

Things to Remember!

- † Advent Begins - Sunday, December 1st
- † Youth Program - Sunday, December 8th
- † Choir Christmas Cantata - Sunday, December 15th
- † Wednesday, December 18th - Colonial Hills School Choir Concert
- † December 23rd - Christmas Open House with Jay and Ann
- † Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 6:00 PM
- † FOOD TRUCK - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26
- † Praise and Communion Bi-Cultural Worship Service Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm (FH)

Wesley Nurse Accepts New Position

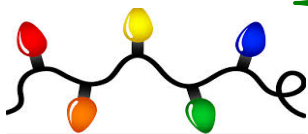
Linda Jimenez took over as Wesley Nurse at St. Mark's on July 11, 2011 after moving to San Antonio with her husband from Del Rio and leaving her Wesley Nurse position in that city. She made quick adjustment to "The Big City" and immediately got involved with health screenings at St. Mark's and took charge in leading the Exercise & Nutrition Program held at St. Mark's. She was interested in evaluating whether or not St. Mark's could support a Mobile Food Truck from the San Antonio Food Bank, and she visited several such programs in our community to determine this feasibility. Linda also provided monthly health screens at the Granados Senior Center and with the Line Dancer Group that met at Dellview Baptist church. And she also met monthly with a sewing group at Mary's House, affiliated with St. Gregory's Catholic Church.

After serving St. Mark's and the Dellview community by teaching us about living healthy lifestyles, Linda has decided to return to an area of nursing she loves: home health. Linda will begin this next phase of her nursing career immediately.

We thank Linda for her service to the congregation of St. Mark's and the surrounding community. She was instrumental in developing several new programs for the underserved people in our neighborhood, and she will be missed.

Best wishes to you, Linda, in your future endeavors!!

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STATE OF THE CHURCH

USHERS

† **Kathy Jack**
† **Sue Horner**
† **Susan Philbin**
† **Sharon Somerville**



GREETERS

† **Virginia Barlow**
† **Jeannette Rogers**

TAPE MINISTRY

† **Daniel Wilke**

*Attendance numbers are not available for November



Finance Committee Reflections: Sounds From the Bean Counters

Wow! The weather in San Antonio has become so beautiful, cooler days and occasional rain. Let's hope it continues!

Contributions in October exceeded last year by nearly \$3,000 while trailing the budget by just under \$2,000. Year-to-date, our contributions are #3,750 higher than 2012 while \$4,500 less than budgeted.

The October operating expenses are \$8,400 lower than last October. With the exception of Lay Personnel Compensation, all expense areas are lower, the most significant being Mission Giving and Trustee expenses. Compared to budget, all areas are lower, resulting in our expenses being \$5,900 favorable. Year-to-date operating expenses are \$2,600 higher than last year while \$19,000 lower than budgeted.

In October we had a cash outflow of \$437. Our year-to-date cash outflow is \$13,600.

