

LOS TIEMPOS



November 2024

Our Purpose

Jesus Christ calls us to be a joyful community that celebrates God's love, transforms lives, and is a force for justice in the world.

We Welcome All

St. Mark's is a community of believers and seekers committed to being queer-affirming and anti-racist, reflecting the love and justice of Jesus Christ. We are a place where people of all ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities are welcomed, celebrated for their gifts, and invited to share in God's embrace.

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday | 9am–12pm

Office closed and staff observe Sabbath on Fridays



Find @StMarksAZ on social media!



THE ROCK OF GOD'S LOVE

AT ONE OF THE prayer gatherings held at St. Mark's prior to the election, the group contemplated the words of the Apostle Paul when he talked about having "a peace that passes understanding."

Recalling that Paul wrote these words while sitting in a Roman prison, we discussed how we might tap into that deep peace God offers even in the midst of anxious times.

And these are indeed anxious times. The mood among folks I meet in these days prior to the national election is palpably tense. And this anxiety can leave us overwhelmed. Or, in such times we can seek the peace that passes understanding—the presence of the God of

love and the God of goodness.

There are so many ways for cultivating a receptivity to God's peace: seeking the community of caring and justice-oriented people, prioritizing quiet times of solitude or prayer, creating beauty with music, art, song, connecting with the natural world. What helps open you up to a peace that passes understanding?

Recently, words of a familiar hymn keep coming to my mind:

*No storm can shake
my inmost calm,*

*While to that Rock
I'm clinging,*

*Since Love is Lord
of heaven and earth,*

*How can I keep from
singing?*

I find myself humming or singing this song throughout the day whenever



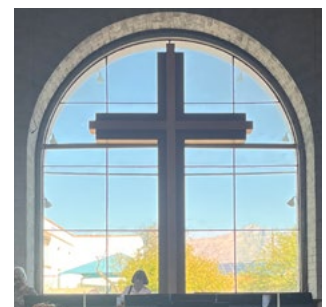
REV. TRACY DAUB (SHE/HER)
Transition Pastor
tracy@stmarksaz.org

the tension of life becomes too strong.

May the Rock of God's love provide a place of calm and peace for you.

Blessings!

Tracy



OPPORTUNITIES



TUCSON'S BIENNIAL SUSTAINABILITY EVENT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND 9AM - 1PM

A Free Event

Drive-through, Drop-off and Recycle

CLOTHING • SMALL HOME GOODS • BOOKS • ELECTRONICS
BIKES/BIKE PARTS • PAPER FOR SHREDDING • SCRAP METAL
PRESCRIPTIONS • EYEGLASSES • AMERICAN FLAGS TO RETIRE
DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT



INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR A SAFE AND SECURE ELECTION

NOV 4TH • 6:30 PM MST • ZOOM

Join people of diverse faith traditions across Arizona in a united call for peace as we pray for a safe and secure election.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Office of Public Witness

LIVE

Faith, Democracy and Justice: Prayers for Our Nation on Election Night

When:
Nov. 5, 2024
at 6 p.m. (ET)
(with recording to air later)

Where:
Zoom (register in advance)

Worship Leadership Provided by:
The Stated Clerk: Rev. Jihyun Oh
Co-Moderator: Rev. Tony Larson
Co-Moderator: Rev. CeCe Armstrong
Advocacy Director: Rev. Jimmie Hawkins
Domestic Policy Representative:
Rev. Christina Cosby

Sala de Libros

First Saturday of the Month

September 7th | October 5th | November 2nd | December 7th
10:00 - 11:30 AM

Salas de Libros brings children, youth, and adults together to explore our cultural identities and communities through reading, sharing, and creating.



3736 E. 2nd St.



10:00 - 11:30 AM

In Collaboration with Koru Multicultural Library and the UofA College of Education



www.iskashitaa.org

520-440-0100

OPPORTUNITIES

HANGING OF THE GREENS (NOV. 24)

Also known as: **Decorating the Sanctuary Pizza Party!**

After church, Sunday, November 24

11:30 until we're done. Pizza lunch break at noon

All are welcome and needed to hang lights, decorate the Christmas trees, hang the greens, create many bows and decorations, throw the stars, eat pizza and have fun!

