo
In
Concert

The ensemble's name "Credo" is of Latin origin and means "I believe".

Saturday, October 9th 2010

580 Hilltop Drive – Chula Vista, CA

5:00 PM – Concert

(A free will offering will be received)

3:00 PM - Master Class

(pre-registration required to participate – call 619/427-5515 for details)

A few words about "CREDO"

Vocal Quartet from Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Founded just four years ago, Credo Quartet was formed from a desire to sing choral music of many countries, musical styles and traditions. This esteemed vocal ensemble produces fresh interpretations of many well-known choral works that are customarily sung by larger choirs. Though the choir is very young, each of its members has great working experiences in leading choirs of Saint-Petersburg.

The ensemble's name "Credo" is of Latin origin and means, "I believe". Each of the singers professes a deep belief in the ministry of their musical works and demonstrates a great understanding of the Divine Liturgies of Eastern Orthodox churches. Indeed, they are believers in the grace, beauty and divine nature of the gift of singing.

The Russian Orthodox musical heritage comprises the heart of Credo's repertoire. However, the quartet also engages the listener with an array of Russian folk songs, western classical music styles, as well as contemporary works by Russian and international composers.

"The human voice is the oldest and finest one of musical instruments, and the obligation to use it for singing is of the highest importance in one's life." - Richard Wagner

You Are Invited to Participate in Designing St. Mark's Strategic Plan 2020

St. Mark's is using several venues to collect input to our *Strategic Plan 2020*. You may make your voice heard by: completing the online survey. You will find the link on either of the St. Mark's websites: www.hilltopcross.org or www.stmarkschulavista.org participating in one of many Cottage Meetings between October 1 – November 10. Cottage meetings will be held at times all regular St. Mark's groups meet, and on Saturdays. You may attend any Cottage Meeting, according to your personal availability.

Your comments will be used by the Strategic Planning team on November 19 & 20 to develop our *Strategic Plan 2020*. The Strategic Plan will be built upon our current mission, vision and core values. We need to determine, however, how to put legs on our mission, vision and core values. How do we become the church we aspire to be? We need to develop strategies and action plans to guide our priorities and actions over the next 10 years, so that in 2020, St. Marks will be the kind of church that serves our members and community even more effectively than we do today.

This process will feel familiar, since we conducted similar Cottage Meetings during our Transition, in preparation for calling Pastor Ron & Penny. We will use your input today, to help us determine *What God is calling us to be and do, as a congregation, between now and 2020.*

Our Systems Thinking Approach®:

During Strategic Planning, we are using a *Systems Thinking Approach®*, that is guided by five key questions:

What is our desired outcome or future? This is defined by our mission, vision and core values.

How will we know we have achieved our mission, vision & values? We use a variety of key success measures such as worship participation, baptisms, financial donations and youth involvement to measure our current strength as a church.

Where are we now? This is a description of our current state – data we are gathering in these Cottage Meetings, through the online survey, and our key success measure data.

How will we close the gap between where we are today and our desired future? These are the strategies and action plans that will guide our priorities and commitments over the next 10 years. The Core Strategies will be developed during the Strategic Planning retreat in November and the Action Plans will be developed by Action Planning teams in January and February, 2011. We will all be involved in putting those plans into action over the coming years—helping to create the St. Mark's we envision.

What will be changing in our environment that will impact St. Marks? This environmental scan is critical in order to keep St. Mark's alive and relevant to the members and community of Chula Vista. Your input is part of our Future Environmental Scan.

Our *Strategic Plan 2020* will help us decide what we need to continue doing, stop doing, and start doing over the next 10 years. It will establish our priorities for time, talent, money and all of the other resources of St. Marks.

The strategic planning process will help us determine how well we are currently living our mission, vision and core values and how we can improve over the next 10 years. Help us determine what our strengths and weaknesses are as a congregation and what could we do to close the gap between where we are now and where we aspire to be in 2020.

The Cottage Meetings will focus on the following four questions:

Question 1:

Our mission is: *Celebrating God's Love and Forgiveness, We Serve Others*

What aspects of St. Marks help or support our ability to live our mission? What aspects of St. Marks deter or inhibit our ability to live our mission? Where do we do it best? Where are we least likely to do it?

