

The background features a stylized landscape with green, triangular mountain peaks at the top and a bright orange, textured ground area below. The text is centered in the orange area.

Looking up: Opportunities for Reconciliation in a Monocultural context.

The Rev. Tom Sramek, Jr., Rector
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Medford, Oregon

In the beginning...

- 1970 Moved to California (Los Altos, SF Bay Area)
 - 97.4% White, 0.4% African-American, 2% Asian
 - 1.6% "Spanish Origin"
- 1980 Middle School Student
 - 94.7% White, 0.1% African-American,
 - 4.2% Asian or Pacific Islander, 2.5% "Spanish Origin"
- 1990 Graduated College
 - 89.1% White, 0.3% African-American,
 - 10% Asian or Pacific Islander, 3.0% Hispanic

Ministry: 20+ Years, 1 Slide

- Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA '92-'95
- Holy Trinity, West Chester, PA '95-'97
- St. Paul's, Burlingame, CA '97-2000
- St. Christopher's, San Lorenzo, CA 2000-2002
- St. Alban's, Albany, OR 2002-2009
- St. Edward's/Good Samaritan, San Jose, CA 2009-2016
- St. Mark's, Medford, OR 2016-Present

St. Mark's Medford, OR

Mission

“Sharing Christ's love
by feeding people
in body, mind
and spirit.”

Celebrated 100th Anniversary
of church building in 2016.

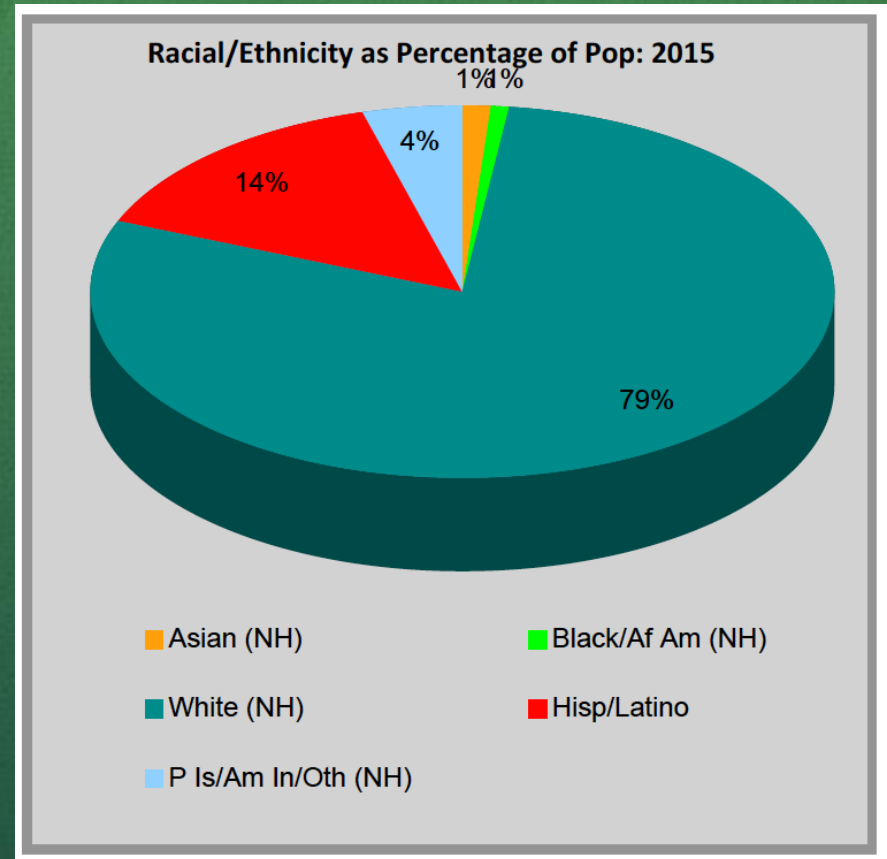
Will celebrate church's 130th
Birthday in June 2019.

Building For the Future
Campaign 2018-2019:
Pantry, Classrooms, Offices,
larger Parish Hall, etc....



Medford Demographics

- 80,000 People in Medford
216,900 in Jackson County
- Church is downtown –
on the border between
Western and Eastern parts
of town.
- West and flatland more
ethnically diverse, East and
hills (suburbs) more white.
- Median income for Jackson
County is \$43,675.



St. Mark's & Medford are growing...whiter.

