

ST. MARK'S

United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation
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California-Nevada Annual Conference: June 17-20

*You are invited to the 161st Session of the
California-Nevada Annual Conference
June 17-20, 2009
Sacramento Convention Center*



Highlights of this year's Conference will include the address by the newly-appointed Bishop Warner Brown, and numerous luncheons and dinners with speakers to educate and inspire. Our three lay members to Annual Conference are Ralph Davis, Jim Eychaner and John McCormack. For more information on the many events scheduled during Annual Conference, please check www.calnevumc.org or talk to one of the Pastors. Visitors are welcome throughout Conference.

Markings

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June 1, 2009

Volume 60, Number 6

The Next Chapter

from Faith Whitmore, Senior Pastor

As I sit to write to you all, my thoughts turn toward deep appreciation for so much and for so many. Last week, I was blessed to attend the "Festival of Homiletics" in Atlanta where over 1500 preachers from all over the country gathered for a feast of worship experiences, beginning with Bishop Tutu who, in his lilting, joyful voice proclaimed "God loves us – God really, really loves us!" His joyful spirit was and is infectious; all the more profound because of all that he went through during the time of apartheid in South Africa. Not bitter, though that would be understandable – not discouraged, though the state of the world would lend itself to that, Bishop Tutu is delightfully joyous in his faith.

It's that sense of joy in our faith and life together that I pray for us as well. Even in these tough economic times, even in the midst of change that is inevitable, I pray for us joy and delight. We can view the cup as half empty, or half full: I vote for the latter! And as I reflect on this community of faith, the strong foundation of our church, and all the blessings that flow, it isn't hard to do. I'm grateful for Matt Smith's ministry of the last three years: he has given so much of his time, spirit and faith, especially to the young people. He transformed the old youth building into Grace Café, with a vision of teaching hospitality and breaking bread, in the spirit and practice of Christ. He took our youth to places they might otherwise never have ventured—spiritually and geographically. He inspired us all with his sermons and shared with us a vision for ministry that will begin taking shape and form with his new appointment to "The Table" – a church without walls. We will miss him here at St. Mark's but know that he will be a blessing to those to whom he will minister in the years to come. His last Sunday with us will be June 21. He will preach and we will celebrate and give thanks for him following the 11:00 service. If you would like to support him and his new ministry with a financial gift, you are welcome to do so. Checks should be written to him directly and either placed in the offering plate or mailed to the office before June 21.

I'm grateful, as I know you all are as well, that Susan Goodman and Lily Andrews have answered the call to ministry to continue the blessing of working with our youth and our children: these are two energetic and joyful women! The Rev. Larry Hinshaw is ready to come on board July 1 as a part-time Associate Pastor who will help us create a culture of hospitality here at St. Mark's, reaching out to visitors especially and helping to build the body of Christ here at St. Mark's. I'm grateful that Chaplain Sarge will continue his profound ministry of visitation and care for the homebound and those in the hospital.

I'm especially grateful for all of you who are committed to ministry and sharing your faith in myriad ways every day, for such generosity reflects God's love for one and for all. Whether it be through music, the balcony crew who faithfully show up every Sunday, the work of the Trustees, teaching, commitment to ministries of justice and hospitality, financial contributions, prayer, administration, outreach... the list is endless! May all that we do, and the relationships we share, reflect a cup that is not just half full, but overflowing with joy and blessing.



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As President of our Annual Conference Archives and History Commission, I attended a Jurisdictional meeting of all the presidents of these commissions in all of western USA in Homer, Alaska, April 22-25. An unplanned visit to the Emergency Room of Providence Hospital in Anchorage was not on my planned agenda! Everything is OK,

however. After the meeting in Homer, I went to Anchorage and visited Sarah Pallin's hangout in Wasilla and tried to see Russia! I also had a conference with Wally Hinkel, former Secretary of the Interior and twice governor of Alaska, who stood up for what he believed against the Nixon administration. He told me about his last ambition in his life: to provide leadership, both political and monetary, to build a bridge across the Bering Straits to link Alaska and Russia! He believes this would be of mutual economic and political benefit for the future growth of USA, Russia and the Asian continents generally. Sounds far-out but he is credited for his part in developing the new Alaska Constitution. He feels that the best security in a dangerous world is a fair world where everyone has enough to eat, an opportunity to succeed and a voice in one's governance. He's thinking BIG but our world needs people who are not afraid to think BIG thoughts and have BIG dreams!