We would love to have you go through your Christmas tree ornaments, and share any extras with us. The trees last year could have used many more ornaments.

Get your home decorations out early, and share some of your treasures with us. You may leave them at the "Opportunity table" after church any time between now and "Hanging of the Green" Sunday. After that, feel free to hang them on any of the trees yourself when you come to church.

2ND SUNDAY SUPPER ON 2ND STREET!

Join us **in the NORTH LOT | 5PM**
up Dodge, or through the alley

• NEIGHBORHOOD POTLUCK •
• BRING A SIDE DISH IF YOU WISH! • TO-GO PLATES AVAILABLE •

Second Sunday Supper on Second Street on **November 10 at 5pm** will feature chili dogs as the main dish! Vegetarian option will also be on the menu. Bring a food to share if you can. All are welcome.

BOOK CLUB (EVERY OTHER THURSDAY)

Join us for discussion of the book **One Native Son** by Richard Wagamese, morning meditations by an Ojibway writer who found his calling in reuniting with his native roots, and found his purpose in relating to all peoples and cultures.

The **next book will be American Nations** by Colin Woodward about the many cultures within the U.S. which we will begin in November. Our next scheduled meetings are October 31 and November 14 at 11:00 in Geneva Hall.

Reading the book is not required.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: WEEKLY COMMUNION RESUMES DEC. 1

The St. Mark's Session approved a motion from the Worship Ministry Team to offer the Sacrament of Communion **every Sunday beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st**, continuing throughout **2025**. The only exception will be if there is no clergy present to preside.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE CHRISTIANS GONE?

WHERE HAVE ALL THE CHRISTIANS GONE? THE SHIFTING SANDS OF MODERN GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

Lunch & Learn with Dr. Tim Wadkins

November 3, 10, & 17 (After worship, 12:00PM)

Calvin Hall

It may come as a surprise to some that Christianity is no longer primarily a western religion. In 1900, 82 percent of all Christians lived in Europe and North America. Today, that percentage has shrunk to 30 percent. Across the west, churches from all denominations are in decline, many have closed, and some have been repurposed as community centers or condominiums. Church leaders are trying to figure out how best to minister to rapidly shrinking congregations of senior citizens, and very few young people.

Equally surprising however, is that across the world Christianity has not actually shrunk. Rather, it has shifted geographically. Today there are now just as many Christians across the world as there were in 1900. What has taken place is a dramatic movement toward the less economically developed world, primarily in the southern hemisphere. In areas like Latin America, East and South Asia, and especially Africa, Christianity now accounts for the two-thirds of the world's Christians. In these areas this religion has become a rapidly growing and vibrant tapestry of faith and practice, characterized by a complicated mix of traditional churches, alongside a diverse array of very large, supernaturally oriented, and politically diverse congregations and movements. This short series will delve into this profound geographical and cultural shift in modern Christianity, exploring its causes, illustrating its characteristics, and highlighting its implications for Christians in the West.

Dr. Timothy Wadkins is the husband of St. Mark's Interim Pastor Tracy Daub. He is Emeritus Professor of Modern Christianity at Canisius University in Buffalo NY. Over the past thirty years he has taught and published books and articles about global Christianity, and most recently he has directed a major research project on Megachurches in ten different countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, funded by the John Templeton Foundation. (www.themegachurchproject.com)

7 DEADLY SINS OF WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

THE 7 DEADLY SINS OF WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM: A CALL TO ACTION BY REV. DR. CARTER HEYWARD

Book Review by Sylvia Thorson-Smith

Recently a member of St. Mark's said, "I wish we could talk about Christian Nationalism sometime. It seems very divisive and not particularly Christian." This set me thinking about a new book by Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward. (She is one of 11 Episcopalian women who were ordained irregularly — against church law — in 1976.) There's no time to study this book together before the election, but I'll donate a book to the church library, and if this review piques your interest, you can read it.

