



Things to Remember!

- † Community Garden meeting Thursday, August 1 @ 7:30 PM (FH)
- † Community Garden Building Blitz, Saturday, August 10 @ 7:00 AM
- † Food Truck - Thursday, August 22nd @ 9:00 am
- † Choir starts back up on Thursday, August 22nd @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday Night Boost:

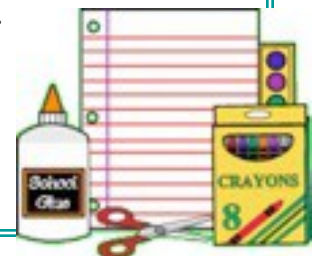
- † Children/Youth - light meal @ 6:30 PM, followed by program in the Gym
- † Praise and Communion Bilingual Worship Service @ 7:00 pm (FH)



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES & UNIFORMS

Would you like to help a child at Arnold Elementary School get a good start in school in August? According to the Community Liaison Representative at Arnold Elementary, about 20 students per grade level, or approximately 140 children, show up at their first class without the necessary school supplies. And another 15 families are unable to provide the proper uniform for their child. So, as in years past, St. Mark's would like to partner with the kids at Arnold and help them out. If you can help, please visit the SCHOOL DONATION BOX in the church narthex beginning July 28. Please take a card showing a specific school supply item, purchase the item pictured on the card, and return the item by Sunday, August 18. If you would like to provide a uniform, your \$15 donation will be taken to the uniform store, a gift card will be purchased, and the gift card will be given by the school to the family in need so they can purchase the proper size uniform.

Thank you for caring!



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STATE OF THE CHURCH

ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday School</u>	06/30	07/07	07/14	07/21
Children	5	5	4	4
Youth	11	8	13	7
Adults	37	36	41	39
Total SS	53	49	58	50
<u>Worship</u>	93	112	112	91



GREETERS FOR AUGUST

- † Rosa Rodriguez
- † Eddie Rodriguez
- † Kathy Wilson

TAPE MINISTRY

- † Daniel Wilke



USHERS FOR AUGUST

- † Rob Remig
- † Joe Price
- † Stephanie Bercegeay
- † Carl Swatzell



Finance Committee Reflections: Sounds From the Bean Counters

The “Fishing Trip” is over and it’s time for the latest “Sounds from the Bean Counters”.

Contributions in June were \$24,073 which was favorable to both the budget and last year. The favorable contributions were primarily the result of there being five Sundays in June.

Operating expenses in June were higher than both the budget and June 2012. Trustee expenses were significantly higher than both the budget and last year. We had been very favorable through May, but is mostly due to the timing of expenses. Even with the high June, Trustee expenses are still favorable year-to-date. The other expense categories were much closer to the budget and last year. Year-to-date operating expenses are favorable to the budget, but higher than last year.

Through six months, our apportionment payments trail the budget by \$5,687 and 2012 by \$1,114. We are hopeful that there will be operating funds available in July to get us a little closer to the budgeted amount.

Operating cash at the end of May was \$9,475. At the end of June our operating cash balance is \$9,277. Even with the higher expenses in the month, our contributions were high enough to maintain our cash balance.

Summer months tend to be the most difficult to maintain our cash balance; therefore, we are extremely pleased with the June results.

We thank each and every one of you for your support to St. Mark’s.

60th Anniversary

1953-2013

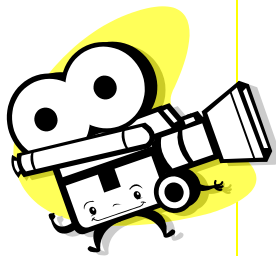
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
invites you to attend
The 60th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, September 8th, 2013

Reception in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 am to 10:15 am
Worship Service in the Sanctuary
10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Guest Pastor
Reverend Jasmine Smothers
Atlanta, Georgia

Celebrating
the past,
Envisioning
the future!

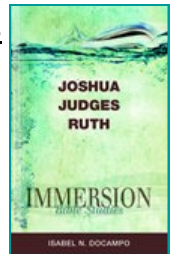
Mid Week Bible Study



Youth movie night was a great success. We had 14 participants and we are looking at a church wide game night coming in August.



Our *Wednesday Lunch Bunch Bible Study* starts back on Wednesday, September 4th from 11:30 - 1:00. The next study book in our **Immersion** series is **Joshua, Judges and Ruth**. The study will run 6 weeks and the books are \$7.00. If you are interested in attending, please let me know!



Patti Gardner
(pjdgardner@aol.com / 210-698-2687)

UMW Happenings...



The District Cluster Study (Subject - Poverty) will meet Saturday, **August 3rd** at Northern Hills from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm**.

