



# Messenger

St. Mark's  
United Methodist Church

1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213  
210-344-8393

## Regular Weekly

### Activities:

† We are now meeting in-person for worship every Sunday in the sanctuary.

#### **NOTE:**

Beginning in 2021, the newsletter will be distributed every quarter (on a trial basis).



*For over a year we have been unable to take part in so many things due to the pandemic and safety protocols. Now that many friends and family are fully vaccinated, we are slowly getting back to those things we enjoy and have so dearly missed. Here's what's happening at St. Mark's UMC.*

*SUNDAY SCHOOL: every Sunday at 9:15 am.*

*WORSHIP: every Sunday at 10:30 am.*

*POTLUCK: after Worship Sunday, May 30 at 11:30 am.*

*EXERCISE CLASS: every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 10:00 am.*

*KAIROS ADVISORY: meets monthly (first Tuesday) at 6:30 pm.*

*SA NEEDLEWORK GUILD: meets monthly and often on Saturdays.*

*UPC (Pentecostal Group): meets Sundays (pm) and Thursdays (pm).*

*FATHER'S DAY BBQ: after Worship Sunday, June 20 at 11:30 am.*

*Heavenly Father, Thank you for watching over us and helping us get through these stressful days. Thank you for showing Yourself in a mighty and loving way. Thank you for giving guidance and insight to researchers and scientists. Thank you for Your comfort and peace to families who lost loved ones. We continue to humbly ask Your special protection for the medical staff, first responders, teachers, and all those at risk. We pray that Your church may stay strong. Grant us all, O Heavenly Father, to keep our hope and trust in You. We pray in the mighty and blessed name of Jesus Christ.*

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Follow us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marks-United-Methodist-Church/217072428313881?ref=hl>



# With Your Help The United Methodist Church is Making a Difference



Apportionments

## HAZLEHURST UMC TURNS SHIPPING CONTAINER INTO CLINIC

Partnering with Rev. Bobby Gale and his Unto the Least of His ministry, Hazlehurst First United Methodist Church’s youth group has turned a shipping container into an obstetrics and gynecology clinic. By the end of February 2021, it will be completed, filled with more than \$5 million in medical supplies and medicines, and shipped to Africa. Hazlehurst First UMC is a part of the South Georgia Annual Conference.

The clinic, which will be placed in Ghana, will serve approximately 5,000 people who currently have little to no access to health care. Fully solar powered, the container clinic has two patient rooms, an office, and a bathroom. Medical professionals will be assigned to the clinic by the Ghanaian government, Rev. Gale said.

“I know the importance of good medical healthcare and how it can change people’s lives,” he said. “God has taken a tin can – these old containers – and turned it into a miracle. Maybe now a mother won’t have to go to the riverside to have her baby. Maybe she’ll be able to have it with a little bit of decency and encouragement. That right there is what the church is supposed to be doing.” Youth and adults worked side-by-side on the project, installing walls, insulation, the

solar unit and batteries, building a closet for the batteries, wiring for 120-volt and 220-volt outlets, and more.

Rev. Allen Hartsfield, senior pastor of Hazlehurst First UMC and a former electrician, provided leadership on the project and installed the wiring. Jonathan Hartsfield, Hazlehurst First UMC’s youth director and former engineer, handled all of the solar work. The project was an opportunity for the church’s congregation and youth to participate in something together that would benefit others. “Seeing what we can do from here, together with our community, that’s going to go across the world and help a tremendous amount of people, was important,” Jonathan Hartsfield said of the project.

Joshua Parker, a 16-year-old junior at Jeff Davis County High School, was one youth who helped construct the container clinic. Excited about the project, Parker says it was one way to serve others and share Christ’s love.

*This story represents how United Methodist local churches through their Annual Conferences are living as Vital Congregations. A vital congregation is the body of Christ making and engaging disciples for the transformation of the world. Vital congregations are shaped by and witnessed through four focus areas: calling and shaping principled Christian leaders; creating and sustaining new places for new people; ministries with poor people and communities; and abundant health for all.*  
[Umcgiving.org](http://Umcgiving.org)

## ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR MONTH OF MARCH - 2021

Operating Cash Balance on February 28, 2021	19,269
Non-Designated Contributions - March	10,522
Operating Expenses	16,251
Other Income/(Expense)	(5,056)
Operating Cash Balance on March 31, 2021	8,484

March receipts were less than budgeted.