This book examines the dubious project now lodged in the United States — "a white, patriarchal, Christian, militaristic bastion of unregulated capitalism." Heyward describes the "threads" of white Christian nationalism in America: the fusion of spiritual and economic motives, its rise since 1950, J. Edgar Hoover and McCarthy, the Civil Rights Movement, Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali, the Vietnam War, Brown vs. the Board of Education, Roe v. Wade, the Reagan administration, abolishing the Fairness Doctrine, 9/11 and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Obama administration, and domestic terrorism.

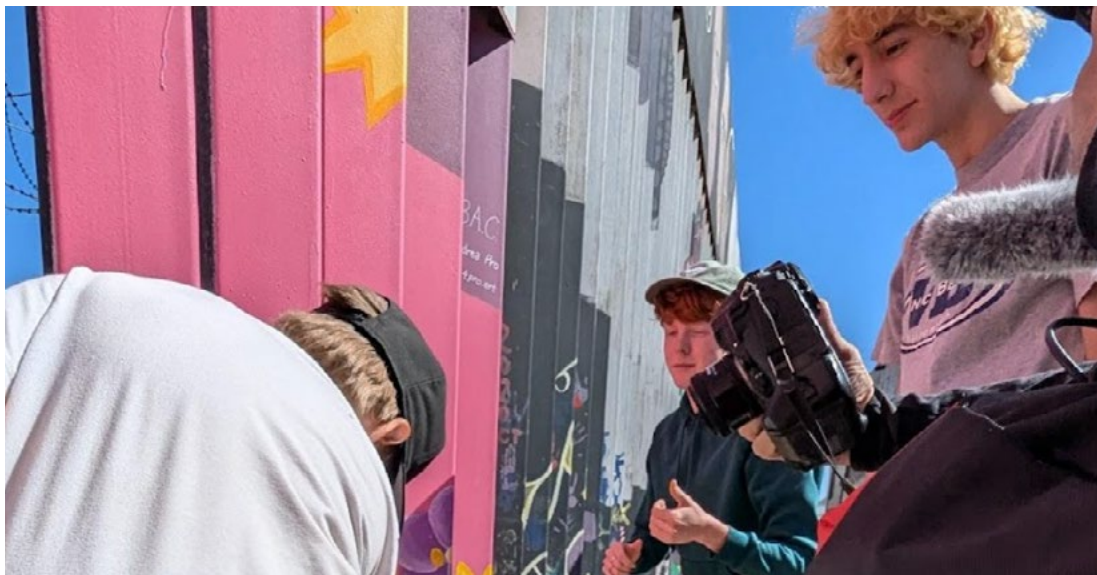
Here, then, are the seven "social sins that undergird our structures of systemic oppression and evil."

The Lust for Omnipotence
Entitlement
White Supremacy
Misogyny
Capitalist Spirituality
Domination of the Earth and its Creatures
Violence

The book ends with seven Calls to Action. These are a merging of Christian spirituality and activism, and I suggest that the Faith Formation committee include them in planning for 2025. Along with "Questions for All Christians" and "Questions for All Americans." Heyward commends churches that are already taking steps to heal and liberate our nation, "especially in addressing the sin of white supremacy." In the year ahead, when St. Mark's will be writing a Mission Statement and identifying the kind of leader we want as a pastor, this book and its Call to Action provides a rich discussion for where we want to go in the future.

FRONTERA DE CRISTO 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By: Stephanie Mitchell.



→ Dexter and other Sunday worship attendees preparing to put their thumbprints on the border wall's newest mural, completed during the 40th anniversary celebration.

On October 18-20, Dexter and I were thrilled to be part of Frontera de Cristo's (FDC) 40th anniversary celebration in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico and Douglas, Arizona. We were sorry to miss the first round of panel talks on Friday afternoon but quickly got up to speed with the history, fellowship, and current realities of this critical Presbyterian ministry. This was only my second visit to Agua Prieta and Lirio de los Valles Presbyterian church, the epicenter of fellowship and worship for FDC. The weekend was filled with incredible food, hospitality, worship, music, education, contemplation, and - above all - connection. We caught up with folks we hadn't seen in a while but also made a lot of new friends. Dexter even joined Caroline Rondeau in bringing St. Mark's collection of children's clothing items to the Migrant Resource Center.

