



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church

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

Things to Remember!

- † Thursday, April 2nd - Community Maundy Thursday Worship at Dellview Baptist Church @ 7:00 PM
- † Friday, April 3rd - Good Friday Worship @ 7:00 PM
- † Saturday, April 4th - 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM - Prayer Vigil
- † Saturday, April 4th - Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00 AM
- † Sunday, April 5th - Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00 AM
- † Sunday, April 5th - Easter Breakfast following Sunrise Service
- † Sunday, April 5th Easter Celebration Worship @ 10:30 AM
- † F-Troop - Sunday, April 26th
- † Wednesday Night Worship Service - Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm (FH)

Coming Soon!!

Vacation Bible School - 2015

Time is flying by, and summer will be here in the blink of an eye. And that means Vacation Bible School, St Mark's style!

Plans are continuing as we strive to make this year our best yet, teaching children and youth the many faces of our loving Savior.

Due to some conflicting schedules, our new dates are June 22 through June 26.

Please consider joining our enthusiastic team if you haven't already. There is something for everyone, and we can use your help.

To God be the glory!

Melinda Molina



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

STATE OF THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22
Children	2	1	1	3
Youth	4	3	5	4
Adults	39	39	37	44
Total SS	45	43	43	51
<u>Worship</u>	79	67	69	93



<u>USHERS</u>
† Kathy Jack
† Sue Horner
† Susan Philbin
† Sharon Somerville

<u>TAPE MINISTRY</u>
† Daniel Wilke

<u>GREETERS</u>
† Linda Cerda
† Melinda Molina



not just
bean counters...

Finance Committee Reflections: Sounds From the Bean Counters

It appears that maybe winter is finally over. Seeing the sun is certainly an improvement of the cold and wet weather we have been experiencing.

February contributions were \$18,000, which exceeds the budget by \$230 and last year by \$537. Year-to-date contributions are \$941 higher than budgeted and \$1,817 higher than February 2014.

Operating expenses in February were \$312 less than budgeted and \$633 lower than February 2014. Trustee spending was favorable which offset higher Council on Ministries, Mission Giving and Administrative expenses. Year-to-date operating expenses are \$4,766 less than budgeted and \$7,785 less than last year. Versus the budget, Mission Giving and Trustee expenses are the most favorable, and the same holds true compared to last year.

For the month, we had a cash outflow of \$2,400 resulting in a year-to-date cash outflow of \$3,500.

While our contributions were up slightly and expenses lower, we did not receive enough other income to allow us to achieve the budgeted cash outflow.

Our apportionment giving (Mission Giving) through February was \$4,324, which is \$2,094 less than budgeted. In February, we sent \$3,300 to the Conference.

Our operating cash balance at the end of February was a negative \$4,329 compared to a negative \$1,670 at the end of January.

We thank each and every one of you for your financial support. We need to continue to have favorable contributions and expenses as well and hope for sources to generate other income. We hope you all have a good month and keep St. Mark's in your prayers. God Bless.



ADMINISTRATION

GOAL TO SUPPORT:

- † General Conference
- † Annual Conference Session
- † The Treasurer's Office
- † Audits for Districts & Campus Ministries

8.2 cents of every apportioned dollar goes to the Administration Fund.

The Administrative Fund also provides for direct benefits to the other local churches of the conference. For instance:

- † Mount Wesley operations are supported directly by the Administrative Fund
- † The property and liability insurance program - including worker's comp, umbrella coverage and directors' and officers' coverage - is provided at a cost, with an estimated saving to churches of the Conference of more than \$1 million annually.

Upcoming Altar Flower Opportunities

May 3	1 Opening
May 17	1 Opening
June 7	1 Opening
June 14	1 Opening
June 21	2 Openings
June 28	1 Opening



Call Joanne Green - 210-690-5714 or
Patti in the church office - 210-344-8393





From Our Pastor. . .

Happy Spring! What a green spring we've been having! The rains have blessed our beautiful earth and our souls, as well. As we prepare for new life and re-birth in Christ, we make the final push to the cross during Holy Week. I'm excited for the new opportunities that we have available to us to worship the Lord during this season!

We are doing something that I know will bless us and bless the Lord; we are going to have a joint Maundy Thursday Worship with three other churches in our neighborhood. Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. we will gather at Dellview Baptist Church, joining Gethsemane Lutheran and the United Church of Christ. This is the direct result of four pastors coming together in an attempt to lift up a unified voice, glorifying Christ and sending his light out into our neighborhood and the world. We have all become aware of increasing violence, in our city and in our nation and our world. In our neighborhood, gang violence has claimed the life of a young person and attempts are being made to continue to threaten families. Prostitution is becoming more evident; drug use is widespread; alcoholism claims untold numbers of victims; the darkness of the agents of Satan are pervasive. Jesus reminds us that in this world we will have troubles, but we are to take heart because He has overcome the world!