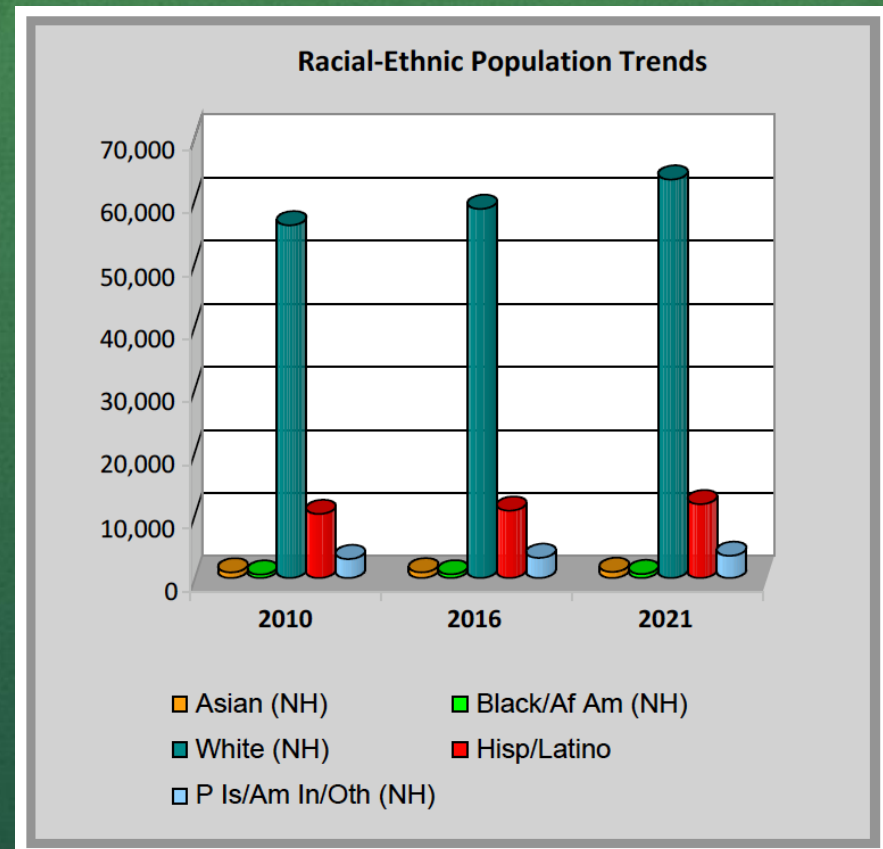
1 to 2% Non-white (100 ASA)

In ministry TO a large Hispanic/Latino population.

Have relationship with Northwest Seasonal Workers Co-op across the street.

Family Nurturing Center (relief nursery) uses our former educational building for free – serves a wide range of ethnicities.

No known African-American church in town.





St. Mark's in worship

Concerned about our neighbors, know some of them, don't have strong relationships with them. They are not usually in worship.

Rescue to Relationship?

“ The first step toward love is a common sharing of mutual worth and value. This cannot be discovered in a vacuum or in a series of artificial or hypothetical relationships. It has to be in a real situation, natural, free.”

- Howard Thurman, “Jesus and the Disinherited”

Challenges to Racial Reconciliation

Neighborhood

19% of the population in Jackson County live below the poverty line:
They don't feel privileged!
There is *de facto* segregation such that one doesn't often see someone of Hispanic/Latino origin, and very rarely African-Americans

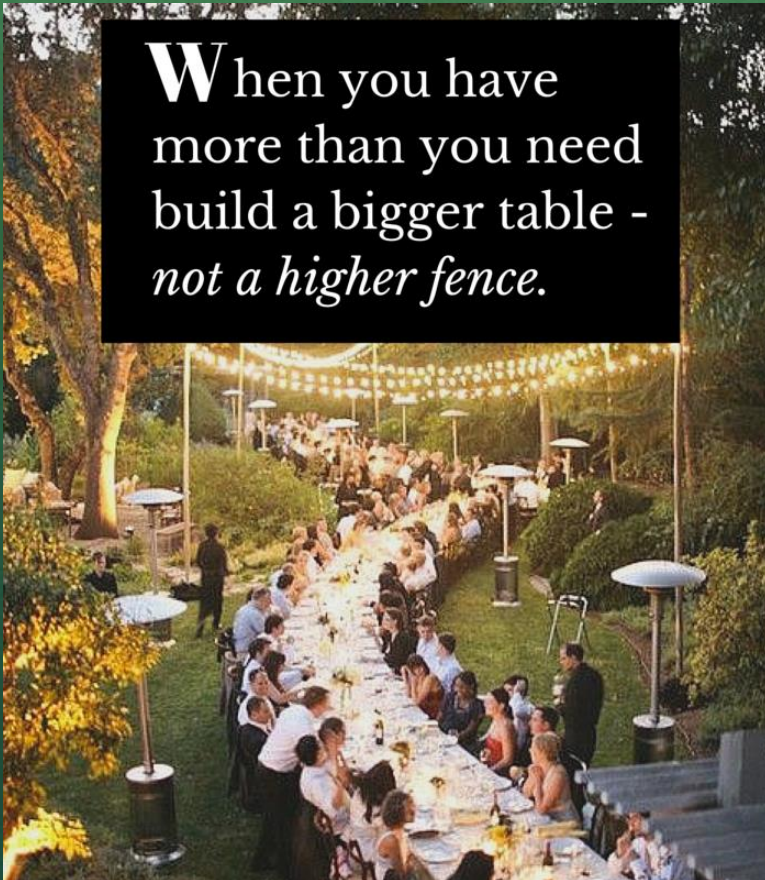
Church

Heart in the right place – food pantry, other outreach.
Very little experience.



Discipleship and Racial Reconciliation

When you have more than you need build a bigger table - *not a higher fence.*



- Frequent references in sermons.
- Efforts to strengthen relationship with seasonal workers organization.
- Book study: “Christianity and Islam, so much in common yet so far apart”, by Ronn Kerr
- Much more needed!