Two things have stuck with me in the week following. First, the binational nature of FDC's ministry was easy to see in this gathering. On my previous visit, I was with a small group of Arizona Presbyterians and, while we learned a lot about FDC's work in the borderlands, we were definitely visitors for a day. (A worthy experience if that's all the time you have!) The 40th celebration was a chance to engage with the community on both sides of the border and learn about the impact FDC has on a personal level.

FRONTERA DE CRISTO

40TH ANNIVERSARY



→ Border wall mural honoring DACA DREAMers in the border community.

Second, although the U.S. political climate regarding migrants and border policy is bleak, it's hard not to be hopeful and uplifted knowing that God's love is visible and in abundance on la frontera. FDC coordinators Mark Adams (U.S.) and Joca Gallegos (Mexico) nurture a thriving community of volunteers, activists, artists, and everyday folks. This extraordinary binational community engages in the pursuit of justice, grace, and mercy in a way that looks an awful lot like ordinary life. Just folks caring for folks. However, we know this is the outcome of four decades of diligent and often difficult work.

The weekend ended with Sunday worship in Agua Prieta at the border wall with a powerful sermon from Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, who provided spiritual and scriptural encouragement for those engaged on the border. As the choirs sang early in the service, I noticed a turkey vulture soaring above, just over the wall on the U.S. side. The woman from Agua Prieta seated next to me also noticed and we both began to quietly track the bird as it eventually made its way directly overhead into Mexico. We silently giggled that we seemed to be the only people who noticed this. We craned our necks, following its lazy circles seemingly centered over the beautiful melodies.

FRONTERA DE CRISTO 40TH ANNIVERSARY

A bit later, as Dr. Cardoza-Orlandi asked us to consider the forces that pull us toward God's desire for peace and justice at the border and those that pull us away from it, the humble scavenger returned. My neighbor and I shared another wide-eyed moment as the bird crossed back and forth over the border, heedless of the arbitrary - but very real - line our species put there. This homely, ubiquitous bird brought the two of us a moment of shared wonder in a fraught place. In the frenzy of activity following worship, the two of us didn't exchange names; just a hug and giddy praise of a God who brings wonder and hope to those lost in the desert.



→ Dexter waiting for breakfast at the Migrant Resource Center (Centro de Recursos Para Migrantes)



→ Saturday evening concert in the Plaza Plan de Agua Prieta.

COMPAÑEROS EN MISIÓN

By: Gale Griffin



→ Volunteers delivering sandwiches to migrants at a bus shelter in Nogales, one man resting (10/22/24)

Compañeros en Misión is a Bi-national Mission project between Arizona, U.S., and Sonora, Mexico. Originally incorporated in Arizona, the principal purpose was to support new church development in Sonora. Dr. Jorge Pazos (ordained minister and MD) from Sol de Justicia Iglesia in Nogales and Rev. Bob Seel, retired from PC(USA) and worshipping at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Tucson, were the founders. At one point, there were six satellite congregations in northern Sonora. Most of them did not flourish, although there is still one functioning.

Over the years, the focus of the organization shifted to address current needs. During the mass migration a few years before the pandemic, attention moved to feeding the migrants, helping them with minor medical issues when Dr. Pazos was able (his daughter Ivonne is an RN), and providing them with spiritual guidance. In late 2021, both Rev. Seel and Dr. Pazos passed away. Compañeros en Misión lost its leaders and was thrown into grief. In early 2022, Rev. Brad Munroe helped organize a group of interested individuals to re-organize the mission work. We have formed a Board of Directors, are looking at non-profit status for the Mexico side, and have been working to make certain the U.S. side is up to regulations.

We have been looking at the desires of Sol de Justicia members (primarily Dr. Pazos' family members and close friends), and people in the US who do not want to see the work of our beloved Rev. Seel cease to exist. The Board has three members from the Mexican church, and three members of Presbytery de Cristo. The past two years have been filled with excitement as the Board guides us as we identify the current direction that is feasible with their interests, time, and hands to work. The part-time pastor Presbyteriana Chihuahua has assigned to the church is supporting our group, and interfacing with the presbytery.

