

LOS TIEMPOS



January 2025

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!



ENTERING THE NEW YEAR

UPON ENTERING

the new year and pondering what 2025 may hold for us at St. Mark's, it seems an appropriate time to offer an update about St. Mark's transitional process. Currently, a small group of Session members, called the Mission Study Team, is finalizing a written document which describes St. Mark's congregation, its ministries, and its vision for the future. The presbytery requires such a document from all churches experiencing a pastoral transition.

The good news is that the Mission Study Team anticipates sending the final draft to the Session for its January meeting. The whole Session will then have the opportunity to read and edit the Mission Study report. Once the Session approves the Mission Study, it will then be sent to the Presbytery for its approval. And then, following the Presbytery's approval, St. Mark's will be given permission to elect and form a Pastor Nominating Committee for the purpose of calling an installed pastor.



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

Is the whole transition process slow? For sure! But the process can have a valuable upside: it offers congregations time for thorough deliberation and conversation about their history, identity, and vision, which can be vital in the successful formation of a new pastoral relationship.

ENTERING THE NEW YEAR

COVER PHOTO:

The colorful seasonal produce of winter



→ *The pre-worship coffee chat crew*

Yet, despite what some may consider a long transitional process, the ministries at St. Mark's have not slowed down. St. Mark's has made the most of this time: carrying

out its numerous ministries and programs, pursuing new ideas and initiatives, and undertaking important conversations about the history and identity of the

congregation. And I believe this new year will bear the good fruits of this productive time!

Blessings,
Tracy

OPPORTUNITIES

2ND SUNDAY SUPPER ON 2ND STREET!

Second Sunday Supper will be in the **Knox Room on THIRD Street** this month, **Jan 12 at 5:00PM!** Spaghetti will be served as the main dish. Bring a food to share if you can. All are welcome!

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED



Welcome to 2025!

Beginning Sunday, January 5th, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion every Sunday.

Five servers are needed each week.

Everyone attending church regularly is invited to participate as a server. **There will be a sign up sheet on the Opportunity Table every week.**

You are invited to sign up and give the gift of commitment to St. Mark's.

You will receive an email reminder the Monday prior to serving, and an instruction sheet in case you're new at serving or just need a refresher on what is involved.

If you have any questions, ask **Gwyn Roske**, or email her at groske@gmail.com.

Thank you,
St. Mark's Worship Team

OPPORTUNITIES

EPIPHANY (JAN. 5)



*And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far,
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went ...*

As a reminder of the message of Epiphany, you are invited to choose a random star containing a word to ponder throughout the coming year.

**Don't miss the celebration at St. Mark's on Sunday, January 5th
with stars and King's cake.**

We will also “undecorate” the Sanctuary after worship.

It doesn't take nearly as long to take things down, so no pizza this time, but there just might be leftover Christmas cookies. It's almost as much fun to see the stars come down as to watch them go up!

The more the merrier!

UPDATES & UPCOMING

SAMU DONATIONS UPDATE

St. Mark's hit it out of the ballpark again!

A full carload of coats was delivered to SAMU on December 20. They were warmly received by volunteers.

The center was bustling with activity. About a dozen guests were enjoying Cup-o-Noodles.

Children were playing in a little nook filled with toys.

A new group of guests were escorted from the border while we unload all of the coats, hats, and scarves.

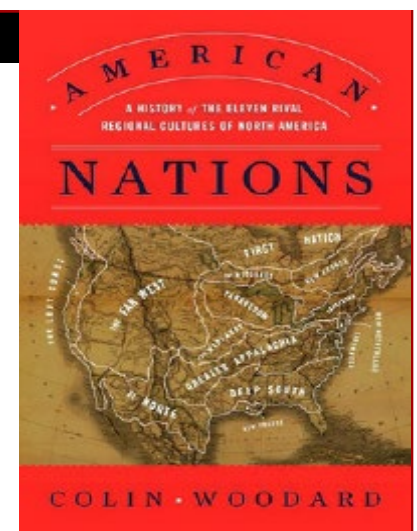
A big thank you to all who donated, winter wear!

- Caroline Rondeau



BOOK CLUB (EVERY OTHER THURSDAY)

The Book Club will be meeting on **Thursday, Jan. 9th and 23rd. at 11:00AM in Calvin Hall.** We will be continuing our discussion of **American Nations by Colin Woodard.** This is a study how the various regions of the United States have retained different cultural characteristics based on what European countries and ethnic groups first settled the regions. It has valuable insights for understanding political and cultural differences of each region and how we can better empathize with the people of these different heritages.



BOOKS!

GIFTS TO THE ST. MARK'S LIBRARY

Many thanks to Sylvia and Mike Smith for some recent donations to our church library. The books below are now added to the book cart, except for the William Sloane Coffin sermon set which is in the Theology subject area in the office conference room. The Coffin volumes were too heavy for the cart!

A reminder: The Book Cart is just a sample of the complete St. Mark's library in the office. All are welcome to browse and borrow from the full collection.

The Movement: How Women's Liberation Transformed America, 1963-1973. By: Clara Bingham. *One Signal Publishers, 2024*

Mandate to Difference: An Invitation to the Contemporary Church. By: Walter Brueggemann. *Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.*

The Collected Sermons of William Sloane Coffin: The Riverside Years, Vol. 1 and 2. By: William Sloane Coffin. *WJK Press, 2008.*

In But Still Out: Women in the Church. By: Elizabeth Howell Verdesi. *Westminster Press, 1976.*

For Children

The Friendly Beasts: An Old English Christmas Carol. By: Tomie De Paola. *G P Putnam's Sons, 1981.*

A is for Activist. (Board book) By: Innosanto Nagara. *Kupu-Kupu Press, 2012.*

The Christmas Witch. By: Ilse Plume. *Hyperion Books for Children, 1981*

God is the Sparrow. By: Jaroslav Vejda. Illustrated by Preston McDaniels. *Morehouse Publishing, 1983.*

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS KERSTIN MILLER, CLERK OF SESSION

Session met on **December 3, 2024** for its monthly stated meeting.

