



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church
1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213
210-344-8393

Things to Remember:

- † Monday, August 21st - Finance Meeting @ 6:30 PM (FH) and Administrative Council @ 7:00 PM
- † Thursday, August 24th - Mobile Food Bank
- † **End of Summer Game Night** with Hot Dogs, Ice Cream and Games! Sunday, August 27th @ 5:00 - 8:30 PM
- † Wednesday Praise @ 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- † **Micah 6:8B: And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?**

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Our annual back to school drive supporting Arnold Elementary School with supplies and uniforms has begun! We will be collecting donations through August 13th for delivery the week of August 14th.

As always, thank you for your generosity!!!



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SERVING THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	6/18	6/25	7/2	7/9	7/16	7/23
Children	1		1	1	2	2
Youth	4		3	1		4
Adults	21		18	18	19	21
Total SS	26	*	22	20	21	27
<u>Worship</u>						
Sunday	67	87	83	65	58	60
Wednesday Night	13	VBS	16	17	25	

*Jay's Retirement Reception during Sunday School hour

AUGUST USHERS

**Kathy Jack, Sue Horner, Susan Philbin,
Sharon Somerville, Brooke Somerville**



Altar Flower Calendar Openings

September 3	1 Opening
September 24	2 Openings
October 1	1 Opening
October 8	1 Opening
October 15	2 Openings
October 22	2 Openings
November 5	1 Opening
November 12	1 Opening
November 19	1 Opening
November 26	1 Opening

August Liturgists

August 6	Melinda Molina
August 13	Susan Philbin
August 20	Patti Austin
August 27	Patti Gardner



APPORTIONMENTS WE ARE CALLED. . .

. . . to be stewards of hope.



Because we know a past with God (memory) and trust that the future is also God's (vision), the community of stewards can love every present as filled with the possibilities of hope.

The community of God's stewards trusts that our lives and all of human history both originate in God and will be consummated in God. Thus, all of time itself is a gift given into our care as stewards. The community of stewards can never live in the present moment as an end in itself, whether in the despair of crisis or in the careless pursuit of self-gratification.

The biblical understanding of Sabbath observance stands as a reminder of the gift of our days, which God has given into our care. Because we know a past with God (memory) and trust that the future is also God's (vision), the community of stewards can live ever present as filled with the possibilities of hope. Our time cannot then be squandered in despair or self-satisfaction but must be used in the service of God's hopeful purposes and our partnership with those purposes as the community of stewards.

Implications

These thoughts on the theological foundations of our work are but a brief sampling of the rich biblical and historical traditions on the role of steward. This is an understanding and a focus, which need to be recovered and reclaimed for the wider witness and services of the church in the world of our time.

They reflect a sense that all our resources come from God and should be received and managed by the church as God's representatives. Enabling the church's mission for the sake of God's kingdom must take priority over institutional, regional or local self-interest, and we have sought to embody this missional priority in our recommendations.

They reflect a call to establish stewardship as a central element in our self-identity as the people of God. To enter covenant relationship with God is to become informed and equipped to understand and exercise the role of steward, both in the life of the church and in the life of the world.

The church must consciously commit itself to education and reflection on the role of the steward as an ongoing priority of Christian discipleship. They reflect a concern for justice and equity as a central commitment for the covenant community of God's stewards. Any formulas or systems for collecting and distributing funds must seek justice and equity in light of diverse economic circumstances throughout the church.

Source: UMCGIVING.ORG



Maria's Basket

¡Hola! to all of you who read our Messenger every month. I am Maria R. Soto, the new pastor here at St. Mark's UMC and I would like you to know a little bit about me. Allow me to start with a brief introduction about my place of birth. I was born on the small island of Puerto Rico. You may wonder, "where is that?" If you look in Wikipedia, you'll find something like this: Puerto Rico, officially the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is an incorporated territory of the United States located in the northeast Caribbean Sea. It is an archipelago that includes the main island of Puerto Rico and a number of smaller ones, such as Mona, Culebra and Viques. Puerto Ricans are, by law, natural-born citizens of the United States and may move freely between the island and the mainland. The capital is San Juan. It's official languages are Spanish and English, though Spanish predominates.