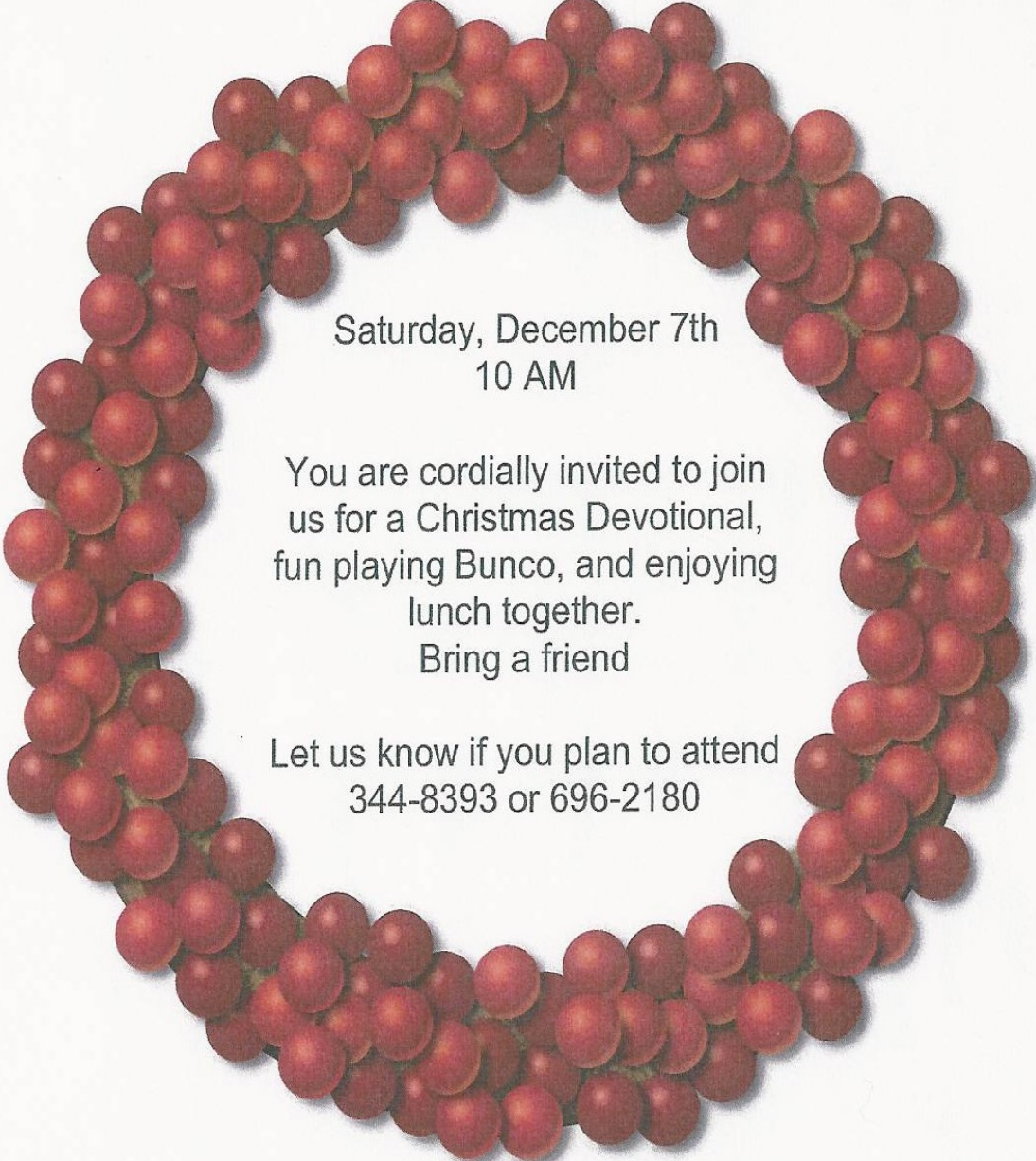
Through October, our apportionment payments trail the budget by \$2,299. In order to meet our annual commitment, we have to pay an additional \$9,689 by year-end.

At the end of October our operating cash balance was \$1,920.

As the year-end approaches, we are hopeful we will get your continued financial support so we can achieve our apportionment goal and end the year with a strong operating cash balance. If history is any indication, this should not be a problem, as you are always there when needed.

We thank you all very much.

St. Mark's Women's Christmas Social



Saturday, December 7th
10 AM

You are cordially invited to join
us for a Christmas Devotional,
fun playing Bunco, and enjoying
lunch together.
Bring a friend

Let us know if you plan to attend
344-8393 or 696-2180


Notes From the Pastor

I hope that you will truly enjoy and celebrate a very holy and happy Thanksgiving! I don't remember another season being so shortchanged in terms of emphasis or experience in my life. It seems like we were already getting ready for Christmas on the last week of Halloween; the only reflection or attention to Thanksgiving might have been found in a food store as we tried to find a turkey. I once heard a pastor say in a sermon that if we are not thankful on this day, we aren't going to be thankful on Thanksgiving Day, either. I agree with him and I try to foster an attitude of gratitude in my life each day.