COMPAÑEROS EN MISIÓN

The group in Mexico has continued to feed the migrants who are living in their city, sometimes delivering as many as 650 meals per week to people they find on the streets. When donations of clothing come, they are able to share physical items, personal items, minor medical needs. When time permits, members of the church have also worked with migrant children, providing them attention and giving their weary parents some relief.

In the last couple years, the migrant needs have lessened some, so we have been able to focus more on what the group there sees as a need, what they can provide, and what fits with the focus of their presbytery. To this end, they are identifying children in their neighborhood who are in need of school and behavior help. The presbytery would like to see more churches invest in combating violence, and Compañeros people want to work with local children. They have developed a strong Vacation Bible School in just two years, serving nearly 40 children this past summer – just from their area.

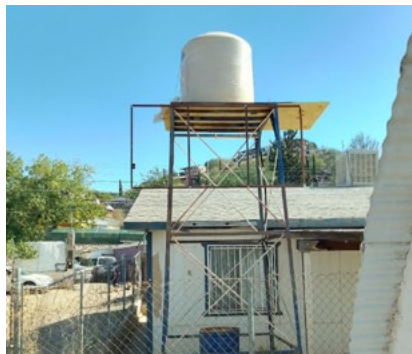


This fall they started a homework help two days per week, working to improve the reading skills of the children. They have created an “Education Passport” for each child, with places to note achievement. In addition, they are addressing behavioral problems with the children, teaching them tolerance for others, and good manners to work with one another. Emphasizing to the children that the facility is a safe harbor for them, some of the young people are already opening up to the teachers about problems they face. Plans are now being made to host parent conferences. The hope is to create open access for the children and families for more communication. Some of the children have been involved in the VBS program, and some are now beginning to attend worship. And a few parents are coming as well!

COMPAÑEROS EN MISIÓN

Another important part of the program is to address health issues for the neighborhood adults. Diabetes is a major health problem in the community, so blood pressure checks and glucose monitoring checks are provided. A local doctor is able to help obtain more in depth medical aid. The government of Mexico recognizes the importance of cancer screenings for its people, particularly breast cancer among the women. They have a program for mobile cancer screenings using a portable x-ray machine. Once there is a room for such a unit, a rotation for cancer screenings is a goal.

You can imagine how difficult it was for them to work and teach without water on site. The installation of the water tank was begun as soon as the money was received. With the donations provided by St. Mark's last month, they were able to purchase a new tank, a water boiler, and a water pump, as well as addressing water problems in a bathroom.



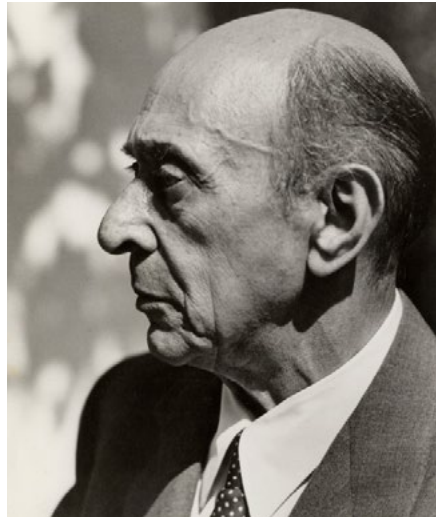
Dr. Pazos turned over the use of the church manse to Compañeros and Sol de Justicia. The manse is beginning to show its age. In the event a full-time pastor is assigned to the church, he would take residence in the manse. One of our first projects was to raise funds for a new building dedicated to Compañeros work. Nestled between the church and the manse, it will include a modern kitchen, a fellowship hall, classrooms, and bathrooms. Wi-fi will be hard-wired into the building for use with the homework program. As the plans for work have progressed, the need for the new building has become more important. I'm pleased to be able to tell you that we plan to begin construction on the first floor in 2025! A private classroom will be dedicated to health issues and we anticipate the portable cancer screening visits. This is a very exciting time in the life of Compañeros en Misión. I'm happy to take you on this little tour of the work, and welcome any questions you may have. If I don't know the answer, I will find it!