I am the youngest of 5 children in my family. My parents live in Puerto Rico and I try to see them every year. Every Sunday morning, my grandparents were engaged in taking all of their grandchildren to the church worship with the promise of eating ice cream or a bag of chips of our choice after service, and that was enough to get our attention. So I grew up knowing in my heart that God is real and that I needed a relationship with Him. Mother made us go to church 'til she couldn't any more. But one day, I said: "I am going to church tonight to see what God has for me." I was 14 years old. When I got to church and they started singing, I felt something in me and realized I was a sinner and I needed to give my life to Christ. I was crying through the service until the pastor made the call to discipleship. That day I was born again. Since then, I have been active in the life of the church in everything I was asked to do. Years later, I met Reynaldo Rodriguez. We got married and in 1998 came to live in the U.S. e lived in North Carolina, Rochester, NY and in 2003 came to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

Around 2004, we started going to "El Buen Pastor" UMC in Edinburg, Texas for two years. Then we met the Espericueta family at that church and they introduced us to a lay leader in charge of "Cristo El Vencedor" in Faysville, TX, north of Edinburg. There we helped with Sunday School classes, in charge of the youth program, preaching, VBS, and everything we could. Until the lay leader became a local pastor and that is when the need of a lay leader to be in charge of that little church opened the opportunity for me. They asked me if I would like to take care of them and I accepted the challenge. And since 2010, I have been going to Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. Since then, I became a local pastor. That is how I came to ministry. I knew I had the call from God, but I avoided answering until I could no longer. Seven years has passed and I served in the Rio Grande Conference until it merged with the Southwest Texas Conference becoming the Rio Texas Conference. I have always worked with Hispanic congregations until this year (2017) when the Lord called me for an even greater challenge, to be the pastor of this beautiful congregation - St. Mark's UMC. I am overwhelmed by God for he does marvelous things with us that we could never imagine. I am grateful to God and to St. Mark's UMC for welcoming my husband and me. I am excited to get to know the members and this community around us. May we be a blessing for all of you and this community as well.

Peace be with you!

Maria

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jul 2017</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><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><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><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><td style="text-align: center;">15</td></tr> <tr><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><td style="text-align: center;">22</td></tr> <tr><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><td style="text-align: center;">29</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Jul 2017							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						1 6:30 AM ROMEOs 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 6:00 PM Kairos Torres Advisory Council (FH) 7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)	2 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)	3 10:00 AM Exercise (FH)	4 Office Closed	5 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion	
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VBS 2017 SURF SHACK



NOTES AND NOTICES

Dear Friends of St. Mark's,

Joe & I both received flowers, 7/13 and 7/18. They were lovely and precious to us. It is a loving gesture and much appreciated by both of us.

We miss being in our pew on Sundays and greeting friends of long standing. We wish the best for St. Mark's.

Sincerely,
Joe & Claire Cobb

Health & Wellness Center

The 4th Tuesday in August, there will be a rummage sale at the Wesley Health and Wellness Center. Kathy Jack will be collecting donations in August - or you can bring them to the church office and she will pick them up here.

Don't forget our Food Pantry!

- ♥ Rice, Beans,
- ♥ Spaghetti, Pasta Sauce
- ♥ Macaroni & Cheese
- ♥ Cans of Tuna, Chicken, Spam
- ♥ Cans of Fruit
- ♥ Boxes or bags of Cereal
- ♥ Cans of Soup, Stew, Chili...
- ♥ Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ♥ Canned Vegetables



Don't forget our Noisy Offering the last Sunday of every month!

**We will be calling you soon to arrange your sitting for our new directory!
Pictures will be taken on September 7-9
(Thursday through Saturday).**

Looking for a Handyman?
Johnny Mendoza
210-765-1869



Do you like to barbecue? Call Sue!
She's looking for volunteers to help
the BBQ committee!!
210-342-6662

SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

The following provides the financial overview for the month of June.

Operating Cash balance at 5/31/2017	(3,234)
Non-Designated Contributions - June	14,928
Operating Expenses:	
Council on Ministries	883
Special Mission Giving	0
Mission Giving	4,646
Administration	
Expense	457
Trustees	4,349
Pastor's	
Compensation	6,849
Lay Personnel Compensation	6,311
	<u>23,495</u>
Other Income/(Expense)	<u>4,229</u>
Operating Cash balance at 6/30/2017	<u><u>(7,572)</u></u>

Comments:

June contributions were \$749 higher than budgeted and \$246 higher than June 2016. Other income was \$3,308 higher than budgeted and \$2,698 higher than 2016.