Which brings me to the conference in Homer. Dr. Robert Williams, Executive Secretary of our national Methodist Archives and History, said exactly what Gov. Hinkel told me: in our current concerns about our church's growth and outreach, we need men and women who will: feel a compassion for our world, dream about a future that sees "beyond the box" of our current thought patterns and visualize a ministry that will be willing to enter enthusiastically into the next generations of people who may have different expressions of their spirituality and mission.

St. Mark's Staff

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

In a recent article in the Sacramento News & Review, Mark Moore explains his approach to this generation as the Spiritual Formation Pastor of Arcade Wesleyan Church. All of his life, he attended churches of all sizes, many denominations in many different settings and, aside from the people involved, there basically are only inanimate, cold, dead buildings. He suggests that the building doesn't make The Church--it's the people who make the Church what it will be and was intended to be by Jesus.

I think he rightly says that "problems occur when we disconnect people from the church and let organizational principles control the vision and goals of the 'gathered'. My goal is not to build the biggest organization or institute programs that will solve all the problems of the world. My goal is to reconnect people with the truth that they are the church and spread the message of love and forgiveness (the message of Jesus) through tangible ways and then the perception of the church will begin to change."

He said that "he is a hopeless dreamer", that he still believes that a group of people can come together for a common cause and change the world through changing themselves. He writes that the church has always been and always will be a motley crew of Jesus followers who may or may not regularly attend a weekly service, who look different, who vote different, but who are called to a common goal: "love as I have loved you" (Jesus).

I applaud this young man who hasn't given up on the "Church" nor have I. Dr. Williams in Homer said that we need to draw on past history and trust that God's mercies are new everyday. Great is thy faithfulness. We need to remember who we are (Matthew 13:44-45, 51-53). The old adage about "something old, something new" applies to our church also. The disciples didn't always "get" what Jesus was saying. Jesus said to his disciples that they were being trained; to us, he is saying "you are being called to a new ministry in your own place." "We're about to do a new thing." We sometimes don't know what to use from our past, but there is a pioneering spirit which is echoed in the fourth verse of a Methodist hymn, "Are we all yet alive?" His Spirit will lead us as we live together in the church that is always open to new ways to search for that Spirit.

Our Minister to Youth, Matt Smith, has been called by our conference to an Emerging Ministries mission this next July in downtown Sacramento. I believe he has much of the outlook on ministry which I have described above. Along with our St. Mark's family, I welcome Matt and Sara into a ministry which is challenging but rewarding in so many ways. God loves you and so do we!!



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

We celebrate with these from our congregation who are headed into the next season of life and pray for God's richest blessings in all their endeavors.

High School Graduates

Dylan Beaty
El Camino Fundamental High School
Son of Dennis Beaty and Carol Buck
Dylan will be attending Sacramento State University

Kathleen Brittan
Folsom High School
Daughter of Donna and Greg Gorbach,
Granddaughter of Jan Dahl
Kathleen will be attending American River College

Joshua Mather
El Camino Fundamental High School
Son of Kevin and Cheryl Mather
Joshua will work this summer and attend American River College in the fall.

Hannah Sapunor-Davis
St. Francis High School
Daughter of Ralph Davis and Jeanne Sapurno
Hannah will be attending Humboldt State University

Emilia Stawicki
Loretto High School
Daughter of Mark and Melinda Stawicki
Emilia will be attending University of Portland

Julian Strode
Rosemont High School
Don of Marsha Strode and Ed Emberg
Julian will be attending Sac City College next year

Rebecca Swinehart
Del Campo High School
Daughter of Bill and Lori Swinehart,
Granddaughter of Bruce and Jeanne Swinehart
Rebecca will be attending American River College

College Graduates

Françoise Bulaya, BS Microbiology and Clinical Lab
Sacramento State University
Wife, mother of three and now college grad!
Françoise will be completing a year of training before entering her field.

