



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church

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

Regular Weekly Activities:

- † Praise, Bible Study, Communion, Wednesday, August 7 @ 6 pm
- † Children's Church, Sunday, August 11 @ 10:45 am
- † Finance Meeting, Tuesday, Aug 13 @ 2 pm
- † Praise & Bible Study, Wed, Aug 14 @ 6 pm
- † Children's Sermon, Sunday, August 18 @ 10:45 am
- † Administrative Council, Monday, Aug 19 @ 7 pm
- † Praise & Bible Study, Wed, Aug 21 @ 6 pm
- † Children's Church, Sunday, August 25 @ 10:45 am
- † Praise & Bible Study Wed, Aug 28 @ 6 pm



Please join us in our annual school supply drive to help elementary school students in our community. Monetary and supply donations will be collected for supplies and uniforms

July 21 - August 4, 2019.

Supplies Needed: See page 7 for list.
Donation boxes will be available in the sanctuary and church office.

Uniforms: \$30 (or any amount you can donate)

Ushers, Flowers, Liturgists	2	Calendar (August)	5		
Stewardship - Finance	3	Children, Project Transformation	6		
Pastor's Message	4	Notes & Notices	7	Prayers & Praise	8



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

SERVE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	6/23/2019	6/30/2019	7/7/2019	7/14/2019	07/21/2019
Youth	5	2	--	2	2
Adults	10	16	14	13	14
Total SS	15	18	14	15	16
WORSHIP					
Sunday	51	53	50	50	40
Wednesday Night	9	10	--	8	



Tom Jack
 Bob Bailly
 Bob Mace
 Braden Somerville



Altar Flower Calendar

August 4 - 1 Opening
 August 18 - 1 Opening



Children's Church

August 11 - Lillian Herrera
 August 25 - Samantha Alvarez



August 4 - Melinda Molina
 August 11 - Susan Philbin
 August 18 - Cynthia Ramirez
 August 25 - John Williams



9:15 am > Every Sunday <
 Class for all adults - Fellowship Hall / YAMS
 Class for ladies - Sanctuary / LIBRARY



With Your Help The United Methodist Church is Making a Difference

LOVE FOR MUSIC AND VOLUNTEERING ENRICH GIFT OF HOPE SCHOLAR'S LIFE

As a boy, Sean Crites loved running in the woods, playing with his golden retriever and curling up with a book at home in Buckhannon, West Virginia. "My parents work at West Virginia Wesleyan College," he said, "and my mother is an active member of First UMC. "I enjoyed school and was involved with soccer, baseball, theater, band and choir. I have always loved to sing," Sean added, "and I found out at an early age that I also loved to perform, whether it was on stage in a production, at church or service, or by myself."

Sean considers himself fortunate for growing up in a stable home with loving parents. He admitted that it was difficult to see the poverty in Buckhannon, a town of about 5,000. "I had friends who had to work at a young age to support their siblings," he said, "and many people were affected by addiction."

However, seeing the effects of poverty opened Sean's eyes and heart. "My United Methodist upbringing instilled in me always to be grateful and to help others," he said. "Most importantly, the church taught me to be accepting and to love everyone I meet. This prominent empathy has helped me improve my communication skills as well as meet many wonderful people."

Receiving a United Methodist Student Day Gift of Hope Scholarship reduced the financial burden for Sean and his parents and enabled him to be more active at Princeton University in New Jersey. "Because of the scholarship," he noted, "I was able to join a few music groups on campus and be involved with several health-related service organizations, instead of spending most of my time working. I still have a campus job, but it is less time-consuming than it could have been."

Your gifts on United Methodist Student Day, enables The United Methodist Church to supports the Gift of Hope Scholarship so that students can prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge.

"One of the key factors in my interest in medicine and psychiatry," Sean said, "is that I want to help others as a child of God. I want to alleviate people's suffering. I am particularly interested in psychiatry because of the stigma shrouding mental illness and its prevalence in society. I want to use my faith to remind others that they are loved and that they are not alone. I want to spread God's love."

