

A Reconciling Congregation
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TNT FIREWORKS SALES

June 28 - July 4
Open Daily until 9pm

3400 El Camino Avenue, Sacramento
In the Wal-Mart Parking Lot

All proceeds from the sale of fireworks will go to support the life and ministry of St. Mark's.



Markings

Published by St. Mark's United Methodist Church

July 1, 2010

Volume 61, Number 7

Robert & Dorrie
MOON
LECTURE SERIES
2010-2011

Twesigye Jackson Kaguri
November 26, 2010
7:30pm 

Executive Director of the
Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda.

 **Arun Gandhi**
January 22, 2011
7:30pm

Arun spent much of his youth with his grandfather, and tells anecdotes of Mahatma and his message of peace and non-violence.

 **Anne Lamott**
August 7, 2010
7:30pm

Kicking off the series will be best-selling author Anne Lamott.

Father Gregory Boyle
September 11, 2010
7:30pm 

Father Gregory Boyle, S.J.,
the founder of LA's Homeboy Industries.

 **Father John Dear**
October 22, 2010
7:30pm

Activist, author and Jesuit priest,
Father John Dear, S.J. has been arrested
75 times in peaceful protest.

Brian McLaren
February 11, 2011
7:30pm 

Author and innovative Christian thinker
who is generally regarded as the "father"
of the emergent church movement.

 **Sister Helen Prejean**
March 16, 2011
7:30pm

An account of her relationship with
convicted murderer Elmo Sonnier served
as the basis for the Academy Award
winning film *Dead Man Walking*.

Series ticket packages (all seven lectures) are on sale now for \$150. You can get the same ticket package for \$125 only on Sundays after services at St. Mark's. Individual lecture tickets will be for sale at a later date. For more information and tickets please visit www.stmarksumc.com

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You may telephone us at (916) 483-7848.

From the Pastor's Desk

by Faith Whitmore, Senior Pastor



It is with deep gratitude to Bob and Dorrie Moon that St. Mark's is able to offer the stellar series of renowned speakers that you see on the front page of this issue of Markings. For those of you who may not know them, Bob was a former pastor here at

St. Mark's and a leader in our United Methodist Church locally, regionally and nationally. Together he and Dorrie share a passion for justice and peace-making in our world. When they were no longer able to enjoy the cabin which they'd had for decades, they sold it and gave all the proceeds to St. Mark's as a designated gift to underwrite the Moon Lectures with the theme "making our ethical concerns effective."

You can view a list of speakers that St. Mark's has hosted on our web site, including Jim Wallis, Bishop Spong, Michael Nagler, actor Mike Farrell and our own Pulitzer Prize winner, Marjie Lundstrom. You can also read in greater detail, on our web site, about each of the speakers in our current series.

This series is an excellent way to invite and introduce your friends, neighbors, colleagues and family to St. Mark's. Series tickets are now available for \$150. However, if you purchase them on Sunday mornings, you can get the discounted price of \$125. If we do not sell out the entire series, which we certainly hope to do, then we will make individual tickets available at a later date.

Each of these speakers has also written at least one book, and several of them have had numerous books published: we will have a display in the narthex for you to peruse, which might encourage you to purchase some in advance of each lecture and have your book(s) autographed by the author(s).

Again, I am so grateful that St. Mark's, through the generosity of this gift by Bob and Dorrie, is able to offer such an outstanding line of speakers who will inspire all who hear them.

New This Year At St. Mark's

We are half way through the year. As you may have noticed, several new things have joined us in 2010: 11:00am Sunday School, Ash Wednesday Morning Service, Bach Festival, Community Breakfasts, Disaster Planning Group, Easter Sunrise Service, Faith and Homeless Family Mentoring Program, GLBTI Bible Study, Learning the Questions, Lent Small Groups, May Day Festival, On-line Contributions and Payments, Safe Sanctuary Training and Veteran's Group. With more to come!



Sacramento ACT by Howard Lawrence, St. Mark's Chapter of Sacramento ACT

Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT) is a non-sectarian, faith-based grassroots organizing agency comprised of 40 congregations as well as school, parent and community organizations representing over 40,000 families in Sacramento City and County.

Founded in 1991, St. Mark's is a charter member of ACT and through the years our congregation has supported and been part of ACT's efforts to achieve social justice in our community. ACT has won many victories helping Sacramento become a more livable, just community. Some of ACT's accomplishments the past year include:

- *Regional Dropout Prevention Strategy*
- *Youth Success--Youth Jobs and Opportunity Act*
- *Teacher Listening Campaign*
- *ACT's Voice is Added to National Health Care Debate and other National issues*

These are just a few of ACT's accomplishments in Sacramento. As part of the PICO (People Improving Communities Through Organizing) network of faith based community organizations ACT works for social justice at both a state and national level being a strong voice for access to health care, quality education and other issues to help create livable communities. To learn more please go to www.sacact.org. To become part of ACT here at St. Mark's please contact an ACT member.