Question 2:

Our vision is:

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.

What aspects of St. Marks contribute to our vision? What aspects of St. Marks are keeping us from achieving our vision?

Question 3:

As you consider the list of our core values, please identify which one is most important to you today. Please tell us why this value is important to you, and . . . if you can, please give us an example of when you have seen someone at St. Mark's model this value . . . or when you have consciously chosen to model this value.

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

Question 4:

What actions could help us become the church we aspire to be—as described in our mission, vision and core values? What could we do over the next 10 years that would help us live our mission, vision and values?

Thank You!

Based on your input in the Cottage Meeting and feedback from the online survey, the Strategic Planning Team will be creating our *Strategic Plan 2020*. The Strategic Plan will serve as the guiding document for all future decisions made by the Church Council and other church leadership over the next decade. It will be revisited annually to ensure it remains alive and relevant in a rapidly changing world. It will be a living, breathing testament and guide to help us live our commission as God's people in Chula Vista, California.

St. Mark's Strategic Plan 2020 - Continued:

Approximately 20 Cottage meetings are being held to gather input to the strategic plan, and everyone is also encouraged to complete the online survey – the link is on the St. Mark's webpage.

Guarantee: Your feedback will be seriously considered by the Strategic Planning Team. Limitation: Input is being gathered from many different people throughout the congregation and community. Therefore, it is impossible for each person's input to be automatically placed in the final Strategic Plan exactly as desired.

We know that that the challenges of creating a living, breathing strategic plan—one that calls forth our highest and best in service of God's calling—is an ambitious task and worthy of great time, effort, and continuous prayer. We ask your daily prayer for God to guide us in the strategic planning process, that He may help us strive for that which we cannot yet see, help us build plans based on time, talent and skills we do not yet possess, and guide us in becoming the church that Chula Vista needs in 2020.

Please Pray unceasingly for our Strategic Plan 2020:

God of hope, we pray that you will guide St. Mark's in creating a living, breathing *Strategic Plan 2020*—a strategic plan that strengthens our commitment and builds our capacity to find and follow your will for St. Marks, regardless of where it leads us, and a strategic plan that unites us in purpose and goals, that calls forth our highest and best efforts in service of our members and the Chula Vista community. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Since May, we have been sending comfort items to Camp Calero-- a very small outlying base of about 50 soldiers in southern Afghanistan where my nephew Kyle was sent for a 6-month's deployment. (He had already been there for 6 weeks when we began.) When I decided I wanted to "adopt" this entire little base for Kyle's time there, and asked if any church members were interested in donating items to send, I was unprepared for the incredible response from St. Mark's members!

Here is what we accomplished:

44 boxes were sent.

- 200+ individual packages of nuts and snacks.
- 100+ bags of pretzels, crackers, cookies, chips.
- 10 large bags of dried fruit.
- 15 large containers of nuts.
- 75 magazines and puzzle books (plus one huge box of nothing but crossword puzzles!).
- 50+ PACKAGES (2 or 3 each) of new t-shirts!
- 30+ 6-packs of socks. 10 large bags of beef jerky.
- 25 sunblocks.
- 50 chapsticks.
- 20 containers of foot powder.
- 5 batches of homemade cookies (lovingly packed!!).
- Dozens of toothbrushes.
- 150 tubes of travel size toothpaste.
- Feminine hygiene products for the lone female at the base.
- Lotions, floss, deodorants.
- Piles of gum, small bags of candy, drink mixes.
- 7 boxes of nothing but toys for the Afghani children who are treated at the base's medical clinic, including
- 50+ beanie babies,
- A dozen large stuffed animals (vacuum packed into one box!),
- Coloring books and crayons, dozens of small trucks and cars, jump-ropes, balls, too much to list. Plus 8 large bags of individually wrapped candies to pass out to the children.
- \$460.00 in cash was also donated to buy needed things to round out boxes, and offset the postage.

St. Mark's is an INCREDIBLE church!

As Kyle wrote-- "Everyone on base sends their thanks... the boxes helped make this deployment bearable!"

THANK YOU ALL!