Carrie Gylling, BA Political Science
Loyola Marymount University
Daughter of Scott and Sue Gylling
Carrie will work a year before attending law school.

Kelsey Papst, Juris Doctorate, with Great Distinction
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
Kelsey hopes to enter the field of civil rights law or employment law

Andrea Nos, BA in Human Biology
Stanford University
Daughter of Doug and Nancy Nos
Andrea applied for a fellowship to work a year before entering medical school

Laura Nos, BA in Neurological Science
Mount Holyoke College
Daughter of Doug and Nancy Nos
Laura will be working in DC as a clinical nursing assistant at Christ House for a year before starting a masters program for Physicians Assistants

Eric Schmucker, BA in Applied Sociology.
Eastern Menonite University
Son of Darrell and DeeAnn Schmucker
Eric is looking for work in Peace and Justice, and has wedding plans this month.

Kaitlin Schmucker, AAAS in Liberal Arts
Hesston College
Daughter of Darrell and DeeAnn Schmucker
Kaitlin will attend Portland State University for degree in Social Work.

Erica Anderson
Hastings College of Law
Daughter of Eric Anderson and Jerry Swoyer
Erica will attend University of California

Kerry Parsons
Daughter of Gibbe and Ann Parsons
Kerry will attend Parsons School of Design, New York City



We wish to express our appreciation to our friends at St. Mark's for their many kindnesses, prayers and cards in memory of Dottie. We cannot thank you enough. Much love to everyone.

The Eade Family



United Methodist Women

June Garden Meeting

The United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, June 9, at 10:00am in the NEW back yard of Boni Fields. The address is 3512 Bausell Street in Sacramento. Boni's phone number is 485-3154. This will be a casual garden party. Our program will be presented by Pat Arthur. Pat will be conducting a potting demonstrating. She will be combining several plants into a pot, producing a mini-garden to enjoy. This lazy day of summer meeting is a great time to become better acquainted with other UMW. No reservations are required.

The Executive Committee will meet at 9:00am that day in Room E-5 (Library).

Knife & Fork Group

The Knife & Fork group will have lunch on Thursday, June 4. Meet in Room E-5 (Library) at 12:00pm to carpool to the restaurant. Please contact Joyce Estes, 481-0418, for more information.

Susanna Wesley Circle

Susanna Wesley Circle will combine the May and June meetings and have a salad potluck luncheon on Wednesday, June 3, at 11:00am, at the home of Phyllis Pratt, 2711 Tioga Way, Sacramento. Helen Porter will give the program, telling about her recent cruise from Singapore to Hong Kong. Call Chairperson, Iris Schindhelm 489-7163, for more information.

Shalom Circle

Shalom Circle will meet on Monday, June 15, at 6:30pm, for a Swim Party and Potluck, at the home of Susan Scott, 5335 Marimoore Way, Carmichael. Any questions, contact Sally J. Weinland or Rita Clark.

Ankh Circle

This month, the Ankh Circle will meet Tuesday, June 23, at Boni Field's home at 6:45pm. We will have a regular meeting and potluck dinner. Our program will be sharing childhood pictures and stories to go along with them.

St. Mark's United Methodist Men

by Eric Anderson, President

The Men of St. Mark's are invited to the June 10th United Methodist Men's meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 6:00pm with a dinner at 6:30pm. The BBQ Meal will include a Filet Mignon Steak, Grilled Summer Vegetables, a Salad and Rhubarb Sour Cream Pie. The evening will include fellowship and planning for next year.

All men are welcome; if you are not on our calling list please make dinner reservations by contacting Noel Neuburger at 944-0186 by Sunday June 7. Cost for the dinner is \$10.00.