St. Mark's Youth Ministries SSP Mission Trip

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (NIV) 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Lift these people in prayer as they go forth in service to others this Summer...

Youth

AJ A., Mallory B., Reiness B., Christina E., Emily E., Sean L., Shannon L., Audrey M., Grant M., Marissa M., Fiona O., Liam O., Chris P., Connor P., Emily P., Sydney P., Jessica S., Melissa S., Miranda S., Nick S., Olivia S., Rachel S., Stephan S., David V., Amanda W., Lucy W. and Travis W.

Counselors

Lily A., Jill D., Stephen O., Scott S. and, the Youth Director, Susan G.



Sierra Service Project

A Word about Our Itinerary

When the publicity started for this year's All-Church Camp, you were given a rather eclectic schedule of events, but told it would be expanded upon. Well here goes.

Spread Your Wings with Prayer

Saturday, September 4

10:00am People on hand to provide you with a warm welcome and your registration materials.
12:00pm Lunch will be served in the Dogwood Dining Commons.
1:15pm Child Care Check-In will begin for those sixth grade and under.
1:30pm Ruth will begin her presentation in Ponderosa Lodge.
2:45pm Break-out Groups will be formed to discuss Ruth's presentation.
3:15pm Break-out groups will reconvene to discuss responses.
3:45pm Child Care Check-Out.
4:00pm Free Time to relax, explore, play games, swim.
6:00pm Dinner served in the Dogwood Dining Commons.
7:30pm Gather in Ponderosa Lodge for a welcoming and an informational presentation.
8:30pm Adjourn to Cedar Lodge for dancing and ice cream.
10:00pm Time for **ALL QUIET** in the camp.

Sunday, September 5

7:00am For the early risers, a focus thought and a meditative moment.
8:00am Breakfast will be served in the Dogwood Dining Commons.
10:00am Worship Service with music, testimonials, images of the weekend, and communion.
11:00am A short break to gather your thoughts, relax, and fellowship.
12:00pm Lunch will be served in the Dogwood Dining Commons.
12:45pm Child Care Check-In will begin for those sixth grade and under.
1:00pm Spiritual Growth Group I offered for your spiritual development.
2:00pm Spiritual Growth Group II offered for your spiritual development.
3:00pm Child Care Check-Out.
3:15pm Free Time to relax, explore, play games, swim and prepare for the Talent Show.
6:00pm BBQ Chicken Dinner.
7:30pm Talent Show.
9:00pm Camp Fire (weather permitting), singing, and S'mores.
10:00pm Time again for **ALL QUIET**.

Monday, September 6

7:00am For the early risers, another focus thought and meditative moment.
8:00am Having Gotten Up, Time to Eat Up.
9:00am Clean Up & Pack Up.
10:00am Gather Up for songs, emotional expressions and Prayer Circle.
11:00am Evaluations for the weekend are handed out, completed and turned in.
12:00pm And with a tearful reluctance, we say Good-bye.

Now that might be TMI (to-much-information) for some of you, especially those who have experienced All-Church Camp before, but one of the evaluations asked that more scheduling information be provided. We trust the above is enough to get you interested to experience first hand this truly wonderful weekend. If, however, you still have some questions about what goes on all weekend, please ask anyone who is on the

Family Ministries Committee, or maybe better yet, a friend who attended last year and could be the enthusiastic endorsement you need to get you to attend this year. It's a full weekend, but not so busy you won't have time to enjoy fun, food, fellowship and faith.

Remember, September 4 through September 6, All-Church Camp. Registration materials appearing soon.

Food Closet Needs

The St. Mark's food closet is running low and needs your help once again. Thank you from all of those who depend on your generosity. If you can, please bring the following items:



- Tuna/Tuna snack kits
- Spam/Vienna Sausage/Meat spreads
- Canned chili and beans
- Peanut butter cracker snack packs
- Juice packs
- Crackers/Peanut Butter & Jelly

United Methodist Women

UMW July Meeting and Program

The July meeting of the United Methodist Women will be held July 13, at 10:00am in MacMurdo Hall. Joni Pictl, from the department of Child Welfare, will speak to us about co-investment of partnership with authorities on the subject of Emancipation of Foster Children, a subject of interest to all of us. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. For reservations please call Sally Weinland at 489-1039.