That's where we fit in! We need to show a solid witness to the world that Christ is alive at St. Mark's UMC and in the homes and churches of our neighborhood. To put it simply, but strongly: Christ is counting on each one of us to be present at this Maundy Thursday service. We need to be there as a sign of solidarity with the body of Christ, offering hope to those who have been living with no hope. Our new Children's/Youth Coordinator Janie Rose Alejandro has been hired to help us reach out to the children and youth of our community and city. She will need our help to bring our neighborhood families to Christ. She has a vision for offering Christ to our children and much energy and commitment. We will want to join her in reaching out and offering a safe and significant sanctuary of refuge to the Lord's children, and ours. The world offers time-worn and ineffective answers to the troubles of life: violence, self-willed solutions, empty promises. We offer Christ! Christ will not fail us or His world. As we prepare for a glorious Easter, let us prepare our hearts and our lives to be ambassadors for Christ, change agents in a sin-sick and weary world, ready for resurrection! God bless you! Happy Easter!

Jay

April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Mar 2015</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Mar 2015							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">May 2015</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	May 2015							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">1</p> <p>12:00 PM Lenten Prayer Time (Sanctuary)</p> <p>1:00 PM Yoga (FH)</p> <p>6:00 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)</p> <p>6:30 PM Wednesday Night Lenten Service (FH)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">2</p> <p>10:00AM Exercise (FH)</p> <p>6:00 PM Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FH)</p> <p>6:00 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Combined Service (Dellview Baptist Church)</p> <p>7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">3</p> <p>6:00 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)</p> <p>7:00 PM Good Friday Worship</p> <p>HOLIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">4</p> <p>7:00 AM 7:00 PM Prayer Vigil</p> <p>8:00AM Saturday Morning Reunion</p> <p>9:00AM ESL (LL)</p> <p>10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt</p>
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ORAL HEALTH

Oral health is a window to your overall health. Problems in your mouth can affect the rest of your body. Good oral health improves a person's ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow, and make facial expressions to show feelings and emotions. Poor oral health can lead to tooth decay, gum disease, and/or oral cancer. Saliva washes away food and neutralizes acids produced by bacteria in the mouth, helping to protect you from an overgrowth of bacteria that might lead to gum disease. Some medications can decrease the flow of saliva, such as diuretics, decongestants, and antihistamines, and therefore, may cause gum disease and eventually loss of teeth.

Steps to prevent tooth decay and loss:

- † Brush your teeth at least twice a day
- † Floss daily
- † Eat a healthy diet
- † Replace your toothbrush every three to four months or sooner if bristles are frayed
- † Schedule regular dental checkups
- † Contact your dentist as soon as an oral health problem arise
- † Don't smoke – smokers have seven times the risk of developing periodontal disease compared to non-smokers

For more information on oral health, visit the American Dental Association website @ <http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/az-topics/o/oral-health>, and National Institute of Aging @ <http://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/taking-care-of-your-teeth-and-mouth.pdf>, or contact your Wesley Nurse for additional information.



Charzes Flowers, WNC
210-344-8393



Thursday, April 23rd
Blood Drive & Health/Resource Fair
7:45 AM - 11:00 AM - GYM



Contact Charzes Flowers for more information!

The Wesley Nurse
& St Mark's United
Methodist Church
Health Ministry Team
will be hosting a Health &
Resource Fair

Be proactive! Take control of
your health through health
information, education and
screenings.



Attention High School Seniors and College/Technical School Students!

St. Mark's United Methodist Women will be awarding two scholarships this year. These scholarships will be awarded to members of our church who will be either a graduation senior or to someone who is currently enrolled in college or technical training school. Applications are available in the church office. The applications must be completed and turned in to the church office by May 10, 2015.

If you have an questions, please contact Dorothy Mace at 210-492-8483.



These special birthday dates were inadvertently left off the March birthday list. Please wish these a belated Happy Birthday!!

March 7 - Ella Reyes
March 22 - Sherry Wilke
March 30 - Billie Gabour



Coincidence?

The first pastor I was fortunate enough to have when I started attending a Methodist church constantly repeated the mantra "There are no coincidences with God". While I'm not sure if I believe that with as much certainty as Rev Del Pozo did, there are times when I am certain it's a "God thing", or "of God". Back track to the month of January. The land line rang at my house, and I answered it although it is very rarely for me. A young lady began to introduce herself, after calling me Melissa, explaining that she was calling to ask for help for a veteran that would be coming to San Antonio for surgery at the VA hospital. He was in need of food to supplement a six week stay here in town. I had no idea where she got my number, but I knew our church could help. After she called me Melissa a second time, and I corrected her, we soon realized she was trying to reach another local church, ironically the Catholic church I was brought up in. So she apologized, and I told her to hold on to my number, just in case. Sure enough, a couple of days later, she called back, having been unable to connect with the other church. The timing was perfect. It was the week of our food truck. So thankfully, we were able to give a generous amount of groceries to two veterans that needed help. Since then we have helped another family, delivering the food to the hotels they are set up at. So next time something just falls into perfect place, don't question who is in control. God is!