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The UMC, UMC Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special offering provides scholarships for qualified UMC applicants. www.umcgiving.org



Apportionments

ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR MONTH OF JUNE - 2019

Operating Cash Balance on May 31, 2019	(1,140)
Non-Designated Contributions - June	13,523
Operating Expenses	19,477
Other Income/(Expense)	11,622
Operating Cash Balance on June 30, 2019	4,528

May operating expenses were lower than budgeted. With the exception of Council on Ministries (CoM) and Mission Giving , all expense categories were favorable. CoM was unfavorable due to higher music ministry expense and the expense relating to the 2019 Annual Conference in Corpus Christi. Mission Giving was unfavorable as the result of making a higher than budgeted monthly apportionment payment. Trustee spending continues to be favorable due to timing of expenses. Our operating cash balance on June 30, 2019 was positive. This was the result of transferring \$10,000 from our TMF Operating account.

As you can note, our spending continues to exceed our contributions. We are able to operate as a result of the generosity of deceased members who recognized St. Mark's in their wills. It is important that we find a way to meet our expense needs through our contributions. We look forward to any suggestions you have. The Finance Committee thanks you for your support to St. Mark's.

From Rev. Maria Soto's Desk

August 2019



Luke 18:15-17

15. "People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. 16. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Parents wanted Jesus **to touch** (to make close contact) **their babies** as an act of blessing. They were babies, infants. Parents were bringing babies, toddlers to Jesus, and Jesus would, with great joy, hold them up and pray for them. They wanted this for their children.

Jesus' command to the disciples is clear: Let them come and don't hinder them. Jesus wants to use this occasion to teach his disciples an important lesson about the Kingdom of God. Jesus is pointing to essential characteristics of a disciple: **Innocence, Openness, Trust, and Humility**. How do the little children come to Jesus? Freely, openly, humbly.

If little children can run to Jesus' arms, why not you? We all need to come freely, openly and humbly. He is calling us.

And now that we are going to start a new school year let us have in our prayers all the kids, youth and those in College and Universities whose summer vacations are or will be over pretty soon. They will be back in their regular every day schedule. May the Lord Almighty touch, bless and keep them all safe.

Prayer: "God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

PASTOR: Rev. Maria Soto 210-344-8393

SECRETARY: Lillian Herrera
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Carolyn Hahn

CUSTODIAN: Johnny Mendoza
WESLEY NURSE: Rose Miranda

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m - 2:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday Closed Friday

EMAIL: stmarksumc@grandecom.net

WEBSITE: www.stmarksumcsa.com

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME"

Children at St. Mark's UMC are very much a part of our worshipping community. Here are opportunities for age-appropriate worship, Bible lessons, activities, praise music, and fun!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month at 10:45 a.m. for elementary aged children.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE on the 3rd Sunday of each month during Sunday worship. All children are invited to the front of the sanctuary to join Pastor Soto for a brief sermon, keeping our younger worshippers in mind.



By John Williams

The first thing that needs to be said here is that no decisions have been made. The only thing that we have agreed to is that we would consider changes. The purpose of this article is hopefully to start a conversation to discuss what we at St. Mark's UMC want to do.

Most of you know that a few years ago we were approached by the leaders of Project Transformation, and they asked if they could remodel Lovely Lane and use it as a dormitory for their volunteers. However, the cost of remodeling Lovely Lane to fit their needs was almost triple of what they had expected. The project was cancelled.

In June, our District Superintendent and the Director from Project Transformation approached St. Mark's administrative council with another proposal. To refresh your memory, Project Transformation is a mission that started within the United Methodist denomination. They select college students that have volunteered to mentor 3rd grade students with their reading skills and comprehension. There is a direct correlation between students who are not reading at grade level by 3rd grade and the number of students who do not complete high school. The college students are also possible candidates for the ministry. Project Transformation has grown to the point that they need facilities of their own. This fall they will become an independent organization, a 501C3 non-profit that is separate from the United Methodist Church. This will allow them to receive grant money from sources that cannot give funds to a church.

What they have proposed is that the congregation at St. Mark's allows Project Transformation to take ownership of the land and buildings that belong to St. Mark's. They would become responsible for all expenses, maintenance, repairs, and utilities. They

would remodel the buildings to fit their needs, which may include demolishing some facilities and rebuilding. The congregation would continue to use the sanctuary as a place of worship for as long as we want. Lovely Lane would probably be completely demolished and another building put in its place. Fellowship Hall would probably be remodeled for better use as offices and meeting space. Space may be rented to other non-profits organizations as a way of raising funds.