Clerk's Report and the Wider Church:

- Kerstin highlighted the **2025 Per Capita Apportionment Letter** from Presbytery de Cristo. The 2025 **per capita amount** is \$43.84 of which \$28 go to the Presbytery, \$5 to the Synod of the Southwest and \$10.84 to the General Assembly. St. Mark's members and friends are asked to consider a rounded-up gift of **\$45**.
- The commissioners of the October 26 Presbytery meeting at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church (Rachael Eggebeen and Jim Cullum) reported that all the amendments to the proposed language changes of the Book of Order passed
- Beth Carroll and Kevin Hainline were elected as commissioners to the **combined Presbytery meeting in Casa Grande on January 25, 2025**.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Tracy Daub shared her list of activities and administrative meetings she
- attended between October 15 and December 2, 2024.

Congregational Nominating Team:

- Co-Chair Rachael Eggebeen presented the following nominations, **all of whom were subsequently unanimously approved at the congregational meeting on December 8:**

Ruling Elders:

Session Class of 2025 (term) – Margaret Wilkie (1)
Session Class of 2027 (term) – Charles Ambrose (2)
Session Class of 2027 (term) – Lynne Davies (1)
Session Class of 2027 (term) – Jan Prinz (1)
Session Class of 2027 (term) – Robin Staples (1)

(The examination of elders is scheduled for the Session meeting on January 21, 2025, and the ordination/installation is scheduled to be during worship on January 26, 2025.)

Nominating Committee Members for 2025:

Nominating Committee member (term) – Alice Adamson (2)
Nominating Committee member (term) – Ellen Dunscomb (2)
Nominating Committee member (term) – Audrey Harding (2)

18 *(Members of the Nominating Committee are elected for one year terms and can be elected to three consecutive terms.)*

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Good Futures Team:

- The team is now awaiting proposals for a potential future use of Hudler Hall from two organizations, one that offers transitional housing for women and children and one that offers transitional housing for youth. Once these proposals have been received, the *Good Futures* group will bring a recommendation to Session.

Mission Study Team:

- Kevin Hainline reported that the group is putting the finishing touches on the Mission Study document and plans to present it to Session at the January meeting.

Ministry Team Highlights/Action Items:

Administration (Jeff Parrish and Charles Ambrose):

- Session unanimously approved a balanced budget for 2025 as presented by Irv Richards and the Administration Team. Session thanked Irv for his thorough preparation of the new budget.

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

- **Session unanimously approved covering the preschool tuition of a four year old child in the Casa Cardo Program seeking asylum in the United States.** The tuition amount of **\$2,394** will be taken from the **For Others Fund**.
- **\$1,160** were collected for the **Peace and Global Witness Offering**, of which \$290 went to Frontera de Cristo and \$870 to Presbytery de Cristo for Mission Partners.

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

- *No action items.* Becky lifted up the wonderful **card ministry** run by **Cathy Lurvey**. In 2024 alone Cathy sent 160 cards to members of St. Mark's. Session very much appreciates this ministry.

Finally, Tracy thanked **outgoing Elders Sylvia Thorson-Smith, Jeff Parrish, Dexter Mitchell, and Kerstin Miller** for their service, presenting them with a waxed amaryllis bulb and emphasizing how much the congregation of St. Mark's has been blessed by their leadership.

UPCOMING EVENTS



OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The church office will reopen on Monday, January 6

JAN 4| 10:00AM-11:30AM

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

JAN 5| DURING WORSHIP

Epiphany! Join us for the pondering of the light of a star, King's Cake, and the "undecorating" of the Sanctuary.

JAN 7| 1:00PM- 3:00PM

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

JAN 8| 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.

JAN 9| 11:00AM-12:30PM

Join the **Book Club!** a gathering for prayer Currently reading American Nations by Colin Woodard.

JAN 12| 5:00PM-6:00PM

Second Sunday Supper. Join our Miramonte Neighborhood community in the Knox Room for spaghetti dinner. Bring a side dish if you wish.

JAN 14| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

JAN 15| 8:30AM-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

JAN 21| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

JAN 22| 8:30AM- 9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

JAN 23| 11:00AM-12:30PM

Book Club.

JAN 26| AFTER WORSHIP

Big Coffee.

CONTACT INFO

MINISTRY TEAMS

ADMINISTRATION

Jeff Parrish – jeff@jeffreyparrish.com
Charles Ambrose – fragglorock2@msn.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Becky Cook – rebeck.cook@gmail.com
Beth Carroll – beth.carroll428@gmail.com
Jim Cullum – jcullum@jcams.com

FAITH FORMATION

Sylvia Thorson-Smith – sylviats@cox.net
Rachael Eggebeen – edsrachel@gmail.com

COMMUNITY & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Martha Osborne – martha.r.osborne@gmail.com
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WORSHIP

Gwyn Roske – groske1@gmail.com
Kevin Hainline – kevinhainline@gmail.com

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Beth Carroll

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Kerstin Miller – kerstinmiller7810@gmail.com

STAFF

TRANSITION PASTOR

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Sunday Schedule

In-Person Worship: 10:30am

Livestream: www.YouTube.com/StMarksAZ

Find Us Online!

www.stmarksaz.org

Facebook.com/StMarksAZ

Instagram.com/StMarksAZ

Twitter.com/StMarksAZ