Do we not have much to be grateful for? To be able to live in America, to have the freedoms that we enjoy? To be able to have a relationship with Christ and a connection to a church? To have our families and friends and loved ones? To enjoy the health and wealth that God has provided? My list could go on and on; how about yours?

In a day when our world, our nation, our city and our own personal lives are characterized by much turmoil and change, we can give thanks to our God that His love for us is never changing; He is steadfast and holds us secure. Christ is our Rock; when all the world around us is being shaken to its very foundation, we stand firm in our faith in Him. Therefore, we have much to be thankful for! "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever!" (Psalm 136) Also, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Last, but not least, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6) So, enjoy and celebrate this holy day and give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow! Gather together as we worship and gather with loved ones as we lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving. May God continue to bless us all; Happy Thanksgiving!

Jay



*Everyone is invited to a
Christmas Open House with Ann & Jay*

*Monday, December 23rd
4:00 to 6:00 PM*

3610 Minthill Drive



December 2013

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<p>1 Advent Begins 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>2 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p>3 6:30 AM MMen@Cracker Barrel 9:30 AM Drive-thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 6:00 PM Tomes (FH)</p>	<p>4 9:30 AM UMW Executive Mtg (FH) 12:00 PM Bible Study (LL - #2) 1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Praise/BiCultural Service</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p>6 -OFFICE CLOSED- 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p>7 UMW Christmas Celebration (FH) 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM Kairo Outside (HC)</p>																																																																																				
<p>8 Youth Presentation 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p>10 6:30 AM MMen@Cracker Barrel 9:30 AM Drive-thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p>11 12:00 PM Bible Study (LL - #2) 1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Praise/BiCultural Service</p>	<p>12 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 10:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Trustees Mtg (FH) 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p>13 -OFFICE CLOSED- 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p>14 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion</p>																																																																																				
<p>15 Choir Cantata 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>16 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 10:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 6:00 PM Colonial Hills School Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:00 PM Finance Mtg (FH) 6:30 PM Admin Council (FH)</p>	<p>17 6:30 AM MMen@Cracker Barrel 9:30 AM Drive-thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Martha Circle 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p>18 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle at the Meadows 1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 6:00 PM Colonial Hills School Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM Praise/BiCultural Service</p>	<p>19 9:00 AM NL Mail-out 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p>20 -OFFICE CLOSED- 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p>21 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion</p>																																																																																				
<p>22 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Christmas Break</p>	<p>24 -Christmas Break- 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25 -Christmas Break- CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26 -Christmas Break- 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p>27 -Christmas Break- -OFFICE CLOSED-</p>	<p>28 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion</p>																																																																																				
<p>29 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>30 -Christmas Break-</p>	<p>31 -Christmas Break-</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>November 13</p> <table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>January 14</p> <table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div> </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	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
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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS & OTHER CLERGY SUPPORT

In our local churches approximately 1/2 of local expenses go to paying for the salary and benefits of the pastors and lay employees of the church. Salaries are not overhead to the church; they are the way we do ministry.

Local church salaries are made much more effective by the money given to this apportioned fund. The Bishop and Cabinet work closely with our churches to be sure that they have the best clergy leadership possible and intervene when necessary to solve problems that would otherwise become destructive.

Whenever the need is greatest in the local church, the district superintendent and Bishop are there to provide guidance and leadership when a pastor may become disabled and unable to provide leadership. The church is hurting for their pastor. The district superintendent and Bishop arrange for the pastor to access disability benefits and provide temporary pastoral leadership in the short term. Healing is begun.

Another church needs to change its direction of ministry. It's leading laity are just beginning to recognize the need. They're concerned that the current pastor's strengths are not the strengths they need to move in the direction they foresee. The district superintendent and the Bishop step in to help them to clarify their goals and work with them to secure the leadership they need.

Another church is growing so fast, the pastor and his laity are beginning to be unable to deal with all the change they are encountering. The district superintendent steps in here also to help them locate the tools they need to handle the changing needs of the church. The seven districts of the Southwest Texas conference are diverse, geographically, sometimes covering many, many miles. District superintendents travel to that area relentlessly providing leadership and guidance for building an effective church.