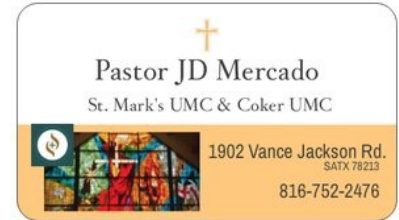
March operating expenses were lower than budgeted. Trustee expenses were favorable due to lower utilities and repairs and maintenance. For the month Mission Giving was lower than budgeted as a result of not making an apportionment payment in March.

Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

The Finance Committee thanks you for your support to St. Mark's. God Bless you all.

# From Rev. Jose David Mercado

Apr - Jun 2021



Four months into 2021 and the situation of COVID-19 has improved for the city, the state, and our country. Things aren't normal yet, but they're better than they were a year ago. As a church we have gone from being on pause, to slowly returning to healthy ways of gathering. The goal of following appropriate health measures were accomplished and in turn, we can now continue our weekly services and Sunday school with normalcy.

In unified efforts and in the spirit of serving our community, we were able to have our first "Dinner Church" event with our sister church Coker UMC. Conversations and planning will continue so that we can host similar events and move forward with implementing new initiatives to reach our community.

We have been able to gather funds from the district's office and the Rio Texas Conference to begin "La Cabaña," an extension of St. Mark's UMC for the Latino community. The Latino and Spanish speaking community exceeds 60% of the area within the 2-mile radius that surrounds our community. I ask for your continuous support as we set new outreach goals for expanding our ministries and the vision God has placed in our hands and hearts. Our Lord is making way in uncharted grounds, I hope and trust that you share the excitement for this new direction we are taking!

As summer approaches we will progressively continue to connect with our faith community and resources to continue doing what St. Mark's knows how to do very well, serve the neighborhood by making a difference.

*He who gives much will be honored,  
for he gives some of his food to the poor.*  
**Proverbs 22:9 NLT**

*As we read these words, the first thing that comes to mind is to feed those who are physically hungry and in need. In a way, this is what the author of Proverbs invites us to do. The situation of physical poverty is something that only those who have experienced it can express how it feels. Such as going to bed hungry after only having eaten a light breakfast, not having lunch at school, or even the experience of watching your friends eat in front of you. The problem is not only poverty, it is also the shame that comes along with poverty to those who experience it.*

*So too, there is another type of poverty that causes shame and poor nutrition. As we pause and reflect deeper, the poor are not the only ones who are hungry and neither do we have to be rich to be generous. The reality is that many people around us may appear to have it all, but they are spiritually poor and ravenous. Worst of all, it embarrasses them and fills them with such anguish that it becomes difficult for them to share the true state of the heart.*

*Thinking of those of us who have received the richness of salvation in Christ, the peace that passes all understanding, the joy of a full life and the gift of being forgiven without deserving it through Jesus Christ, moves me to share what we have received with those who have yet to experience it. We are blessed to bless. Jesus himself invites us to do the same.*

*... You have received much,  
now give much.*  
**Matthew 10:8 NLT**

*There are many people who are waiting for you and I to share what God has done, and continues to do in our lives. We have to remember that as followers of Jesus we are not to live in an isolated world, ignoring the needs that surround us but that we are all called to avidly live and share the good news of Jesus.*

Lovingly your **Pastor JD Mercado**

Han pasado 4 meses del 2021 y la situación del COVID-19 ha mejorado para la ciudad, el Estado y nuestro país. Aun todavía las cosas no están normales, pero están mejores que hace un año atrás. Como iglesia hemos pasado de estar en pausa, a estar en un modo lento de apertura. Considero que se ha logrado la meta de seguir los debidos métodos de salubridad y así poder continuar con nuestros servicios y escuela dominicales sin ningún contra tiempo.

Hemos trabajado en un evento comunitario llamado “Dinner Church” con nuestra iglesia hermana Coker UMC, el cual fue un éxito en el mes de abril y continuaremos platicando de seguir teniendo iniciativas de esta índole para continuar alcanzando nuestra comunidad.