Why would we consider giving them the church property? Most of you are aware that the tithes and offerings that are being received have not been enough to pay the salaries, utilities, and repairs to the church for some time. We have been drawing money from savings accounts in order to keep the church going. Even with saving everywhere we can and renting the gym and other parts of the church we are not able to pay the bills. In a few years that money in savings will have been used. Project Transformation assures us they will pay the bills and that we will be able to keep a United Methodist presence in the Dellview neighborhood as long as we wish.

There are many things that we must discuss and negotiate.

- Will we be able to have VBS?
- When can we use the buildings?
- What happens to the money in the savings accounts?
- Will we have office space available to us?
- Will we have to pay any of the utilities?
- What about repairs to the buildings?
- Can we have pot-luck dinners?
- How can we be sure that Project Transformation can raise the funds to do this when they couldn't complete the earlier project?
- And probably 100 other questions.

We need to be talking about this proposal and decide what we want to do as a congregation.

NOTES AND NOTICES

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
- ♥ Cooking Oil

Noisy Offering the last Sunday of every month!



ST. MARK'S FOOD PANTRY REPORT JANUARY - JUNE, 2019



Thanks to your ongoing generous support of this outreach mission, we are pleased to provide a report of the first six months of activities with the St. Mark's Food Pantry.

From January 1 through June 30, we have had 219 individuals come to the Food Pantry asking for food for their families. These 219 people represent 657 family members who benefitted by our Food Pantry. Sixty-six of the 219 individuals were requesting food for the first time, so we know the word about our Pantry is getting out into the community.

To support this mission, you donated 434 pounds of food and \$1,631.07 in the "Noisy Offering" and through special donations. There is even a family in Rogersville, Missouri who has sent us a check from time to time for the Food Pantry as a remembrance of the time several years ago when they were members of St. Mark's. Thank you, Elizabeth and John Carson!

And thank you, St. Mark's faithful!

(by Rob Remig)



The church office will be open **Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** beginning June 10 through August 22, 2019.

This will not affect the Exercise Class. They will continue to meet Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Enjoy your summer!



8 count boxes Crayola crayons, Large size

24 count boxes Crayola crayons, Standard

Boxes of wood #2 pencils (Sanford brand)

Yellow highlighter

Plastic standard sized school box (8" X 6" X 2")

Large Pink erasers

Pair pointed-tip "Fiskar" scissors

4 oz. bottles white Elmer's glue (NO glue sticks)

Plastic pocket folders with brads (1 red, 1 blue, 1 yellow, 1 green)

70 page WIDE Ruled spiral notebooks (2 red, 2 blue, 2 green, 2 purple, 2 black, 2 yellow)

Ziploc storage bags, sandwich size

Ziploc storage bags, gallon size

Bottles of Antibacterial Soap

Bottles of Hand Sanitizer

Containers of Baby Wipes

Container of Clorox Wipes

Large boxes of Kleenex tissues

PRAYERS & PRAISE



Bob Ailerson
 Jill Anderson
 Kennedee Bailey
 Kylee Brown
 Bucky Coley
 Esdras Cuervo
 Sylvia Gonzales
 Alice Logan

Michael Mendoza
 Eric Milette
 Will Schuetze
 Warren Dunetz
 Joyce Codd
 Those traveling this
 summer
 Wallie Reyna

Trent Miller
 Pearl Fautley
 Susan Geissler
 Isabel Centeno
 The turmoil in Puerto
 Rico
 Everyone going back
 to school



*the family of RALPH WAYNE PERRYMAN
 the family of SANJUANA ALLEN
 You remain in our thoughts and prayers.*



August 3 Marville Asher
 August 5 Cynthia Ramirez
 August 9 Rob Remig
 August 11 Allison Ramirez
 August 12 Bill McMahon
 August 16 Ramona Bissett
 August 17 Stephanie Bercegeay
 August 18 Gloria Coe
 August 21 Lucille Armitage
 August 21 Amelia Swatzell
 August 27 Diana Russo



August 7



Jim & Judy
 Miller