Esther Circle will meet **Wednesday, August 7** at the home of **Sharon Somerville** at **7:00 pm**

Martha Circle will meet **Wednesday, August 20th** at **1:00 pm**

Dorcas Circle will meet **Wednesday, August 21** at **The Meadows** at **9:30 am** (If you would like to carpool, please meet at the church at 9:00 am)

**The UMW would like to wish Frankie Armstrong
a very Happy 100th Birthday on August 27th!**

Hello!

I hope that you are having a wonderful summer! Lots of excitement taking place around here; we had 80 plus people come to our Wednesday evening praise service for the 4th of July...lots of hot dogs, hot praise music and glorious fellowship! Also, Kim has been doing a great job with her children's ministry. She and Susan Philbin have been really putting together some awesome times with the children of the church and community; 20 plus each Wednesday evening.



The big news for all of us concerns our 60th Church anniversary. St Mark's had its first public worship on September 20, 1953 with 250 people attending. We hope to beat that record when we have our celebration on September 8, 2013! We have a special Anniversary Committee hard at work putting together plans so that we can really praise God for what has happened in the past and what is happening now and coming to be. We have a really special treat in store for our worship this day: Rev. Jasmine Smothers will be bringing the message this day! Now, except for a few of us, that may not mean a whole lot...but Imogene, Sue, and I got to hear her at Annual Conference; and this lady can PREACH! I have heard a lot of preachers over the course of my 61 years on this earth; I put her in the top 3 that God has blessed me to hear. I cannot urge you strongly enough to make sure that you are in worship on this day; you will be blessed!!

We will have more information, details etc as we get closer to the date, but I just want to begin to sound the trumpet call for a very special day of celebration; Sunday, Sept 8, 2013...60 years of mission and ministry that has transformed the lives of thousands of people over the years! And the best is yet to come! So, let's praise the Lord for including in the kingdom and bringing us into the fellowship that makes up St Mark's UMC during the exciting times. God bless you!

Jay

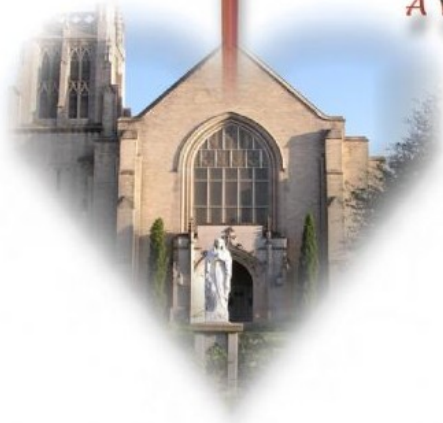
August 2013

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">July</p> <table style="margin: 0; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		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				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">September</p> <table style="margin: 0; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		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						<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1</p> <p style="margin: 0;">10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 2:00 PM MHC (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">-OFFICE CLOSED-</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">3</p> <p style="margin: 0;">8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion 9:00 AM UMW District Cluster Study (Northern Hills UMC) 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM KO - Reunion (FH)</p>
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Stewardship

A way of life



HIGHER EDUCATION & CAMPUS MINISTRY

Purpose: to recruit and educate clergy, to provide scholarships for students at UM Colleges and Universities, to support the historically black UM colleges, for the UMCF in our areas where young people are making decisions about careers, marriages, and other life directing issues. 10 cents of every apportioned dollar goes to Higher Educational Causes.

A goal of the Methodist Tradition has always been to “unite those two so long apart, knowledge and vital piety.”(John Wesley) Giving to higher educational causes has always been a major priority of the Methodist Tradition. In fact the first time we had a church in our conference reach one hundred members, they started a Methodist College to educate their youth. That college eventually became Southwestern University.

The average age of the pastors in our conference is in the mid 50’s. They are approaching retirement. Where will we find committed and knowledgeable pastors to replace them in our churches? We will look to our Seminaries and Schools of Theology which are supported by the Ministerial Education Fund which is a part of this apportionment.

Where will your teens go if they are thinking about entering the ministry, or if they want a Christian based education? To one of the United Methodist Colleges and Universities in Texas where they will probably be paying for a portion of their costs with scholarship money supplied by the Texas Methodist College Association supported by this apportionment.

What does a college student in one of the schools in our Conference do if they are thinking of getting married? To whom will they turn for counsel: to a campus minister placed on that campus by the Campus Ministry Fund supported by this apportionment.

How do we build up the ethnic church? Often by giving it leadership supplied by a pastor educated at one of the historically black colleges supported by this apportionment



What's Going On at The Learning Center?

Greetings from your friends at the Learning Center!

The staff at the Learning Center have been busy distributing flyers all around the neighborhood businesses in hopes of enrolling new kids to our Learning Center family.

So if you know of anyone who is need of care for their child, please send them our way!

