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Upcoming Events

Ice Cream Sunday
Sunday, Aug. 14
Enjoy a cool treat in the courtyard, between services

D-backs Faith & Family Night
Friday, Aug. 26

ST. MARK CONNECTIONS

Connecting People to Jesus

August 2011



Dear St. Mark,

It seems we have reached the time in the year when we're getting back to "normal" (whatever that is). What I mean is ... kids are going back to school, schedules are getting filled and set and it seems that everyone is re-finding their jobs, roles, classes, and priorities in life. My encouragement: let God be the one that guides you in that process. There it is - short and simple - but if you follow it, it can change your life.

Now, with that being said, I also want to update you on a couple of fun things we have going on this month. Coming up this Sunday, August 14, we have our next Ice Cream Sunday. Come, enjoy a cool treat between services, and invite a friend to come, too.

On August 21 we're looking forward to the first week of Small Group (CONNECT) Sign-Ups. We had almost 50 percent of our congregation involved in a small group last spring, and wonderfully we're adding more opportunities for you this fall. Again my encouragement: if you haven't gotten plugged in yet, please consider it this fall. It's a wonderful way to grow in your faith and to develop friendships at the same time.

And then finally on August 28, we're inviting the whole congregation and everybody else who wants to come to join us at Peter Piper Pizza after services for a sort of indoor picnic (it's still too hot out). A percentage of the proceeds will benefit St. Mark. So come and join us for what promises to be a great time.

Add to that a congregational Faith & Family D-backs game on August 26 (tickets are \$12; contact Mike Edge at medge@stmarkphx.org if you'd like to reserve tickets) and we've got ourselves a pretty fun month. So...

Have a great rest of the summer and keep rooting for the D-backs. They are doing great!

Pastor Mike Sheldon

Come, join your St. Mark friends at Faith & Family Night at Chase Field. Meet at St. Mark at 5:30 p.m, and we will arrive back at 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12, which includes the D-backs game, post-game fireworks and a Toby Mac concert. Reserve your ticket by Sunday, Aug. 14, through Mike Edge at medge@stmarkphx.org or Ext. 4.

Peter Piper Fundraiser

Sunday, Aug. 28
After church, head to lunch at Peter Piper Pizza at Tatum Blvd. and Thunderbird Road, and help support St. Mark. Bring a fundraising flier with you (you'll find one in your bulletin that week). The event is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ministry Links

Preschool

Children's Ministries

Junior High

Senior High

CONNECT

Celebrate Recovery

Mission Ministry

Christian Care

Prayer

Women's Ministry

CONNECT Sign-Ups

Sign-ups for fall CONNECT studies will begin Sunday, Aug. 21. You will be able to sign-up online, through www.stmarkphx.org; on Sundays at a table in the courtyard or through your Communication Card. We hope you will make a commitment to study God's Word!

Third Grade Bible Giveaway

St. Mark will be presenting Bibles on Sunday, Sept. 18, to all of our incoming 3rd graders in what is part of our "Stepping Stones" program to encourage them to continue the process of getting to know God in a personal way. "Stepping Stones" is celebrating stages of a child's faith walk, in between baptism and confirmation. Also, as part of this new program, children in kindergarten will be given a children's Bible in the Spring. If you have a student entering third grade, please contact Pamela Hardy at Ext. 2 or phardy@stmarkphx.org.

Mission Ministry

The St. Mark Mission Ministry has three areas where you can serve the community:

- **Monthly food drive:** On the first Sunday of the month, the ministry will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Paradise Valley Food Bank. Remember to bring your donations on Sept. 4. In July, St. Mark members donated 87 pounds of food to the Paradise Valley Food Bank. Thank you!
- **Servants on Standby (SOS):** Would you be willing to provide a ride to church, move furniture, perform minor repairs or maintenance, lend furniture or medical supplies or other assistance to St. Mark members? If you are available to help in one of these ways or have another area of service you would like to help with, please contact Sandy and Ken Butler at sandyandkenb@cs.com or 602-992-1505 and let them know how you would like to help.
- **Bag of Grace:** Be prepared to help a homeless person. Grab a gallon-size zipper-style plastic bag and fill it with:

1- 16.9 oz. bottle of drinking water

1- 5 oz. pop-top can of Vienna sausages

1- 4 oz. pop-top can of fruit

1- 7.5 oz pop-top Chef Boyardee meal

1- 6 count crackers pack

2- 5 oz. individually wrapped meat snack stick

1- pocket size pack of tissues

1- pack of gum

1- packet of full-size wet wipes

1- restaurant-type pack of eating utensils w/ a napkin toothbrush and toothpaste

A Bible verse such as John 3:16 or a tract

Keep the bag in your car and give it out when you see a homeless person beside the road. Continue to fill bags on your own, always having at least one in your car.

Fall Sunday School & Confirmation Kick-Off

Students turning 3-years-old and those entering 1st and 3rd grade will move into their new Sunday School classes on Sunday, Aug. 21. Confirmation, for students entering sixth through eighth grade, begins at 9:30 a.m. Aug. 21 in the Modulars. For more information on Sunday

School contact Pamela Hardy at Ext. 2 or [phardy@stmarkphx.org](mailto:p Hardy@stmarkphx.org). For details on Confirmation, contact Mike Edge at Ext. 4 or [medge@stmarkphx.org](mailto:m Edge@stmarkphx.org).

Back to School Donations

If you would like to support St. Mark Preschool and Sunday School with a back to school donation, we would love gift cards to Lakeshore Learning, Michael's or Wal-Mart. You can drop them off during the week in the church office or on Sundays at the Children's Ministries Table. Thank you for your support!

Grief Support Class

Are you trying to work through grief after the death of a loved one? Plan to attend this six-week session, which begins at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17 in the Modulares. The cost is \$15. For more details, contact Jim Spellman at 623-879-0262 or jim.spellman@q.com.

Contact Information

Do you have a need for assistance? Contact John Hubeler in the church office at 602-992-1980 Ext. 3 or jhubeler@stmarkphx.org. If you have an emergency and are needing to contact someone at the church, please call 623-640-1280. For information on the email newsletter, St. Mark Connections, including submissions, please email newsletter@stmarkphx.org or call the church office at 602-992-1980. The deadline for September submissions is August 26.

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