Prayer Concerns

Lois Adamek
Paul Blankenship
Johanna Brownell
John Dodd
Kenny Matt
Karen Paulson
Rev. Dennis Taber
Kathy Womack



For more information, call Chaplain Sarge Wright, 300-7448

In Memoriam—

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Marion Taylor, who passed away May 23. Services have not yet been planned.

A Farewell Note and Update on the Human Rights Campaign

from Matt Smith, Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Dear St. Mark's Members and Friends,

The United Methodist Church has prioritized an effort to create new communities of faith. As part of this effort, I recently completed training with the Academy for New Church Start Pastors and will be appointed by Bishop Warner Brown to a new church start effort in the Sacramento area beginning July 1, 2009.

This new ministry, called *The Table*, will seek to reach younger generations of people by developing a network of small "house churches" throughout Sacramento. Early outreach efforts will concentrate on young adults and families in the area around my own neighborhood of East Sacramento. In this new church start appointment I will partner with Rev. Linda Dew-Hiersoux, pastor at Central UMC, and with the Circuit to which I've been assigned. Circuits are being implemented across our conference with the intention of developing collaborative ministries and strengthening the mutual support of our connectional system. My circuit will include eight other clergy and five existing congregations.

While this new venture is very exciting, I want to again express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve in ministry with you over the last three years. During this time, I was commissioned as a Provisional Elder and I have advanced toward ordination by completing the first of three stages in the Residents in Ministry process. My experience at St. Mark's has been invaluable in shaping my understanding of pastoral ministry. Thanks to you all for your support in this formational time. Special thanks to the youth and families of this church who have been a gift in my life. I am thankful as well for the adults who have walked in ministry with me and our young people as Youth Ministry Partners over the last three years. Our young adult gatherings over the last year have been inspiring. I feel blessed to have served and learned and grown as a pastor in a church with such a prophetic history and mission.

I wish you and St. Mark's United Methodist Church every blessing in the future. Sincere thanks for your prayers, encouragement, and support.

With thanks for our time together,

Matt Smith
Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries



Human Rights Campaign:
Clergy Call for Justice and Equality

Thanks so much for your prayers and encouragement for my participation in Human Rights Campaign's Clergy Call for Justice and Equality in our nation's capitol on May 4 and 5, 2009.

Seven United Methodist clergy from our Annual Conference and over three hundred clergy from various faith traditions across the country

made the trip to Washington, DC. Our mission as religious leaders was to be agents of change for lesbian, gay, bisexual and, most particularly, transgender people across the country!

Our first day included an interfaith worship celebration, an inspiring message from Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, panels on gender identity, transgender education, marriage equality and adoption, and the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, and religious diversity. Our second day included lobby training, a press conference, and congressional visits. Our California delegation, 25 clergy from across the state and representing many denominations and several faith traditions, met with staff from the offices both Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer. I met briefly with an aid to Rep. Matsui and also with two staff people from Speaker Pelosi's office. Other clergy from our area visited the offices of Rep McClintock and Rep. Lungren. Our congressional visits were designed to ensure our elected officials that faith voices are speaking out in favor of the protections afforded by the Matthew Shepard Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

To learn more about these important pieces of legislation and to view some of the media coverage of the gathering, visit the Clergy Call 2009 link on HRC's website (www.hrc.org).

Many thanks for your encouragement and support,

Matt Smith
Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries



Musings from the Organ Bench—Pentecost Wind by Jack Miller, Organist

I'd like to share with you an article by Thomas Troeger (a pastor in the northwest and well-known hymn text writer) which he wrote in the American Guild of Organists magazine. He serves as chaplain for this international professional organization.



The Wonders of Air Moving Through a Pipe

Perhaps it is because I grew up in the country on a mountain lake that I am enchanted by the sound of wind. Throughout the year I could hear it in the trees along the shore. In the summer when the windows were opened, I often awoke to the sound of wind-driven waves lapping against the rocks, and in the winter I heard the gusts roaring across the large central chimney that dominated our house. Maybe my sensitivity to the wind has been enhanced by the fact that I have played the flute since I was in fourth grade, and I have spent thousands of hours directing wind across an embouchure piece to set up vibrations in a silver pipe that poured into the air as melody.

