

NEWSLETTER



Saying Grace

Summer is nearly upon us. If we are lucky that means vacations and a bit more leisure time to read a good book, relax or take a walk in the park. For recent graduates it may mean the launch of a gap year or the first steps into a new opportunity for work or learning.

These are without doubt occasions for gratitude for joys that come our way. For others, like those in desperation on the border or other places of unfathomable hardship, summer doesn't change anything except the weather. The difficulties remain for them and their families. All our occasions of joy are mingled with sorrow if we allow our heart to expand wide enough to hold both.

Summer reminds me always of the famous question asked by the poet Mary Oliver in her poem Summer Day. She asks: "What will you do with your one wild and precious life?" That, of course, is the most important question for each of us at all times.

The other night, Claudia and I went early into the field with our beloved dog Patrick. There along a path in the tall grass surrounded by trees, we saw the most amazing thing. Fireflies! Hundreds of fireflies in all directions! Lightening bugs flashing everywhere! Among the grasses and especially high in the trees: blink, blink, blink! All around we looked, the tiny white lights flitting here, there, calling for the mate of a lifetime! Jaw dropping wonder, laughing wow, wow, wow - all we could do in that moment. Even Patrick the Beloved let his leash go slack, sitting on his haunches to ponder (?) the wondrous show of lights from the flying bodies of tiny creatures looking for love.

I get to tell about such wonders in my one wild and precious life.

I hope you to see you in worship this summer as we celebrate the goodness of God around the Lord's Table.

Pastor Roy



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Many of our members enjoyed a day of fellowship at our annual Women's Retreat in March (above).

PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH AND THEIR LEADERS THIS SUMMER

Starting Sunday, June 16, youth and adults from Saint Mark will embark on a summer of Spirit and Service. Thanks to your generous support, 19 people will participate in the Appalachia Service Project and 8 people will travel to the Montreat Youth Conference. To hear reflections from the participants of the Appalachia Service Project, come to worship on June 23. Please keep these two groups in your prayers during June and July.

ASP: Linda Asher, Paige Shoemaker, Anna Cappellina, Olivia Kaufmann, Mari Clark, Seta Whitney, Leah Eaton, Karl Kaufmann, Jack Karakashian, Casey Kenreich, Hannah Haledjian, Lucas Alexander-Moak, Nicole Bratton, Meredith Bratton, Brent Shoemaker, Kylie Bloise, Brandt Kaufmann, Maggie Welsh, Zach Haledjian

Montreat: Max Ferguson, Brandt Kaufmann, Maggie Welsh, Hannah Haledjian, Kylie Bloise, Nicole Bratton, Rebecca Howard, Shelby Etheridge Harasty.



SAVE THE PLANET. SAVE \$. SAVE CHRISTINA!

When we put up the screen in the sanctuary it was with the expectation that the congregation would move away from paper bulletins. This saves trees, money, and air (reduces chemicals used for copying), and wear and tear on the copier, not to mention Christina's time. We suggest, "Ask for a bulletin." If you want one/need one, you should have one. For the sides in particular you can't see the screen from some angles and the choir needs them so we can be one step ahead. But since the announcements are no longer in there, people don't take them home. They really are wasted paper. If you don't really need it, please don't take it - see if you can enjoy worship without it.

Thanks!



UPDATE ON EMMETT BARKLEY

Pastor Roy and one of our deacons visited with longtime Saint Mark member Emmett Barkley a few months ago. Emmett lives in Virginia now, and we thought the congregation would enjoy seeing a little glimpse of his life. Here he is doing some gardening.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was a success! Here are a few memories captured during the fun.



THANK YOU TO OUR CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTALISTS!

We thank these choir members, and instrumentalists, for their dedication this past year. Our worship services are greatly enhanced by your talents.

Choir

Alison Bennett
Lizzie Bartlett
Angeline Butler
June Colilla
Pat George Houser
Kay Haynes
Lee Hinkle
Karl Kaufmann
Rachel Kaufmann
Mike Lutz
Bill Merritt
Mary Jo Mountain
Margaret Schweitzer
Carl Shea
Jessica Sillers
Pat Simmons
Marybeth Verchot

Instrumentalists

Lee Hinkle, percussion
Jane Karakashian, clarinet,
percussion
Karl Kaufmann, recorder
Rachel Kaufmann, flute
Todd Kenreich, trumpet
Erik Turkman, bass

SUMMER CHOIR

If you'd like to sing in the choir, but can't commit to weekly rehearsals, then perhaps you'll consider summer choir. We only meet briefly before the 10am service each Sunday to rehearse for that service. We won't sing an anthem, but rather, help teach new hymns, or add harmony, or simply provide strong leadership for the congregation. This will begin on June 16. Questions? Please contact Jeff at jeffdmusic@gmail.com