Melinda Molina



Hello Everyone! I would like to introduce myself... my name is Janie Rose Alejandro, and I am the new Director of Children and Youth ministries here at St. Mark's UMC. I have enjoyed working with children and youth for years within the United Methodist Church and I can only explain my work with young people as a *'passion'*. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from UT Austin with a specialization in Aquatics (freshwater, saltwater and environmental studies), but found my career niche in corporate and family training. I love dogs, the great outdoors, anything to do with water, fishing and travelling. My favorite of all jobs on this wonderful earth is being a wife and mother! Matthew is my awesomely supportive hubby and we have been blessed with 3 awesome kids: Tiger (Matthew II)-26, Christian Alonzo -13, and Giovanni Matthia-10. However, my passion has always been working with young people; from inspiring children to helping youth discover who they are and on up to exploring life with young adults with the one constant that is ever present in our lives – Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have learned that God is greater than anything I can do on my own and He does some pretty amazing things, so I'm here on earth to enjoy the ride and willingly give my hands to Him. I am looking forward to working with an incredible team here at St. Mark's to create an inspiring children's and youth program that will create an avenue for making disciples of Christ and transforming our community. If you are interested in being a part of this creative team, please contact me at (210) 849-4912 or by email at ayayouthsa@gmail.com Have a blessed day!

PET to Benefit from St. Mark's April 18 BBQ



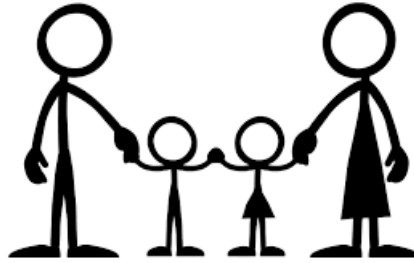
This is not a child's toy. This is not a carnival ride. This is a serious piece of equipment. In fact, this is a wheelchair. It doesn't look like the traditional hospital wheelchair because it is made for use in developing countries without paved roads or sidewalks by people with mobility limitations. It is called a PET, for Personal Energy Transportation, and San Antonio is one of 22 building sites in the U.S. We at PET San Antonio plan to build 120 of these wheelchairs this year, which will cost \$350 each to build and ship. Thus far this year, we have shipped PETs to Mexico, and we plan to ship 50 units to Nigeria in the next couple of weeks.

So, please come out to the St. Mark's BBQ Fundraiser on Saturday, April 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Buy a plate of the best chicken or sausage BBQ on Planet Earth, with rice, beans, dessert, and a drink, all for only \$7.50. Not only will your tummy be satisfied but you will be helping people in less-fortunate countries get up off the ground and return productivity and dignity to their lives. Just so you know, in the last two years of the St. Mark's BBQ Ministry Team helping PET, enough funds have been raised to build and ship seven PETs! Thank you for your continued support.

NOTES AND NOTICES

Upcoming in April:

The Nurturing Parenting Program. All parents and caregivers are invited to attend a free 10-week class at St. Marks during which a meal and childcare are provided. For more information please contact Letty Villareal at 922-6922 ext. 26314.



Thank you to all of the Food Truck Volunteers!! The tacos were great, and we served over 150 people. Volunteers, you are a blessing to the recipients. Thank you all for doing God's work so cheerfully!!

Patti Austin

Easter Week Worship & Activities

April 2	Combined Maundy Thursday Worship at Dellview Baptist Church	7:00 PM
April 3	Good Friday Worship	7:00 PM
April 4	Prayer Vigil	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 AM
April 5	Sunrise Service	7:00 AM
	Breakfast (FH)	7:30 AM
	Sunday School	9:15 AM
	Easter Worship	10:30 AM


If you've enjoyed the Lenten Wednesday night services, keep up your habit and join us for a Wednesday night Praise/Communion service! Our Wednesday services begin with a potluck fellowship meal at 6:30, followed by worship at 7:00.




RFB www


Presents
COFFEE WITH JESUS

I Fall Short







I'm nowhere near the Christian I want to be, Jesus. I fall short every day.



Everyone does, Lisa.



So, what's the point, Jesus?



I'm the Christian you want to be, Lisa. And **you will** fall short.

That's the point.