Hemos podido recaudar fondos de parte de la oficina distrital y de la Conferencia Rio Texas para comenzar esta nueva iniciativa de la “Cabaña” un lugar de alcance para la comunidad Latina, la cual supera 60% de nuestra comunidad en un radio de 2 millas. Siéntase con la libertad de seguir apoyando a nuestra comunidad de fe en estas nuevas metas y fronteras que Dios a puesto en nuestras manos. Estoy muy emocionado por este nuevo proyecto de nuestra iglesia.

Mientras el verano se acerca continuaremos progresivamente en conectarnos con nuestra comunidad de fe para seguir haciendo lo que St. Mark’s sabe hacer mejor, servir al vecindario haciendo la diferencia.

*Benditos son los generosos,  
porque alimentan a los pobres.*  
**Proverbios 22:9 NTV**

*Al leer estas palabras, lo primero que se nos ocurre es alimentar a los que están hambrientos y en necesidad. En cierto modo es lo que el autor de los Proverbios nos invita a hacer. La situación de pobreza física es algo que sólo los que la han experimentado pueden expresar lo que se siente. Tal como irse a la cama con hambre con tan solo el desayuno, no tener para el almuerzo en la escuela y ver a tus amigos comer al frente tuyo. El problema no es solo la pobreza, es también la vergüenza que esta trae consigo al que es objeto de ella.*

*Así también, hay otro tipo de pobreza que causa vergüenza y una nutrición precaria. Reflexionando un poco mas en eso, los pobres no son los únicos que tienen hambre y nosotros no tenemos que ser ricos para ser generosos. La realidad es que muchas personas al nuestro alrededor pueden aparentar tenerlo todo, pero son pobres espiritualmente y están hambrientos. Lo peor de todo es que eso los avergüenza y los llena de angustia a tal grado que se les hace difícil compartirlo.*

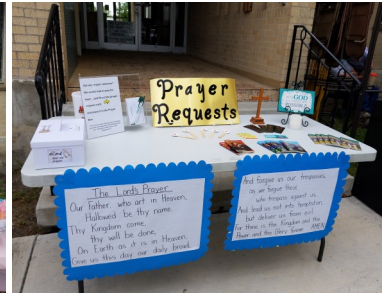
*Pensando en los que hemos recibido la riqueza de la salvación en Cristo, la paz que sobrepasa todo entendimiento, el gozo de una vida plena y el don de ser perdonados sin merecerlo a través de Jesucristo me mueve a compartir eso que hemos recibido con aquellos que no lo conocen. Somos bendecidos para bendecir. Jesús mismo nos invita a hacer lo mismo.*

*¡Den tan gratuitamente como han recibido!*  
**Mateo 10:8 NTV**

*Hay muchas personas que están esperando por usted y por mi en compartir lo que Dios ha hecho y sigue haciendo en nuestras vidas. Tenemos que acordarnos que no vivimos en un mundo aislados del resto y que todos somos llamados a anunciar las nuevas noticias de Jesús.*

Con cariño su **Pastor JD Mercado**

**DINNER CHURCH** was held April 18, 2021. It was good to see folks from St. Mark's, Coker, Renacer Ministries, Dellview neighbors, and a few friends we had not seen in a long time enjoying Christian fellowship.



We had about 70 persons of all ages attend.



Good times! We had a band, bounce house, buffet, and beautiful brothers & sisters in Christ. We closed the evening with Holy Communion.



Project Transformation (PT) is gearing up for summer! Our building will be welcoming over 40 college-age interns for training week on June 6. After training week, PT will host 23 interns through July 31 in SA who will be serving at Laurel Heights UMC, the Northern Hills Ministry Center, and Westlawn UMC to oversee our summer camps.

We are also in need of volunteers this spring and summer! This spring, volunteers are needed to help prep books for the summer program and volunteer in-person in our building and pick-up books to prep from the comforts of your own home. You can sign-up via <https://www.givepulse.com/event/216115-Book-Leveling-in-office-or-remote> or email [kaci@prtioctexas.org](mailto:kaci@prtioctexas.org) for more information.