Each year an average of one-third of pastors move from one church to another. The cost of moving is provided through the moving fund supported by this apportionment. Some churches become temporarily unable to pay their pastor. They need assistance for 2 to 3 years in order to move back to a position where they are still supporting. The equitable compensation funds supplied through this apportionment subsidize ministry in their church while they are moving back to a position of self-sufficiency.

Ministry is people. This apportionment provides for their most effective use in the church.



Special Christmas Offering

There will be a special Christmas offering to celebrate and give thanks to our Lay Personnel (Mary, Carolyn, Johnny and Joseph) in the form of a Christmas Bonus. If you would like to support this special offering, please designate on your check that it is for "Christmas Bonus".

Thank you!

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 15th

10:30 AM

Please watch for an announcement of the YAMS Christmas Party which will be sometime during the week between Christmas and New Years!



Holiday Hours

The Church Office
will be closed

At noon on
Tuesday, December 24th and
Tuesday, December 31st
and all day
Wednesday, December 25th
Wednesday, January 1st

*New Beginnings Sunday School Class
Christmas party will be
Thursday, December 19th
beginning at 6:30
at the home of
Patti Gardner*

*This will be an Old Fashioned Pot Luck
Bring a side to share and join us!*

*9534 Autumn Wind
Boerne, TX
(830)431-3157*

May the miracle
of that first Christmas
renew your heart with joy!

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



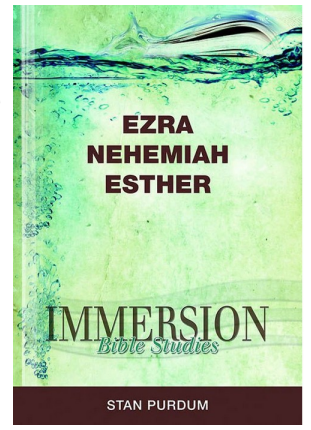
Your generosity is overwhelming! Do you know that you gave 1,780 coins on Sunday so we can restock our little Food Pantry? That converted to \$129.85 just in coins. Add to that the bills and checks, and our total contributions for the Food Pantry were \$594.95! In addition, you brought cans and boxes of food that will go a long way in feeding the hungry. Thank you for supporting this outreach mission of St. Mark's so we can respond generously when people from the neighborhood and passersby come to the church and ask for help.

Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday Bible Study continues... Beginning January 15 - February 19 we will tackle the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. This is a 6 week study. We will continue to meet from Noon - 1:00 PM on Wednesdays. Study books are \$10.00 from Cokesbury.

Contact Patti Gardner if you are interested in joining!

(830-431-3157 or pjdgardner@aol.com)



The San Antonio Food Bank Truck will be at St. Mark's on Thursday, December 26th. Lots of volunteers will be needed! Consider making this a family Christmas project!

The truck arrives about 9:00 and we are generally finished by about 11:00. We are serving an average of 200 families each month with this mission.

Thanks to all of you for making this dream a reality . . .

Thanks especially to Patti Austin for being the driving force behind this very successful mission.



Wholey Moley! Discovering Super Whole Grains

Whole grains, like oatmeal, whole-grain breads, and brown rice can reduce the risk of heart disease.

Every organ in the body depends on strong blood flow. If you take care of your heart and make sure it is strong and healthy, there is a good chance that you are getting the right amount of blood to your organs, which includes the brain. Whole grains are high in fiber, which is important for digestive health. Whole grains have other nutrients that work together in powerful ways.

Whole Wheat Pancakes with Blueberries (Adapted from 101 Cookbooks)

Ingredients for 6 large pancakes or 12 small pancakes
Serving size = 1 large or 2 small pancakes.

1 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp baking soda
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup + 2 Tbsp buttermilk
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 Tbsp oil
1 cup blueberries
1/4 cup walnuts, chopped (optional)



1. Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar and salt
2. Add in buttermilk, eggs and oil
3. Fold in blueberries
4. Heat a griddle and spray with oil. Drop a small amount of batter (about 1/4 cup for 1 large, or 2 Tbsp for 1 small) and cook until bubbles start forming. Flip and cook thoroughly.
5. Serve with agave or maple syrup.