Operating expenses were \$351 favorable to the budget and \$2,330 unfavorable to 2016. Expenses were favorable primarily due to lower Trustee Expenses (lower Electricity and repairs and maintenance), Lay Personnel compensation, being offset by Pastor Compensation (Pastor Maria Housing) and Mission Giving.

June had a cash outflow of \$4,060. Our operating cash balance decreased to a negative \$7,572.

The Finance Committee thanks your continued support during 2017. Please keep the Finance Committee in your prayers as decisions impacting the finances of the church are made.

God Bless you all.

End of Summer Party

Hot Dogs, Ice Cream,
Desserts and Games!!

Join us!! August 27th
5:00 - 8:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite game!



Please welcome our new Wesley Nurse!

"It is my honor that I present myself to you. My name is Sandra Montes. I was born and raised here in San Antonio. I received my nursing degree from The University of Texas Health Science Center in 1980. I have worked in several nursing settings but my passion is helping people through the process of health care. I strive to help simplify the process of understanding health issues and its needed care. I am completing the required orientation process over the next 3 months and will soon be available to help you as well as the community of St. Mark's UMC!"



VBS - Thank you!!!

This year's Vacation Bible School brought a minimum of 30 children each night! Some of these kids were new to VBS and some have been coming every summer since they were tots. It's wonderful to see kids grow up. Those who have aged out of the program still love it so much they came in to serve as youth volunteers.

And for the Adult Volunteers - saying thanks is never enough to those of you who come every year and to those who are just starting!!! A ministry like this could not be successful without all your hands, feet, hearts and prayers.

You can see from the pictures on page 8 that a wonderful time was had by all! This was one of our best groups ever!

We hope to hold more events to bring children to our campus - in fact, we had 6 kiddos for Children's Church on 7/23!! Several of these kids had been active in VBS.

To God be the glory for blessing this ministry.



Before



After

Wow, what a difference!!! Thanks to family and friends and the Trustees of St. Mark's for their generous contributions of time, talent and resources in supporting this playground renovation. The playground equipment looks awesome! In the fall, we will be looking for help with landscaping and finishing out the project.

ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .



Bob Ailerson	Gerald Morriss	Zaida Larralde
Jill Anderson	Steve Reyes, Sr.	Maria Soto
Kennedee Bailey	Will Schuetze	
Connor Benjamin	Lisa Travieso	
Patty Braselton	Kirk Tomerlin	
Kylee Brown	Kathryn Wilson	
Megan Brown	Family of David	
Bucky Coley	Cavazos	
Carol Crenwelge	Phyllis McLean	
Esdras Cuervo	Burwin Atkinson	
Sylvia Gonzales	Leigh Ann William	
Alice Logan	Family of Mel Davison	
Kerri Luker		
Michael Mendoza	Filiberto Cuervo	
Eric Miletti	Whitley Family	



08/03 Fatima Zurovec Marville Asher	08/07 Moses Lopez	08/21 Lucille Armitage Amelia Swatzell
08/04 Kaylie Burchfield	08/09 Rob Remig	08/25 Odette McKenzie
08/05 Cynthia Ramirez	08/11 Allison Ramirez	08/27 Diana Russo
	08/12 Bill McMahon	08/29 Robert Allen
	08/16 Ramona Bissett	
	08/17 Stephanie Bercegeay	
	08/18 Gloria Coe	



Sincere Sympathy to the families of :

David Cavazos

Mel Davison

Abner Ross

You remain in our thoughts and prayers.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
 1902 Vance Jackson – San Antonio, Texas 78213-4455
 (210) 344-8393
 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



PHONE (210)344-8393 FAX (210)344-8397

Website: www.stmarksumcsa.com
 Email: stmarksumc@grandecom.net
stmarkspastor@grandecom.net

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

PASTOR	Rev. Maria Soto
SECRETARY	Patti Gardner
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Carolyn Hahn
ORGANIST	Joseph Scutti
WESLEY NURSE	Sandra Montes
CUSTODIAN	Johnny Mendoza