When I blow on my flute, I am extending and elaborating the music that the wind is always making with trees and grass, with waves and water. Our ancient forebears must have been keenly attentive to that primal music, for there is a Slovenian bone flute that is at least 50,000 years old. I wish we knew the name of who made the first flute. I would suggest that the person ought to be canonized by musicians and listeners who love the sound of air moving through a pipe. In a very real sense that first flute maker is the ancestor to all of us who make music by moving air through a pipe. There is a ceaseless, flowing line of music that moves from wind upon the water to wind in the trees to breath in a flute to air moving through the pipes of an organ. When you turn on the blower and

you sit at the console and begin to play, you are joining in the music that God set off right from the start by blowing across the deep, the same God who inspired the psalmist to exclaim, "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" and the same God whose breath, whose Spirit, came like a rush of wind at Pentecost.

These reflections on wind and breath and music remind us that God is not known simply as an idea or as a theological definition or an abstraction. God is the vitalizing energy that moves our hearts and minds when air moves through pipes to sound forth music that recapitulates and expands the wonder of God's first act of breathing upon the deep. You might call this a theology of wind or a theology of breath. It is complementary to a theology of the word. Such a theology reminds us that words alone make for an inadequate witness to God. When we listen to or play an organ to the glory of God, we are doing something more profound than simply adding musical art to the service of worship. We are enacting the theology of wind, of breath. Our music is a sonic witness to the one whose creative action did not start with words but with wind upon the water.

A few weeks ago I heard a piece that was played with a slightly nasal, reedy stop, the kind of sound that makes your ears perk up. The tonal quality is so distinctive that you think if you reached out you could almost touch the sound with your hands, as if it were a substance suffusing the air. For several glorious moments my whole being rode on that sound. When I stepped outside, the wind was blowing in the trees, and I found myself back on the shore of the lake where I grew up, only the trees sounded to me like that reedy stop on the organ. Then for a moment I had an overwhelming sense of the breath of God upon the deep. Oh, who knows what wonders may be released by the sound of air moving through a pipe?

Update from Reconciling Ministries

Gay Pride: Hold the Date! Please join with other people of faith in supporting our LGBT community by participating in or being a cheering bystander at the 2009 Sacramento Gay Pride Parade on Saturday, June 20. The parade begins at 10:00am. The California Faith for Equality interfaith contingent will be gathering at 8:30 in the Rose Garden in Capital Park (15th Street between L and N; this is a new gathering spot as the parade route has moved.) We will have rainbow flags, flower leis and some signs. Please bring your own signs, banners, balloons and other festive rainbow regalia. Clergy are encouraged to wear collars and vestments.

St. Mark's will again have an Outreach Booth at the Sacramento Gay Pride Festival, and volunteers are needed for 2-hour shifts, and to donate homemade goodies. Contact Paul Trauger at paultrauger@comcast.net, or Chris Allan at bothata@aol.com if you would like to help. Financial donations to help cover the booth supplies and other ministry activities are also most welcome.

Also on Saturday, June 20, the Cal-Nevada Conference Committee on Reconciliation has a great panel of three speakers lined up for this year's Annual Conference luncheon, called "These Threads We Weave: Stories from our Rainbow Community." The panel will include Oneida Chi, a UMC leader of a Pacific Islander LGBTQ caucus, The Rev. Phillip Lawson, who was active in the civil rights movement in the 1960's, and Rev. Siosifa Hingano, a voice for reconciliation between LGBT persons and the Tongan community. To register for the luncheon, go to visit the Conference website, www.calnevumc.org, at the top of the page click on Annual Conference 2009, then scroll to the bottom and click on mealtime events. Click on the link in the Saturday Lunch section. Cost is \$20 per person.