ABOUT THE MUSIC

ABOUT THE MUSIC: THE SECOND VIENNESE SCHOOL

My past two articles have focused on the musical life of Vienna and this is my concluding article of this series, in which I will briefly introduce the composers of The Second Viennese School. In my last article, I mentioned the War of the Romantics, intense rivalries between composers and listeners who were divided in support between the composers Brahms and Wagner. Brahms was interested in maintaining a lineage of musical creation and finding inspiration from others who came before, whereas Wagner sought to push musical creation to its tipping point and explore new ways of expressing musical ideas.

On Sunday, October 13th, when our guest cellist Mary Beth Tyndall told me she wanted to play a piece composed by



→ *Arnold Schoenberg*
photographed in 1947 by
Florence Homolka

Bach as the Offertory, I immediately thought of programming music by Arnold Schoenberg for my Prelude and Postlude. Though Schoenberg's middle and late-period compositions are so dissonant and brash, they are heavily inspired by the music and techniques of Bach who lived nearly 200 years before him.

Arnold Schoenberg was born in Vienna in 1874 to a lower class Jewish family. His father sold shoes and his mother taught piano lessons. As a young composer, Schoenberg was mostly self-taught, studying



DR. JARED ARAGON (HE/HIM)
Organist/Director of Handbells
jared@stmarksaz.org

briefly with the composer Alexander Zemlinsky. His early music was highly influenced by Wagner, making use of large-scaled musical forms and exploring new and bold harmonies. His talent was recognized by other influential composers, with both Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler taking him on as a protégé. Like many other Jewish composers of the time, with Austria and Germany's resurging anti-Semitism, Schoenberg made the decision to convert to Lutheranism in order to maintain his jobs as a musician. By 1909, Schoenberg's musical language

ABOUT THE MUSIC

point where Strauss could no longer support him and dismissed him as a composer.

In 1901, Schoenberg married Mathilde Zemlinsky, the sister of his former composition teacher. Seven years later, Mathilde left Schoenberg for the painter Richard Gerstl and it was at this time that Schoenberg began to look at music in a new way: he was abandoning key signatures and traditional harmony. He began to look at new ways vocalists could sing, developing a technique called *sprechstimme*, in which the singer half-sings and half-speaks. Schoenberg began to take a more Brahmsian look at music, relying on older, traditional forms of music, despite abandoning traditional harmony. He began to dismiss Wagnerian influence and write music in compact forms that relied heavily on Baroque and Classical Era forms and structures.



→ *In addition to being a composer, Schoenberg was also a painter. Self-portrait titled, Red Gaze.*

In addition, he began to develop a new musical style called “dodecaphony” or “twelve-tone” in which all twelve half-steps of the chromatic scale are arranged in an order of the composer’s own choosing (called a tone row). All pitches must be used equally, in the order they appear in the row, and in a way that prevents one musical pitch from being perceived as more important than any other.

Schoenberg’s new twelve-tone method began attracting other composers and he began to teach others his

techniques, thus forming the Second Viennese School of composers. The two other prominent composers of this group of like-minded musicians were Alban Berg and Anton Webern, both who took twelve-tone composition and melded them to fit their own creative inclinations. Webern, composed solely in miniature musical forms following the rules of twelve-tone composition to their absolute strictest. Most compositions by Webern last under a minute and his entire compositional output takes less than 3 hours to perform. Alban Berg, took a more Romantic view of the twelve-tone style and freely broke the rules in order to produce music that was highly emotional despite the rigid rules Schoenberg outlined in his methods. Berg was able to bend the rules of twelve-tone composition so much that his Violin Concerto, composed in memory of his daughter, is famous for quoting

ABOUT THE MUSIC



→ *Twelve-Tone Row used by Schoenberg in his Violin Concerto*

a funeral hymn by Bach towards the end of the piece.

Schoenberg continued to teach and compose in Vienna until the Nazis seized power in 1933. As an act of defiance against the Nazis, Schoenberg reconverted back to Judaism and musical conservatories in England, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States were all trying to get Schoenberg to come teach music at their institutions. The Schoenberg Family eventually made the decision to move to Los Angeles where he was welcomed by the musical community there and given a teaching position at UCLA and where the music facilities are now named after him.