Also, when summer comes to an end we will be saying goodbye to some of our kids who will be starting "Big Kid" school this coming school year. This time of the year brings sadness, for

we have cared for many of these children since they were infants. With this sadness also comes satisfaction for we know that our children will continue to accomplish great things in their future.

Good Luck and Best Wishes to all of Our Babies (the Big Kids)!

Koa Bermea
Lauren Cordero
Kamryn Jurado
Melani Peralta

Maddilen Casas
Jesus Gonzalez
Dario Leija
Fletcher Villarreal



August 3 rd	Ms. Jennifer
August 4 th	Mrs. Juana
August 13 th	Miles Phillips turns 3
August 17 th	Mason Phillips turns 1
August 20 th	Lauren Cordero turns 4
August 24 th	Brandon Delgado turns 4

THANK YOU GOD

Thank you for the world so sweet.
Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the birds that sing.
Thank you God for everything.
Thank you, God, for loving me.
Thank you for my family.
Help me to learn each day
To be kind at work and play.
Amen



THE SAND CASTLE

(Tune: "The Hokey Pokey")

You put some sand in.
You put some sand out.
You put some sand in.
And you shape it all about

You make a sand castle
With towers all around.
That's what it's all about!

You put some shells in.
You take some shells out.
You put some shells in.
And you place them all about.

You make a sand castle,
With shells all around.
That's what it's all about!

WATERMELON SHERBET SMOOTHIES

Ingredients:

- 3 cups fresh watermelon cubes
- 1 cup crushed ice
- 1-cup watermelon, raspberry or lime sherbet
- 4 teaspoons lime juice
- ½ cup miniature semisweet or white chocolate chips

Directions:

1. About ten minutes before you're ready to mix the smoothies, place four tall glasses in the freezer to frost. Then wash the whole melon and cut it into quarters.

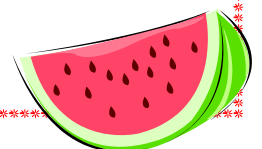
(The number of quarters you'll need to yield 3 cups will depend on the size of the melon)

2. Slice each quarter you plan to use lengthwise into three wedges, then slice the flesh away from the rind. Use a fork to scrape away the seeds and chop the melon into cubes.

3. Combine the crushed ice, watermelon cubes, lime juice and watermelon, raspberry, or lime sherbet and blend until smooth.

4. Pour the mixture into the frosted glasses and top each one with a half dozen or so miniature chocolate chips.

Serves 4





St. Mark's UMC - In Mission...

St Mark's Children/Youth ministry is well underway. With anywhere from 17 to 25 in attendance on Wednesday evenings, the future looks bright! Kim Durick, along with assistance from Susan Philbin and an occasional youth, provide food for the body and for the soul. After the meal in the Fellowship Hall, the group heads to the Gym (Highsmith Center) for activities. There are crafts, games, and songs! A lesson is also given spotlighting a Scripture and a Christian trait, such as kindness and friendliness. With the Lord's guidance and blessing, and the help of our congregation, we hope to continue this program after the summer months.

Please keep the leaders and students in your daily prayers.

Update on the St. Mark's UMC Community Garden

Final garden planning meeting will be on Thursday, August 1, at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall. I will share information I receive at the Green Alliance Workshop I am attending that day.

Plans are underway for a garden building blitz on Saturday, August 10 at 7:00 am! All the supplies will be in place near the scout hut, so all that you need to bring are willing arms, legs and backs to assemble the beds and fill them with soil and mulch. The idea of having a community garden has been near and dear to many hearts here at St. Mark's, and now is the time to bring those ideas to life!

Please call me at 830-857-5793 or email me at annlacknessbrown@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments.

Ann Brown



Mark Your Calendar



This year's Blessing of the Animals has been moved to Saturday, September 21st.





From the Wesley Nurse Can Prayer Heal?

Isn't it beautiful weather we are having? We are in Texas, of course, it may change real soon. But for now let's Praise God for the rain, our health, and all other blessings he bestows upon us. Today I would like to speak about prayer:

CAN PRAYER HEAL?

Can the prayers of people help someone facing surgery or going through a difficult time? Do one's own religious beliefs have an effect on their well-being? Is there a link between mere mortals and the almighty, as some recent neurological studies have seemed to show?

These are some of the questions Dr. Mitchell Krucoff, a cardiovascular specialist at Duke University School of Medicine, and others are attempting to answer in a growing number of studies. In fact the research on this subject has doubled in the past 10 years. The studies are showing there is a measurable health benefit associated with prayer or spiritual interventions.

Dr. Herbert Benson, a Harvard scientist, conducted studies on prayer, specifically meditation, the Buddhist form of prayer. According to Dr. Benson, "all forms of prayer evoke a relaxation response that quiets stress, quiets the body, and promotes healing." It's through repetition of sounds or words where the healing effect lies. He had evidence on MRI brain scans when someone prays there are physical changes.

