



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church

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

Things to Remember:

- † Saturday, December 5th
UMW Christmas Party
Brunch (FH) 10:00 am
- † Saturday, December 12th
- Christmas Caroling
(Walmart) 6:00 pm
- † Sunday, December 13th
Choir Cantata 10:30 am
- † Monday, December 14th,
Community Choir Concert
at Stahl 6:30 pm
- † Thursday, December 17th
Vouchers @ 9:00 am
- † Saturday, December 19th
Milk & Cookies at the Man-
ger (FH)
- † Sunday, December 20th -
Youth Program @ 10:30
am
- † Thursday, Christmas Eve &
Candlelight Communion
Service @ 6:00 pm

A reflective and meaningful Veterans Day service was held at St. Mark's on November 11. We recited the "Pledge of Allegiance;" read the Scripture, John 15:13; and had "A Time of Witnessing." And we sang the patriotic songs of "America the Beautiful" and "Our Country Tis of Thee," closing with "God Bless America." We recognized members of the congregation who had served in the military, and several people stood to name family members and loved ones who had served this great country. Also honored were two members of the congregation, Megan Brown and Abraham Wamah, who are currently in military service to our country. We appreciate Carolyn Hahn who led us in the music, and pastor Jay who led us in this time of reflection and healing.

Virginia Barlow had arranged a patriotic collection of American flags and military memorabilia for this day which was on display in the narthex for all to enjoy.



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SERVING THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	11/1	11/8	11/15
Children	3	1	2
Youth	1	4	2
Adults	37	37	36
Total SS	41	42	40
<u>Worship</u>			
Sunday	98	72	81
Wednesday Service	21	25*	

USHERS

- † Joyce Codd
- † Janice Coley
- † Mona Rosfeld
- † Dorothy Mace

*Includes Veteran's Day Worship attendance



An invitation to ALL the women of St. Mark's UMC

***Please join us for the annual UMW Christmas
brunch and Bunco Bash***

***Saturday, December 5
10:00 am***

***Short devotional followed by as many games of
Bunco as you care to win!***

Brunch is provided





Ministerial Support

Goal: Supply effective spiritual and administrative leadership to local churches and the world.

12.5 cents of every apportioned dollar is allocated to District Superintendents and Other Clergy Support.

District Superintendent - Chief Mission Strategist. In our local churches, approximately half of our local giving pays for salaries and benefits of the pastors and lay employees of the church. Salaries are not overhead to the church, but certainly are the way we do ministry.

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

Whenever a need arises in the local church, the District Superintendent and Bishop provide guidance and leadership. For example, if a pastor becomes disabled and is unable to provide leadership, or if 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. Thus, healing begins.

Every year an average of 1/3 of our pastors move from one church to another, and the cost of moving is provided through the moving fund supported by this apportionment.

Some churches become temporarily unable to pay their pastor and may need assistance for 2-3 years before becoming self-supporting again. The equitable compensation funds supplied through this apportionment subsidizes the ministry in their church while it's moving toward self-sufficiency.

Ministry is people. This apportionment provides for the most effective use of the people who provide clergy leadership.

2015 Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the information in the bulletin, or call Patti in the church office no later than Sunday November 22nd! Poinsettias are \$10 each.



Call Joanne Green - 210-690-5714 or
Patti in the church office - 210-344-8393
or email: stmarksumc@grandecom.net



From Our Pastor. . .

Thank you to all who were able to step up and out in faith by pledging a financial offering to God and St. Mark's on Commitment Sunday! The numbers are not all in as yet, but our initial appraisal is one that indicates that your very generous contribution will enable us at St. Mark's to continue to be in mission and ministry in a very meaningful way now and in the years to come. Praise God for you and your gifts! We seek only to serve; we seek only to be helpful to Christ and to the ones that he sends our way and to whom he sends us to. Prayers, presence, gifts and service are part of the membership vows we made when we joined our church and when all of these vows are kept and honored, God is honored also. Naturally, we all have our own unique discipling journey of faith to live out in our own unique way. As a congregation, united in Christ, we can do so much more together than we can separately. A generous and realistic budget helps us to keep focused on just how we can best live this ministry out as a church of believers. Your gracious and generous gifts will enable us to do this! Again, thank you so very much! I'm proud and grateful to be your pastor and companion in Christ. Let us continue our journey together and pray that the Lord will guide us and direct us always, giving us power and strength to carry out his will.

God bless you, and have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Jay

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																																			
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STRESS AND THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are an exciting time of the year. Most people look forward to spending time with family and friends, going to Christmas parties, and eating tasty food. Some people experience stress and sadness during this time of the year, i.e., the loss of a loved one, being overwhelmed with hosting a Christmas event or dealing with the crowds while shopping for Christmas gifts. Stress can be positive; for example, when it helps you develop the skills needed to manage a potentially dangerous situation. However, it can be harmful when it is severe enough to make you unable to do activities of daily living (ADLs), i.e., showering, combing your hair, brushing your teeth, etc. Be aware of the common reaction to the signs and symptoms of stress listed below and notify your physician if you are unable to complete your ADLs:

- Disbelief and shock
- Tension and irritability
- Fear and anxiety about the future
- Difficulty making decisions
- Being numb to one's feelings
- Loss of interest in normal activities
- Loss of appetite
- Nightmares and recurring thoughts about the event
- Anger
- Increased use of alcohol and drugs
- Sadness and other symptoms of depression
- Feeling powerless
- Crying
- Sleep problems
- Headaches, back pains, and stomach pains
- Trouble concentrating

Take Care of yourself:

- Eat a health, well-balanced diet
- Exercise regularly
- Get plenty of sleep
- Give yourself a break if you feel stressed out

For more information, please visit the Center for Disease Control's website: <http://www.cdc.gov/family/holiday/> or contact your Wesley Nurse, Charzes Flowers, RN at 210-344-8393.