This summer, groups and individuals are needed to provide dinner to our interns Sunday through Thursday on the St. Mark's campus. This is a great opportunity to serve, encourage, and get to know the young people who are making a difference! Reading Buddy volunteers are also needed at our site churches to read with children in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades at our summer day camps. The literacy component of Project Transformation is an exciting opportunity to interact with the children in a one-on-one setting. All volunteers must pre-register, pass a criminal background check, be vaccinated and complete online training. No previous experience is needed. We welcome both individuals and groups. **For more information and to sign-up to volunteer visit [www.PTRioTexas.org](http://www.PTRioTexas.org) or email [info@prtioctexas.org](mailto:info@prtioctexas.org).**

**PASTOR: Rev. Jose David Mercado 816-752-2476**  
 Pastor Email: [jmercado@riotx.org](mailto:jmercado@riotx.org)

SECRETARY: Lillian Herrera CUSTODIAN: Johnny Mendoza  
 WESLEY NURSE: Rose Miranda  
 Monday - Thursday Closed Friday

EMAIL: [stmarksumc@grandecom.net](mailto:stmarksumc@grandecom.net) WEBSITE: [www.stmarksumcsa.com](http://www.stmarksumcsa.com)

**PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULE HOURS MAY VARY DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS.**

## COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A

When we embody God's healing to others, we join in God's healing activity. The Scriptures call us to the possibility of transforming the health of people or communities. Providing straightforward answers to common questions about COVID-19 vaccines in order to encourage people to receive a vaccine is one practical way to do this.

### **Q. How were the vaccines developed so fast?**

A. The first vaccines were "messenger RNA," or mRNA vaccines. These used research that had been in process for many years for other viruses. With extra funding and focused research by scientists to solve the final steps, they went into trials quickly. Since the virus was prevalent, many infected people were available to study in trials and provide the needed data quickly. (Source: CDC, NIH)

### **Q. Is this vaccine still considered experimental?**

A. No. It is offered under the FDA's "emergency use authorization" to facilitate availability during a public health crisis. It is not experimental because it has cleared all safety standards, which have not been lowered in any way for this vaccine. (Source: Mayo, FDA, CDC, New England Journal of Medicine)

### **Q. Do I need a vaccine if I already had COVID-19?**

A. Yes. About 10 percent who recover from COVID-19 have weak antibodies that wear off, so they may be reinfected. We don't know who will be in this 10 percent, so the guideline is for everyone to receive the vaccine. (Source: biorxiv.org)

### **Q. What happens if I only get one dose?**

A. After about two weeks, your immunity to COVID-19 will reach about 50 percent. Without a second dose, it will remain at that level rather than go up to 95 percent. (Source: Pfizer data)

### **Q. How long does it take for me to be immune to COVID-19?**

A. After about two weeks, your immunity to COVID-19 will reach about 50 percent. Then after another 21 or 28 days you will get a second dose. Two weeks after the second dose is when you reach 95 percent immunity. So plan on a process of five to six weeks. (Source: Pfizer data)

### **Q. If I get vaccinated, why do I still need to wear a mask and social distance?**

A. It takes a few weeks for your body to build up protection. Also, we do not know if vaccines keep you from getting infected (we hope so!) or just keep you from getting sick if you are infected and you might still infect others who are not vaccinated (we hope not). This is still under study. (Source: Pfizer and Moderna trial data)

### **Q. Can I still get COVID-19 if I get the vaccine?**

A. Yes. The vaccines available now are about 95 percent effective if you receive both doses. That's not 100 percent, so that means some vaccinated people might still get sick if infected. However, the vaccine will reduce the risk of severe symptoms or hospitalization. (Source: CDC, Mayo)

### **Q. Will the vaccines protect against new variants?**

A. Yes. The new variants that turned up in the UK (B.1.1.7) and South Africa (501.V2) are similar enough that if you are vaccinated, your body will recognize them and respond to fight them. (Source: Pfizer data)

## **Mental Health and Coping with the COVID Pandemic**

Life has been quite different over the last 12 months with lifestyles changing drastically. Mental and emotion health and wellness is critical as we approach this new year 2021. Humans are social beings who need regular engagement opportunities. If social isolation occurs, then anxiety and panic may result. Being aware and mindful of the best ways to combat anxiety triggers is the first step in learning how to cope during this Pandemic.