© Radio Free Babylon

Dear St. Mark's Congregation,

Thanks to your commitment to reaching out past the walls of the church to bring Christ to others, your continued support of our Food Pantry has helped meet the needs of many in our neighborhood. And it just seems that the more people we help, the greater the opportunity becomes to serve even more.

In the past, we have had a Food Drive twice a year where you have brought canned and boxed food to place on the altar. Recently we have added a "Noisy Offering" for those who prefer to make a cash donation. We place your food donations in the Pantry and shop with your cash donations to purchase additional food. Bags of groceries are made up, usually enough to feed a family of four for a couple of days to sustain them until they can make other arrangements to take care of their family. We also make up "Snack Bags" for people in transition who stop by the church and are hungry at that time. Many don't have homes and we have heard some take donated food and go to the corner store to heat it in the microwave.

The need continues to grow and we are coming to you to ask for your additional help. In September, we fed 33 people/families with "Snack Bags" and "Grocery Bags." In November, that number rose to 42. And in February, we fed 68 individuals and families!

With your help, we will continue to meet the need rather than have to turn people away. We are going to start buying food from the San Antonio Food Bank so your cash donations go farther. And, this is where you come in: We are going to designate each Sunday in the month with a specific food item for you to bring to church. We will put reminders in the Church Bulletin, but we would like to ask that you please bring **one food item per person** to church, as follows:

- 1st Sunday of the month: A can of Vegetables
- 2nd Sunday of the month: A 1-pound bag of Rice or Beans (or both)
- 3rd Sunday of the month: A can of Meat (Chicken, Tuna, Spam)
- 4th Sunday of the month: A can of Spaghetti Sauce
- 5th Sunday of the month: Surprise Us!

In addition, we will designate the last Sunday of each month as a "Noisy Offering" day if you would like to support the Food Pantry with your loose change with which we can buy food items in need.

Thank you for your interest in this outreach mission project. Please watch this Newsletter and the Church Bulletin for more details.

-- The Food Pantry Committee



ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .





Please remember
these in your prayers

Jill Anderson
Connor Benjamin
Kylee Brown
Megan Brown
Margaret Broxton
Bill & Isabel Centeno
Bucky Coley
Esdras Cuervo
Gladys Johnson
Bea Kunkel
Clay Laster
Alice & Ben Logan
Michael Mendoza
Mendoza Family
Charles Mixon
Ann Payette
Gloria Reedy
Steve Reyes Sr.

Ella Reyes
Mike Ross
Will Schuetze
Kirk Tomerlin
Abraham Wamah
John Bern
Charlene
Cherie McClurkin
Family of Leticia Maldo-
nado
Doris Sinclair
Ella Reyes
Hilda Scribner
Baby Landry Dollahite
JoAnn Brown
Tom O'Brien
Rachel & family
Sean Dailey

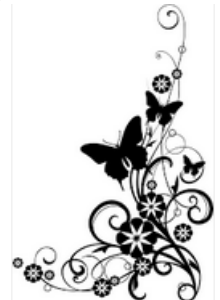
Botello Family
Toni Alvarado & family
Neal Freeto
Velma Pinedo & family
Jonell Chaney
Fred Huff
Kairos #32 Torres
Robert Rodriguez
Sage Black
Texoma Emmaus
Women's Walk #89
Cora Fischer
Louise Black
Jean Newman
Willie Barnes

	04/09 Caisey Hoffman Andrew Price	04/27 Dorothy Mace
	04/10 Robert Smith	04/28 Isabel Centeno
04/01 John Brown Phyllis Gaiser	04/13 Ralph Perryman	04/29 Janice Ruston
04/04 Max Harvey Stacy Reed	04/14 Brooke Somerville	04/30 Brett Codd Halie Kosmuch
	04/15 Ann Payette	



Mel & Vee Davison - April 14th
 Herb & Marilyn Snook - April 29th

*Our deepest Sympathies
are extended to the family
and friends of Leticia
Maldonado, to Velma Pinedo
and family at the loss
of Velma's brother,
John, and to Toni
Alvarado and
family at the loss
of her niece,
Elizabeth*



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MISSION STATEMENT

- TO HELP ALL PERSONS DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST
- TO NURTURE THEM IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP, WORKSHIP, AND STUDY
- TO STRIVE TO IDENTIFY AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL TO LIVE IN THE WORLD AS CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES



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stmarkspastor@grandecom.net

OFFICE HOURS
 9:00 am—4:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday
 CLOSED on Friday

PASTOR Rev. Jay Brown
SECRETARY Patti Gardner
WESLEY NURSE Charzes Flowers
CHOIR DIRECTOR Carolyn Hahn
ORGANIST Joseph Scutti
CUSTODIAN Johnny Mendoza