"All Means All": At the St. Mark's May Administrative Council session, the council voted unanimously to endorse the "All Means All" Declaration.

The declaration is in support of "All Means All," the constitutional amendment that was passed at last year's UMC General Conference by a 2/3 majority and now requires a 2/3 majority of the popular vote of both lay and clergy at all the 2009 Annual Conferences for it to go into effect in 2010. If passed, the amendment revises the language of the paragraph in the Methodist constitution that talks about membership and sacraments, so that it is clear that these parts of the church are open to all people.

Judicial Council Recap: In their April spring session, the UMC's Judicial Council (the equivalent of the Supreme Court) upheld former Bishop Beverly Shamana's "null and void" ruling of the Retired Clergy Resolution authored by retired St. Mark's pastor Don Fado. The resolution passed by our 2008 conference commended the 80+ retired clergy willing to officiate at holy unions or same-sex weddings if asked by active clergy.

In a separate, equally disappointing decision, the Council reversed California-Pacific Conference Bishop Mary Ann Swenson's ruling supporting a conference resolution recognizing "the pastoral need and prophetic authority of our clergy and congregations to offer the ministry of marriage ceremonies for same-gender couples."

The Council did not take up the third docket item of interest to Reconciling Methodists: a request from the Alaska Conference for a ruling on church law regarding the openness of church membership relative to pastoral discretion to deny membership. The Council said it did not have jurisdiction to address possible competing claims in church rules because the request for a declaratory decision did not deal with an action by the Alaska Conference.

For questions or comments about Reconciling Ministries, please contact any of the following leadership team members: Chris Allan, Brian Bartlett, Doug Cole, Cheryl Fuller, Karen Humphrey and Paul Trauger.



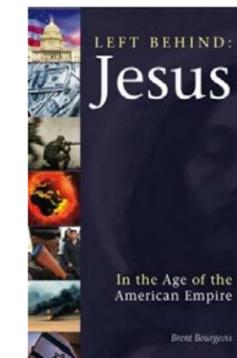
Recently at St. Mark's....



Brent Bourgeois Publishes First Book



Our Director of Contemporary Music, Brent Bourgeois, has just published his first book entitled, *Left Behind: Jesus in the Age of the American Empire*. He recently had a booking signing party at the 5th Sunday potluck. It's available on Amazon.com, should you wish to purchase one. Bring it to church for your own personal inscription. What a great opportunity we have to celebrate with him!



Opportunities for Ministry

- **Help Local People in Need by Giving to the Special Offering on Sunday, June 14**

The Ministry in Action Commission has decided to divide our June Special Offering between the River City Community Services (RCCS) and Loaves & Fishes here in Sacramento.

In its 40 years of operation, RCCS has maintained its focus on emergency food and shelter services. Clients represent every age and income group, and live in urban and suburban neighborhoods throughout Sacramento. Many are "working poor" and find themselves uncertain about where their next meals will come from after facing a set-back such as an unexpected car repair or medical problem. RCCS assistance, given with compassion, helps to instill hope and support self-reliance.

RCCS works closely with organizations that have special expertise in common needs of our clients. Francis House counselors screen and refer clients for our motel voucher program. RCCS also provides monthly "Food for Fun" nutritional classes using common food closet staples in cooperation with a nutritionist from CARES, Sacramento area's leading provider of HIV/AIDS services.

Without passing judgment, and in a spirit of love and hospitality, Loaves & Fishes feeds the hungry and shelters the homeless. They provide an oasis of welcome, safety, and cleanliness for homeless men, women and children seeking survival services.

Loaves & Fishes recognizes the dignity and spiritual destiny of each person, and hope by their attitude of hospitality and love, to nourish not only the physical needs of those who come to Loaves &

Fishes, but also their spiritual need for love, acceptance, respect, and friendship. They serve each person with the belief that, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers and sisters, you did it for me. (Matthew 25:40)

Please be generous June 14th and put your contribution to both of these worthy causes in the offering plate using the pew envelope clearly marked, "Special Offering."