Dr. Harold Koenig, M.D., associate professor of medicine and psychiatry at Duke University, thinks that people who have traditional religious beliefs live healthier lives. They're less likely to drink or smoke. In fact, they tend to get sick less often. They suffer depression less often or their recovery time is quicker.

According to Dr. Koenig, "religion provides 'a world view', a perspective on problems that helps people to better cope with life's ups and downs. Unless one has a religious belief system, it's hard to find purpose and meaning in getting sick and having chronic pain and losing loved ones." What about intercessory prayer or distant prayer? Dr. Krucoff is doing a study to see if adding prayer to the high tech treatments used today will make people better. Early results "were very suggestive that there may be a benefit to these therapies."

Science is trying to PROVE what we've known for years, that there is power in prayer. That God strengthens, consoles, loves and heals.

Linda

06-28-13

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
May our Provident God richly bless each of you for the tender care you have taken over many years of Eldora, our "neighborhood wanderer."

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so, some have unwittingly entertained angels." (Hebrews 13:2 NKJV)

I am delighted that the angels of mercy at Hope Residence will soon continue Eldora's care.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Muldoon*

*a neighbor who chatted with Eldora on my daily walks.

06-28-13

Bill and Isabel Centeno would like to extend our gratitude to our St. Mark's family for all of their prayers, thoughts, calls and visits during these past 5 weeks. Prayer is so powerful and we thank God for our answered prayers. He is doing quite well. We want you to know how special you are to us.

Love you all,
Bill & Isabel Centeno

07-01-13

Thanks a bunch!

Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers you sent on my birthday.

Sincerely yours,
Mary Norman

To the congregation of St Mark's UMC,

We would like to thank you for all the love and support that you have shown us as we begin our journey of marriage. For the shower, the gifts, the prayers, and every act of kindness, thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim & Jake Durick



ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .

Jill Anderson
 Kylee Brown
 Megan Brown
 Margaret Broxton
 Bill & Isabel Centeno
 Bucky Coley
 Esdras Cuervo
 Gladys Johnson
 Mary Krwawicz
 Bee Kunkel
 Clay Laster
 Alice & Ben Logan
 Michael Mendoza
 Charles Mixon

Gloria Reedy
 Cheryl Owens
 Steve Reyes, Sr.
 Mike Ross
 Ed & Helen Setterfield
 Will Schuetze
 Kirk Tomerlin
 Abraham Wamah
 Karen Williams
 Ann Garcia
 Joseph Scutti
 Mona Rosfeld
 Doris Sinclair
 Liz Reyes

Chuck Barrajas
 Tim Chambers
 Family of Liz Reyes
 Mark Reyna
 Family of Jeff Jones
 Zimmerman Family
 Martin Family
 Barry Autry & Family
 Steve Wood
 Carolyn Hahn
 Mrs. Carmen Royas
 Willie Loy & Family
 Frank McSpadden
 Mother of Annette Bailey



PRAYER REQUESTS

Evelyn Gross
 Peggy Ortiz
 BJ Jackson
 Rhonda Richardson's
 Grandmother
 Preston Eloy Schmidt



August 3
 Marville Asher
 Fatima Zurovec

August 5
 Abner Ross

August 7
 Moses Lopez

August 9
 Rob Remig

August 11
 James Bissett

August 12
 Bill McMahon

August 15
 Myrtis Burney

August 16
 Ramona Bissett
 Anthony Kosmuch

August 17
 Stephanie Bercegeay
 Garret Brown

August 18
 Gloria Coe

August 21
 Lucille Armitage
 Amelia Swatzell

August 25
 Odette McKenzie

August 27
 Frankie Arm-
 strong
 Diana Russo

August 29
 Robert Allen



Linda and Craig King
Pauline and Ernest Denham

Welcome to our Newest Members!

The Adams Family:

Wayne, Misty, Dana, Wayne & Dakota

A Special Happy 100th Birthday to
Frankie Armstrong
 on Tuesday, August 27th!



St. Mark's United Methodist Church
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 stmarksumc@grandecom.net

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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, WORSHIP, 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

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR.....Rev. Jay Brown
 SECRETARY.....Mary Parramore
 WESLEY NURSE.....Linda Jimenez
 CHOIR DIRECTOR.....Carolyn Hahn
 ORGANIST EMERITUS.....Ruth Foerster
 ORGANIST.....Joseph Scutti
 DIRECTOR OF LEARNING CENTER.....Julie Aguilar
 CUSTODIAN.....Johnny Mendoza

OFFICE HOURS.....9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
 CLOSED on Friday
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 FAX.....(210) 344-8397

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