After moving to the U.S., Schoenberg's musical style changed and he began to explore traditional harmony once again,

while still holding on to musical styles of the Baroque and Classical Eras. Despite embracing traditional harmony again, Schoenberg's late compositions occasionally featured twelve-tone techniques. *A Survivor from Warsaw* and *Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte* were both composed after his move to the U.S. and both became notable works at the time of their creation. *A Survivor from Warsaw* was composed for cantor (or baritone vocalist), choir, and orchestra and was written to commemorate the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. *Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte* was composed for baritone vocalist, string quartet, and piano, and mocks fascist tyranny. In both of these works, the solo singer makes use of sprechstimme technique, half-singing half-speaking.

Throughout his life, Schoenberg was a deeply

superstitious person, who was always wary of the number 13. His opera *Moses und Aron*, spells Aron's name with only one A in order to avoid having 13 letters in the title. He held a lifelong fear that he would die in a year or at an age somehow related to the number 13 and maintained close communication with astrologers throughout his life in order to know what the upcoming year might have in store. On the day of his 76th birthday, an astrologer said it would be a critical year for him ($7+6=13$) and Schoenberg passed away that year in July, 1951 on Friday the 13th.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

[*A Survivor from Warsaw*](#)

[*Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte*](#)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS KERSTIN MILLER, CLERK OF SESSION

Session met on **October 15, 2024** for its monthly stated meeting.

Clerk's Report and the Wider Church:

- Kerstin reported on various correspondence received, among others a note from Ray and Kathy Baker-Addy, informing St. Mark's that they have found another church home. **The motion to regretfully remove Ray and Kathy Baker-Addy from the member roll carried.** We will miss worshipping with them and wish them God's peace on their continued faith journey.
- Kerstin further noted that **St. Mark's** currently has **162 members and 62 friends.**
- Lastly, Kerstin shared with Session that due to family responsibilities she will not be able to finish the third year of her three-year term and will need to resign from Session and her role as clerk at the end of the calendar year. She did not reach this decision lightly but will help with the training of a new clerk. **The motion to regretfully accept Kerstin's resignation effective December 31, 2024, carried.**

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Tracy Daub shared her list of activities and administrative meetings she attended between September 17 and October 14, 2024.

Good Futures Team:

Team members Martha Osborne, Rachael Eggebeen, Mike Block, Irvin Richards, and Tom Miller alongside Pastor Tracy Daub continue to discern what could be done with unused space on the St. Mark's campus. The focus has been on Hudler Hall. The group is in communication with two organizations, one that offers transitional housing for women and children and one that offers transitional housing for youth.

The *Good Futures* group will solicit proposals by these two organizations and bring a recommendation to Session.

Mission Study Team:

Kevin Hainline reported that the group has begun writing the document and is on target to complete the formal mission study report by the end of the calendar year.

New Business:

Session agreed on the following dates:

- **Next session meeting: December 3, 2024.** There will not be a November meeting.
- **Congregational meeting** to elect new officers: **December 8, 2024.**
- **New Elder examination: January 21, 2025.**
- **New Elder ordination/installation: Sunday, January 26, 2025.**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry Teams Highlights/Action Items:

Administration (Jeff Parrish and Charles Ambrose):

- **The motion to open a 10 month Certificate of Deposit with \$235,000 carried.**

Personnel (Beth Carroll/Session):

- **Session voted unanimously to approve the new contract for Tracy as our Interim Pastor.** The contract will run from October 2, 2024 through October 1, 2025.

Community and Global Engagement (Martha Osborne and Dexter Mitchell):

- *No action items.* Martha and Dexter highlighted the budget discussion they had at their last ministry team meeting. In 2025 the team wants to support smaller agencies and at our next Session meeting will share criteria for organizations to be supported with funding and volunteer efforts.