- **Assist a Missionary with Word Processing and Dietician Skills**

We are so happy that our Missionary Partner from Congo, Mama Shimba Bulaya, is still able to be here in Sacramento recovering from sickness and visiting with her Bulaya family. She is really thankful for the laptop and help that she has received thus far in translating church school material and preparing a nutrition book.

Mama Bulaya has many duties in her hometown of Kamina in Southern Congo. Her work at the Lupandilo Nursing School includes teaching nutrition. She has almost completed writing a book on nutrition to use at the school, since there is a shortage of this type of material.

She would very much like to have help in preparing (word processing in English) and reviewing her nutrition book. She would really appreciate hearing from a dietician or anyone who could help complete her book.

She may be returning to the Congo soon, so the help is short term and needed now! Please call either of the following to get in contact with Mama Bulaya:

Joel Bulaya, 549-1264; joelbulaya@yahoo.com
Jim Munro, 487-7168; jmunro@macnexus.org



LOOKING AHEAD...



RIVER CITY
Community Services

Fireworks Fund-raiser Nears

It's official!! The St. Mark's fireworks booth will again be in the Wal-Mart parking lot at 3400 El Camino Ave. It's a great location—lots of parking, good visibility, and plenty of room! We are still signed reveling in the success of last year's fireworks booth! Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to work a shift in the fireworks booth. We have only a few slots left to fill! If you are interested in serving in any way, please contact Christopher Harris at 369-8329.

Fireworks Scrip will be available from at the fireworks table on the Patio. Here's how the scrip works:



You can purchase the scrip in \$10 increments and redeem it at our booth for \$10 worth of merchandise. OR, you can "check-out" some scrip and sell it at work, to your neighbors, or to someone you know who loves fireworks. This guarantees they will come to our booth to make their purchase. OR, you can purchase some scrip to give to your neighbors and friends. Tell them about St. Mark's and invite them to come and experience our worship services. (FYI: You do **not** need to be 18 years old to sell fireworks scrip, so our youth are welcome to join in.)

- **Farewell Party for Ellie Charlton & Bev Reddick: Wednesday, June 3, 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall**

Reconciling Ministries is sponsoring a dessert party for Ellie Charlton, long-term member of the St. Mark's community, and her partner Bev Reddick on Wednesday, June 3, 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Ellie and Bev are moving to a retirement home in North Carolina in June and we hope you will join us to send them on their way with all our love and support. If you would like to help with decorations, desserts, or other logistics, please contact Cath Brown in the office.

- **Iron Chef Fund-raiser: Saturday, June 6, 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**

Join us for an evening of food and fun in the Fellowship Hall. Youth will divide into teams and be given a secret ingredient in the morning. The teams will have the afternoon to prepare an appetizer, main dish, and dessert featuring the secret ingredient. Tickets are just \$5. Guests are encouraged to vote for their favorite dishes based on taste, presentation, and originality. Vote with dollars, coins, checks, IOU's, CD's, credit cards, etc. All proceeds will support both the Youth Ministries of St. Mark's United Methodist Church and an organization still to be determined by our young people.



- **Super Seniors: Monday, June 8, 12:30pm, in Fellowship Hall**

SUPER SENIORS will meet for their annual BBQ dinner. Bring your own meat to grill and a side dish or dessert to share, along with your own table service. The program will be presented by the Lakeview Line Dancers and the dynamic duo of Dick and Margie Shunk. Each team will perform one dance and then teach one dance for those "brave" enough to learn. COME! Bring a friend (of any age) and enjoy the 3 F's--food, fun and fellowship.

- **All Church Workday: Saturday, June 13, 8:00am-2:00pm**

Plan now to give some time to clean up our campus.

- **Summer Brunches: begin Sunday, July 12, in Fellowship Hall**

Our annual series of Summer Brunches, which are held each Sunday throughout the summer, is in need of hosting groups. If you or your group would like to host/coordinate a brunch, please contact Sandy Allen, 784-9376.