Denise Jones

'Indifference'

When Jesus came to Birmingham they simply passed him by. They never hurt a hair of him they simply let him die. For men had grown more tender and they would not give him pain. They only just passed down the street and left him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do.' And still it rained the wintry rain that drenched him through and through. The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see. And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for Calvary.

Studdart Kennedy

"God is at home; it is we who have gone for a walk."
"Every creature is a word of God"
"The price of inaction is far greater than the cost of making a mistake."
No-one knows what the soul is.. But what we do know is, the soul is where God works compassion."

Meister Eckhart

Prayer Quilting Corner

Roz Nelson

We are blessed to be a blessing to so many! We would like to invite you to join us on a Prayer Quilting Saturday - come check us out - no experience with sewing necessary! We need helping hands and hearts to put quilts together, iron, put in ties, sew and so much more.

We meet one Saturday a month for quilting and fellowship - from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Jacobson Hall. Lunch is provided.

Come for part or all of the time and bring a friend.

PRAYER QUILTING SATURDAY DATE
put it on your calendar:
October 16th

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

PASTOR SEIBER (619) 575-7212

Please keep these people in your prayers.

Remembering that most of them might appreciate visits from you.

Hilda Aubol	Shirley Cook	Esther Kort
Rocky Beebe	Helen Dearmin	Lorrie Malonne
Al Byrd	Esther Frederickson	Arthur Mosen
N. John and Jan Beck	Florence Harris	Dewey Schulenberger
Betty Burgess	Wally & Eunice Hoefs	Ken Voight
Kaho Chester	Jessie & Dot Jenkins	Jack Wahlquist
		Bob Whittier

Sunset by the Sea.

Fall Blessings to you!

Sunset by the Sea, TACO's biggest fundraiser, is just weeks away! RSVP's are due by October 2. However, if you are unable to RSVP by October 2, call Rachel Line at 619-235-9445, ext 2 for information.



Tickets are \$75.00 each or 6 tickets for \$300.00.

The live and silent auctions are sure to be a hit!

You don't want to miss this amazing event on October 23 at 4:30 p.m. at the home of Drs. Rup and Vani Nagala, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, at 6209 Camino de la Costa in La Jolla. Parking is limited, and a shuttle service will be available.

As always, thank you so much for your support of TACO. The service that TACO provides would not happen without the prayers and financial support of congregations in this area. We are blessed by this partnership.

Peace,
Rachel Line, Volunteer Coordinator

 Children's chimes and little bells beginning Oct 17, to prepare for the Christmas Children's service. Watch for the program date in a future newsletter 



Piano recital

Denise Jones' Students
Oct 17, 2010 - 4 p.m.
in the sanctuary.

Members and friends welcome!

Five Families to Pray for October 2010

Gary & Pamela Greiser
Jessica Johnsen
Ricky Kelly
Annie Kjonegaard
Skip & Joyce Knudsen

Church Attendance

8/10 8/09

Week 1.....	276.....	208
Week 2.....	221.....	259
Week 3.....	206.....	197
Week 4.....	214.....	218
Week 5.....	<u>220.....</u>	<u>232</u>
Total.....	1137...	1114

Mark your calendar! We have many special activities & events in October & November that you may enjoy. St. Mark's is an active, vibrant church. Be sure to check our new website hilltopcross.org for information on activities for all ages.

•Strategic Planning Cottage meetings will be held at various times throughout the month. Check your calendar and plan to attend one of them to give your input & ideas. These ideas will be included in a 2-day workshop November 19 & 20.

•Sunday, October 3: VBS children will sing.

•Saturday, October 9: CREDO quartet will have a Master Class at 3:00 PM

•CREDO will have a performance at 5:00 PM in the Worship Space.

•Sunday, October 10: Spaghetti dinner and Silent Auction
Funds raised will go to completing the Video system and to Project Hand

•Quilts made by the Thursday Quilters for Lutheran World Relief will be delivered Oct. 18.

•Mark your November calendar... Sunday, Nov. 7 will be the "Saints & Souls Concert" by the choir.

Nancy Dreesen, Council President

Spaghetti Dinner

4 - 8

Sunday

October 10, 2010

&

Silent Auction



Yesterday is a canceled check
Tomorrow is a promissory note
Today is cash in hand
Spend it wisely