Knife & Fork

The Knife & Fork group will have lunch at the Beach Hut Deli, 510 La Sierra Drive, Arden Town, Thursday, July 1. Meet in Room E-5 at 12:00pm to carpool to the restaurant. Please join us for a lunch out. RSVP at phone number 481-0418.

Sewing and Craft Group

The UMW Sewing and Craft Group will meet only two Mondays this month and not on July 12 and 26. The office will be closed on July 5, for the holiday and the July 19, is during VBS. Thank you.

Other UMW Meetings

- **NOW Circle:** Tuesday, July 6, at 10:00am in Room E-24
- **Underground Circle:** Saturday, July 10, at 9:00am in Room E-5.
- **Conference UMW Meeting:** Saturday, July 10, at 10:00am in MacMurdo Hall.
- **Shalom Circle:** Monday, July 19, at 7:00pm off site
- **UMW Bible Study:** Tuesday, July 20, at 10:00am in Room E-5
- **La Paz Circle:** Thursday, July 22, at 10:00am in Room E-5
- **Calexico Circle:** Tuesday, July 27, at 9:45am off site
- **ANKH Circle:** Tuesday, July 27, at 7:00pm in Room E-26

Remember In Prayer

Al Ashley	Dave MacMurdo
Andy (Beth Shoemaker's grandson)	Dorothy MacMurdo
Sue Bailey	Bob Moon
Rose Bidinian	Pete Paulson
Maurice Brown	John Prochaska
June Chrysler	Paul Samuels
Verna Derheim	Dick Smith
John Dodd	(Anne's husband)
Margaret Ann Dukleth	James Tanis
Dorothy Gerth	Terrill Family
Donna Gorbach	Kimberly Thole
(Jan Dahl's daughter)	Linda Titherington
Robert Jacobs	Kathy Womack
Jennine & Olivia Jones	Sarge Wright

Photography Club?

Do you like to take and share pictures? Interested in having fellowship with others who share a similar interest? If you have an interest in forming a St. Mark's Photography Club then call or email the office.



St. Mark's Staff

Faith Whitmore Senior Pastor
 Sargent Wright Chaplain
 Lily Andrews Preschool Director/Teacher,
 Director of Children's Christian Education
 Carol Baltzell Hand Bell Choir Director
 Brent Bourgeois . Director of Contemporary Music,
 Director of Outreach
 Patti Evans Finance Director
 Cath Fenimore-Brown Church Administrator,
 St. Mark's Singers Director
 Peggy Fenimore-Brown . St. Mark's Singers Pianist
 Susan Goodman Director of Youth
 & Young Adults
 Kevin Jenkins Facilities Superintendent
 Jack Miller Organist, Chancel Choir Director
 Tiffani Spencer Operations Assistant
 Kevin Webb Publications Specialist
 Lori White Office Assistant

The Wright Word by Chaplain Sarge Wright



In the microcosm of the world around us—gulf oil disaster, state and national economy, furloughs, unemployment, Afghanistan and Iraq and Iran—it's important to remember that life still goes on for us and for the world's people. It's heartening to remember that out of the ashes of disaster and hopelessness there is always good possibility for new life to reappear in our personal or national life.

I have been blessed with wonderful friends and colleagues and am continually impressed by the spirit and the intensity shown by individuals who made a difference in a world quite unaware of their intense concerns for people's lives with you in this column. Many of you are friends of Rebecca Mendoza and her late husband, Robert. She has given me permission to share a part of her proud Mexican-American heritage which she has brought into our congregation for many years by her teaching and leadership.

She told me about her grandfather, the Rev. Luis P. Tierra, raised in Mexico during the years of the political-religious revolution, who felt compelled to come to Texas in the USA because of his Protestant family's persecution in their predominantly Catholic Mexican community. His later outstanding missionary adventure began when a Methodist missionary, Miss Tripp, found him and followed him as a boy and taught him the new language for many years until he became one of the first preachers to graduate from the famous Harwood School. His religious dedication and expertise led him to establish many Methodist churches around Texas, Arizona, Calexico and California, and ultimately to be named District Superintendent of churches in Southern California by Bishop James Baker (who interestingly was our own Rev. David MacMurdo's first pastor at Sacramento First UMC in the 1950's). He and his wife, Maria, were obviously highly visible in the life of Rebecca's family who then lived in a predominantly Catholic community in L.A. They often attended Rev. Tierra's services at the only Spanish-speaking Protestant church in Santa Paula. She remembers him for his loving care for people and his tithing of his small salary. A news article at that time said that he was more than a

cleric—he was unofficial ambassador of good will, linking the Spanish-speaking segment of the community with Anglo-Saxon neighbors. He also acted as interpreter to the city courts to bring about better understanding and tolerance among the people, volunteering also with the Red Cross and County Welfare Department. It all started with the dedication of Miss Tripp, who led him into a wonderful Christian ministry to our nation and his life brought Rebecca into our midst to continue his ministry among us.