**To learn more from the Centers of Disease Control & Prevention, visit at <https://bit.ly/38Jnjc8>**

Thank you, Peace & Blessings! Rose Miranda

I just wanted to let you know that Laurel Heights United Methodist Church will be hosting a vaccination clinic on **Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm**. The pharmacist stated that it will be using J&J and Moderna vaccines. Patients can register at the church onsite that day and get the vaccine right after. Please let anyone who has not been vaccinated know this will be a smaller setting than a bigger venue. Thanks! Peace & Blessings, Rose



### **EXERCISE CLASS**

**THEY'RE BACK!** Now that they've been fully vaccinated, Bill, Steve, Tillie, Lucille, Elvia, Rosie, Margarita, Ms. Ruthy, and the rest of the class have reunited. It's been over a year since they last met and they sure did enjoy getting together again. Rose Miranda, Johnny Mendoza and Lillian Herrera received the group with a goody bag, air hugs, welcome back signs, and even got to visit with them before their class. Thank you, Lord for taking care of these amazing folks.



### **GARDEN STEWARD NEEDED**

The Dellview Community Garden here at St Mark's is still in need of a garden steward to oversee the needs of the grounds and gardeners. If you or someone you know would like to know more, please contact the church office.



Got a question about altar flowers? Want to sign up for an upcoming Sunday? Well, our good friend, Joanne Green is the person to contact.

#### **OPENINGS:**

- July 4 - (1 opening)
- July 18 - (2 openings)
- July 25 - (2 openings)
- August - (all Sundays)

# PRAYERS & PRAISE



Bob Ailerson  
 Jill Anderson  
 Kennedee Bailey  
 Kylee Brown  
 Bucky Coley  
 Esdras Cuervo  
 Alice Logan  
 Michael Mendoza  
 Eric Miletti

Will Schuetze  
 St. Mark's Shut-ins &  
 homebound friends  
 Melvin Coe Jr.  
 Melvin Coe Sr.  
 Ramon Pacheco  
 Verline Dawe  
 Rev. Liliana Padilla  
 Laurie Sprowl

Family of Rudy Ramirez  
 Pete Falcon  
 Virginia Barlow  
 Janice Coley  
 Ashleigh Herrera  
 Those suffering from  
 COVID-19  
 PRAISE: Thank God for  
 the rain.



*The Chaffin Family on the passing of  
 LOUISE CHAFFIN, March 9, 2021.*

*The McKeown Family on the passing of  
 EDYTHE MCKEOWN, March 14, 2021.*



APR 4 Esther Lopez  
 APR 14 Brooke Somerville  
 APR 15 Ann Payette  
 APR 27 Dorothy Mace  
 APR 28 Isabel Centeno  
 APR 29 Janice Rushton  
  
 MAY 2 Leticia Mercado  
 MAY 7 Deborah Molina  
 MAY 12 Fran McMahan  
 MAY 12 Jessica Rodriguez  
 MAY 13 Sue Horner  
 MAY 13 Ralph Sanchez  
 MAY 14 Marilu Mercado

MAY 19 Bob Ross  
 MAY 21 Gerardo Vasquez  
 MAY 24 Samantha Alvarez  
 MAY 27 Virginia Barlow  
 MAY 30 Marcos Barrientos  
 MAY 30 Melinda Molina  
 May 31 Nancy Beckcom  
  
 JUN 11 Robert Mace  
 JUN 12 Joanne Green  
 JUN 15 Rosa Rodriguez  
 JUN 18 Laylah Cruz  
 JUN 20 Evelyn Rodriguez  
 JUN 26 Braden Somerville  
 JUN 30 Mario Mercado



June 2 - Eddie & Jessica  
 RODRIGUEZ  
  
 June 13 - Ralph & Sandi  
 SANCHEZ  
  
 June 15 - Scott & Sharon  
 CRIPPEN

May the Lord show you  
 the greatness of  
 His goodness,  
 that you overflow with  
 thanks every day.

*Happy Birthday!*  
 &  
*Happy Anniversary!*