Faith Formation (Sylvia Thorson-Smith and Rachael Eggebeen):

- *No action items.* Sylvia and Rachael highlighted the following upcoming events:
 - a. Tim Wadkins' *Christianity and Religion in the Global South* series on November 3, 10, 17 after worship.
 - b. *Advent Fun*, an intergenerational event after worship and the congregational meeting on December 8.
- Sylvia also commended Tracy on a very informative and well-attended discussion of Tom Long's *The Good Funeral* on September 22 and 29.

Worship (Gwyn Roske and Kevin Hainline):

- *No action items.* Kevin lifted up two special worship services, All Saints Day on October 27 and the Christmas Eve Service with participation of the choir.

Congregational Care (Becky Cook, Jim Cullum, Beth Carroll):

- *No action items.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 2| 10:00AM-11:30AM

Sala de Libros. Join Iskashitaa at their office on 2nd Street to join in community building with books!

Nov 3| DURING WORSHIP

Children's Church. All children are invited to join Cathy Lurvey at the back of the Sanctuary during the first hymn for a Bible lesson and craft.

Nov 3| AFTER WORSHIP

Join Dr. Tim Wadkins in Calvin Hall for a discussion of **Where Have All the Christians Gone? The Shifting Sands of Modern Global Christianity.**

Nov 4| 3:30PM

Arizona Statewide Interfaith Prayer Vigil. On Zoom.

Nov 5| 6:00AM-7:00PM

Election Day. Polling in the Knox Room.

Nov 5| 1:00PM- 3:00PM

The weekly **Bridge group** meets in Calvin for games and conversation. All are welcome, beginners or experienced players.

Nov 5| 3:00PM

National Zoom Prayer with the PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness.

Nov 6| 8:30AM-9:30AM

Join us for **Midweek Manna**, a gathering for prayer and Bible

study on the upcoming Sunday's preaching text, held in the office conference room (2nd Street side). All are welcome.

Nov 6| 6:45PM-7:45PM

Breathe Deeply: Restorative Yoga.

Nov 10| AFTER WORSHIP

Where Have All the Christians Gone? The Shifting Sands of Modern Global Christianity.

Nov 10| 5:00PM-6:00PM

Second Sunday Supper. Join our Miramonte Neighborhood community in the 2nd Street parking lot for a dinner of chili dogs (veg option available)..

Nov 12| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

Nov 13| 8:30AM-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Nov 13| 6:45PM-7:45PM

Breathe Deeply: Restorative Yoga.

Nov 14| 11:00AM-12:30PM

Join the **Book Club!** a gathering for prayer Currently reading *One Native Life* by Richard Wagamese.

Nov 17| DURING WORSHIP

Children's Church.

Nov 17| AFTER WORSHIP

Where Have All the Christians Gone? The Shifting Sands

of Modern Global Christianity.

Nov 19| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

Nov 20| 8:30AM- 9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Nov 20| 6:45PM-7:45PM

Breathe Deeply: Restorative Yoga.

Nov 24| AFTER WORSHIP

Hanging of the Greens.

Nov 24| AFTER WORSHIP

Big Coffee.

Nov 26| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

Nov 27| 8:30AM-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Nov 27| 6:45PM-7:45PM

Breahe Deeply: Restorative Yoga.

NOVEMBER 28

Thanksgiving. Office closed.



CONTACT INFO

MINISTRY TEAMS

ADMINISTRATION

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CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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WORSHIP

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Beth Carroll

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Kerstin Miller – kerstinmiller7810@gmail.com

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WE WELCOME ALL

St. Mark's is a community of believers and seekers committed to being queer-affirming and anti-racist, reflecting the love and justice of Jesus Christ. We are a place where people of all ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities are welcomed, celebrated for their gifts, and invited to share in God's embrace.

OUR PURPOSE

Jesus Christ calls us to be a joyful community that celebrates God's love, transforms lives, and is a force for justice in the world.

Sunday Schedule

In-Person Worship: 10:30am

Livestream: www.YouTube.com/StMarksAZ

Find Us Online!

www.stmarksaz.org

[Facebook.com/StMarksAZ](https://www.facebook.com/StMarksAZ)

[Instagram.com/StMarksAZ](https://www.instagram.com/StMarksAZ)

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