I have known Earl (Jack) Koobs for many years through my Carmichael Kiwanis Club as a close friend and colleague and also as a person who saw a need and persevered to make a difference in his community. "Ranger Jack," as he is now called, has been a revered teacher at Garfield Elementary School for many years. Years ago he noted to his class that a 4½ acre land parcel was for sale next to the school. He single-handedly inspired students, faculty and friends to purchase that property to save it from residential buildings and preserve it as a nature and environmental study area. Governor Reagan and President Nixon donated to the students' cause. The balance was paid by an ecology grant in 1971 and the area was named the Earl J. Koobs Nature Area. He is called "Ranger Jack" for that reason and at his near 90 years of age he is still very involved.

A Nature Area Committee now helps to coordinate continuing upkeep and events at the Park at 5325 Engle Road between Garfield Elementary School and La Sierra Community Center. It is a lasting testimony to the vision of Jack Koobs to save that parcel of land to be used as a teaching-aid for his science classes and for the longtime pleasure of the community at large. One of the outstanding features is a Vietnam Memorial dedicated to 14 students from La Sierra High School who died in that war. The Memorial was crafted in the metal shop by students remembering their own classmates. Veteran's Day services are conducted there each year on the 11th month, 11th day and 11th hour. When you visit there, give a salute to those vets but also to my friend, "Ranger Jack" Koobs, who saw a need and worked to fill it with something worthwhile.

It reminds us to be mindful of similar needs at our church or in our community that requires someone to step up and say "we can do it." Remember, God loves you, and so do I.

Blood Pressures

Get your blood pressure checked Sunday, July 4, in the Prayer Room (next to the office) between services or after the second service. Doug Cole, R.N., members of the Health Ministries Committee will be there to check your blood pressure. We hope to do this monthly. Watch for time and location.



Summer Movie Series is Back

The ever-popular Movie Class has begun and continues through August 15, this class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Room E-26. Each Sunday, a class leader will identify particular themes or scenes in a popular movie that raise spiritual, ethical, or just plain religious issues for discussion during the class session. Your only homework is the view the movie before class and bring an open mind! For more information about this class please visit www.stmarksumc.com/movies.

A Word About Apportionments*

As faithful United Methodists, we serve in many different ways. At St. Mark's United Methodist Church, we get feedback from the ways we impact the Sacramento and surrounding community. We also serve the larger national and world community through our apportionments, a word that can be so hard to grasp.

Many of you remember Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders who was appointed by President Clinton as the U.S. Surgeon General in 1993. Dr. Elders was the first African American and only the second woman to head the U.S. Public Health Service. She was also the first person in the state of Arkansas to become board certified in pediatric endocrinology.

Dr. Elders tells her life story of many accomplishments and also shares her history of being born the eldest of eight children to a poverty stricken farming family. She also credits the **Black College Fund**, one of our apportioned giving opportunities, for the scholarship she earned to Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her published biographies detail how she scrubbed floors to pay for her tuition while her

brothers and sisters picked extra cotton and did chores for neighbors to earn for her the \$3.43 bus fare. Dr. Elders graduated from Arkansas Medical School with the assistance of the G.I. Bill.

Dr. Elders, who remains active in the United Methodist Church, is now retired but remains active in public health education.

St. Mark's portion of annual giving to the **Black College Fund** is added to those of other United Methodist Churches' contributions to help the 11 historically Black United Methodist-related colleges and universities. Giving of apportionments to the **Black College Fund** has allowed many young people to achieve their academic goals and among them are Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders and other doctors, ministers and bishops, judges, teachers and national and international leaders.

Future Markings issues will focus on other ways we serve through our apportionments.

*Apportionments are the share that each United Methodist Church pays to support international, national and regional ministries.



From the Trustees

Ten people contributed a total of 33 hours during the All-Church work day on June 12. We cleaned the kitchen floor, pruned the plum trees west of the Sanctuary, repaired sprinklers in the courtyard, cleaned the Education building gutters and elevator, painted over some graffiti, painted raw stucco outside Grace Café, and more. Thank you to all who share in maintaining our church, both on work days and at other times. The next work day will be September 18. Please mark your calendars!