Calories per serving: 170. Calories from fat 45. Cholesterol 40mg, Sodium 260mg, Total Carbohydrate 28g, (dietary fiber 3g, sugars 11g), Protein 6g.

Vitamin A 2%, Vitamin C 4%, Calcium 8%, Iron 6%.

*San Antonio Food Bank Flyer



The Gold Wrapping Paper

An Inspirational Short Christmas Story



Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

This story talks about the power of forgiveness. The holiday season is a wonderful time to forgive and forget. It's a great time to reflect and to say thanks.

ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .

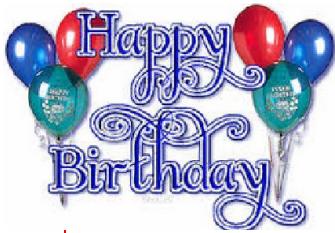
Jill Anderson
 Kylee Brown
 Megan Brown
 Margaret Broxton
 Bill & Isabel Centeno
 Bucky Coley
 Esdras Cuervo
 Gladys Johnson
 Mary Krwawicz
 Bea Kunkel
 Clay Laster
 Alice & Ben Logan
 Michael Mendoza
 Charles Mixon
 Gloria Reedy
 Steve Reyes Sr.
 Mike Ross

Ed Setterfield
 Will Schuetze
 Kirk Tomerlin
 Abraham Wamah
 Steve Woods
 Gene Pitman
 Connie Wells
 Diana Russo
 Chris Baird
 Lee Rux
 Northcut family
 Lynn Mullican family
 Margery Green
 Tricia Garcia
 Garrett Spears
 Deborah Ramirez
 Gretchen Tinkle

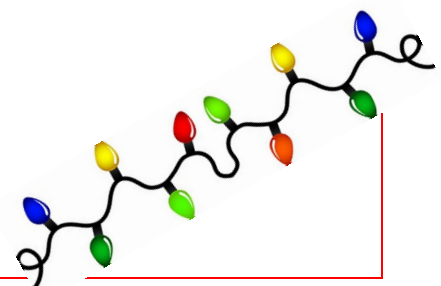
Anna Reyes & children
 Phyllis McLeon
 Joanne Green
 Lucas Ortega
 Justin Kaiser
 Mamie Lemley
 Cheryl Owens
 Glenn William
 Family of Willetta Parish
 Tim Williams
 Virginia Thornton
 Mendoza family
 Family of Mary McKinney
 Jeff Donnell



PRAYER REQUESTS



12/02 Eddie Rodriguez	12/09 Sanjuana Allen Fannie Grafton Val Korzekwa Lynn Swatzell, Jr.	12/10 Bruce Schmidt	12/18 Vanessa Pe'Vey Brienne Somerville	12/25 Stephen Reyes Daniel Leija
12/03 Jacob Wilke	12/13 Fran Meadows	12/16 Cody Black	12/19 MacKenzie Hoffman	12/26 Bill Centeno Joseph Scutti
12/05 Johnny Mendoza Doris Sinclair	12/17 Tom Jack		12/20 Patsy Rolirad	
12/08 Sandra Leija			12/23 Lynn Swatzell, Sr.	
			12/24 Dana Adams	



Happy Anniversary to
 Bill & Isabel Centeno
 December 29

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
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 (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

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR.....Rev. Jay Brown
 SECRETARY.....Mary Farramore
 WESLEY NURSE.....Linda Jimenez
 CHOIR DIRECTOR.....Carolyn Hahn
 ORGANIST EMERITUS.....Ruth Foerster
 ORGANIST.....Joseph Scutti
 CUSTODIAN.....Johnny Mendoza

OFFICE HOURS.....9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
CLOSED on Friday
 PHONE.....(210) 344-8393
 FAX.....(210) 344-8397

Email: stmarksumc@grandecom.net
stmarkspastor@grandecom.net
linda.jimenez@mhmc.org
 Website: www.stmarksumcusa.com