Pat and Al Arthur, Larry Pannier, and Mary Czeck are gathering a group of people who are enthusiastic about well-maintained landscaping at St. Mark's. They hope that by pruning, weeding, and planting more often than we hold work days, they will fix small problems before they grow big, keep our campus as beautiful as possible, and share good fellowship. If your interests are similar, please talk with any of the group.

At the last Trustees meeting, we decided to reduce our spending for custodial services and landscape care by a little more than half, or about \$1175 per month, so that more of our offerings to the church can be used for the care of people rather than the care of things. Beginning next month, we will have custodial service Monday and Friday evenings, rather than five evenings per week, and a crew from the *Short Center* next door will mow the grass every week but not trim bushes or tend flower beds.

Various groups of people within St. Mark's and outside use some room in our buildings between 200 and 300 times each month. Setting up before and cleaning up after all those uses is a huge job if we load it on just a few paid staff. You can help by setting chairs and tables as you need them at the beginning of your meeting, by resetting the room when you're done for the next user, and by carrying any trash you produced to the large trash cans outside each building. We will post a map in each room showing the usual setup, along with a schedule of users and their requested setups, so you can tell who will need what after you. Any help you and your group can provide in setup and cleanup will be greatly appreciated!

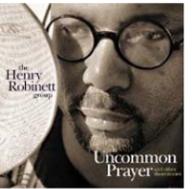


Young Adult Luncheon

Young Adults are invited to gather in Grace Café for a luncheon on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 12:00pm until 2:00pm. The next gathering will be on July 18. We will begin the meal immediately following the 11:00am service. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship. If you have any questions about this event please contact Susan Goodman, sgoodman@stmarksumc.com.

Concerts @ the Café: Summer Edition

Concerts @ the Café is proud to present: *Jazz Under the Stars*, Friday, July 16th, 7:30pm, featuring local jazz guitar legend Henry Robinett and a sampling of fine food from local eateries.



Sharing Table Promotes Sustainability in Agriculture through Heifer International

by Cynthia Lawrence, World Hunger Task Force

The first Sharing Table of the summer will be July 11, with the start of brunches. Gardeners can bring fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants. Bakers can make bread and cookies. Readers can share excess books. All proceeds benefit Heifer International which brings farm animals to families around the world to improve their food security and economic wellbeing.

The vision of Heifer International extends beyond day-to-day concerns of the families it helps. That's why Heifer teaches our project partners environmentally sound farming methods with the sustainable use and management of natural resources, accomplished by using social, cultural, economic, political and ecological methods that work together to achieve sustainable agriculture production.

That means everything is working together to help save the environment – a healing touch for our planet that helps reduce our environmental footprint, the impact each one of us makes. About 10,000 families worldwide have benefited from Heifer's work to place more emphasis on environmental protection is farming practices.

Through Heifer training:

- Families learn how to keep their small plots of land healthy and renew the soil for future generations by planting trees and using natural fertilizer.
- They learn to practice zero-grazing or managed-grazing techniques, which mean keeping livestock in an enclosed, shaded area and carrying fodder and water to them, instead of letting them wander in the open where they are more likely to catch diseases or damage the environment.
- They learn contour planting and terracing, techniques that resist erosion.
- And they discover how to use biogas units for cooking and heating their homes.

The Sharing Table at St. Mark's is part of better futures for farm families and our planet. See you at the Table!



Financial Snapshot General Budget as of May 31, 2010

	2010 Annual Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
INCOME	\$743,494	\$309,789	\$295,948
EXPENSE	\$850,259	\$354,288	\$297,949

What Paying Full Apportionments Looks Like

As we strive to meet our general budget needs which include salaries, facility/administration costs, worship/program support, and apportionments, here are some of the ways you can help.

- Be supportive of our General Budget fundraisers:
 - Fireworks Booth
 - Volunteer to work the booth
 - Spread the word and encourage sales
 - Buy fireworks
 - Comedy Sportz Night: October 9
 - Plan to attend and bring your friends
 - Sell tickets
 - Volunteer to help
- Keep your pledge current

- Be sure to honor your 2010 pledge
 - Make a pledge if you have not already done so
 - Go to www.stmarksumc.com - donate - online pledge form or call Patti in the church office
 - Support our Special Offerings
 - Thanks to those who contributed to the June special offering \$2,045 was received for the **World Service Fund**
 - As we cut back on janitorial and maintenance service
 - Adopt a room or outside area to clean and maintain
 - Set up the room for your meeting and reset the room after you are finished