***Your Wesley Nurse,
Charzes Flowers, RN***

NOTES AND NOTICES

Angel Tree Ministry

Every year St. Mark's supports the needy children attending Arnold Elementary with our Angel Tree. Look for the ANGELS to be ready on November 29th. Look through the angels, choose the one you want to gift and sign the sheet letting Susan know who has that ANGEL. Remember each angel is on the tree twice, one for clothing type gift and one for non-clothing gift (think toy). The items listed on the back of the angels are suggestions not demands and are submitted by the teacher. Make sure to bring your ANGEL gift back to the church by Sunday, December 13th so we have time to deliver them before school lets out for Christmas.



Need a Good Handyman?
Johnny Mendoza
210-765-1869



Attention all parents at St. Mark's.



This year the Christmas program will include all children from Kinder through college (maybe beyond). Please make sure you put December 20th on your calendars since that will be the Sunday that the program is presented during the church service. It helps so much if the children are present every Sunday so we can practice. There are a few nonspeaking parts but most have at least one line. I would appreciate it if you let me know if you do not want your child to participate in this program. Otherwise Kim and I look forward to working on this project for your enjoyment.

Milk and Cookies at the Manger

Saturday, December 19

3:00-5:00 pm

for Crafts, games, snack in fellowship hall

For kids ages Kindergarten - 5th Grade



MORE NOTES AND NOTICES

Don't forget our Food Pantry!

1st Sunday - Can of Vegetables
2nd Sunday - Rice or Beans
3rd Sunday - Canned Meat
4th Sunday - Spaghetti Sauce
5th Sunday - Your Choice!



Noisy Offering - the last Sunday of every month!

Exercise Class Christmas

Nutritional Potluck

Thursday, December 10th

11:00 AM

Come, Join us for Exercise!



You are invited to participate in the Exercise Class here at St. Mark's every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10:00 am. Because many of us are in the older bracket of life, we find our joints have served us well for many years; however, now they creak, groan and hurt. Each of us suffer from gimpy knees, hips, shoulders and backs. We can help ourselves by exercising regularly. Here at St. Mark's, no one is pushed to go beyond what feels good to them. We work on balance, keeping our shoulders supple, our hips and knees functioning and just general good health practices. Besides all of that you will meet new friends, enjoy a monthly "Pot Luck Lunch" and our nurse keeps us informed about good health practices. Best of all, you are taking care of your God-given body! And of course, before you enter any exercise program, you should have an OK from your physician!

See you there!!
Imogene



Need a Good Handyman?

Johnny Mendoza

210-765-1869



FINAL REPORT ON PUMPKIN PATCH

In spite of the rain and other obstacles that arose, \$12,176.81 worth of pumpkins was sold. We received donations of \$567.04, making a grand total of \$12,743.85. St. Mark's share of sales is \$4,054.88 plus the donations which totals \$4,621.92. Expenses were approximately \$700.00 so the profit should be approximately \$3,900.00. Not a banner year, but not bad!

There is no way for us to express our appreciation for the contributions of each of you. No matter how you served the Patch whether through prayers, donations, cleaning pumpkins, stuffing bags, supplying candy, unloading hay, pallets and pumpkins, reading stories, passing out treat bags to story time children, counting the money, policing the patch for trash and rotten pumpkins, feeding the unloaders, setting up and taking down the canopy, installing and removing lights, working in the Patch or serving as prayer warrior; all of these contributed to the success of the Patch.

Imogene Brown and Kathy Jack did a yeoman's job of keeping the Patch going during the times that Dorothy and Joyce were not available and it was greatly appreciated. Thank you Kathy Jack and Lucille Armitage for passing out candy to the school children when Joyce was unavailable.

Once again, St. Mark's came through to support the Pumpkin Patch and we thank you.

From your Staff/Parish Relations Committee:

The SPRC would like to take time to thank the staff for their faithful service in the past year with a monetary Christmas gift. The SPRC recommended that a free-will donation be taken for two weeks in December. If you choose to participate, your donation can be made on December 6 - 20, or mailed to the church office. Please mark your check Staff Christmas Gift and place it in the envelope provided in the bulletin.

Have a blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas season!

Yours in Christ,
Sue Horner
SPRC Chairperson

SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

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

Operating Cash balance at 9/30/15	2,361
Non-Designated Contributions - October	16,271
Operating Expenses:	
Council on Ministries	184
Special Mission Giving	0
Mission Giving	512
Administration Expense	108
Trustees	5,939
Pastor's Compensation	8,554
Lay Personnel Compensation	7,583
	22,880
Other Income/(Expense)	(8)
Operating Cash balance at 10/31/2015	(4,256)

Comments:

October contributions were lower than both 2014 and the budget for the month and year-to-date.

Operating expenses are less than budgeted year-to-date; however, our lower apportionment payments account for the favorableness.

Apportionment (Mission Giving):

Through October, we have paid \$19,406 of our obligation of \$38,508.

Our ending operating cash balance was a negative \$4,256. As has been discussed in previous months and was presented at the November 8th service, our contributions are not sufficient to cover our expenses. We are hopeful that we had a strong commitment Sunday.

We are certainly grateful for what everyone contributes to St. Mark's with their time, talent, and treasure.

ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .



Please remember these
in your prayers

Jill Anderson
Willie Barnes
Connor Benjamin
Kylee Brown
Megan Brown
Margaret Broxton
Bucky Coley
Esdras Cuervo
Landry Dollahite
Cora Fischer
Gladys Johnson
Bea Kunkel
Alice & Ben Logan
Robert Flores Lopez
Michael Mendoza
Ann Payette
Cindy Payette

Gloria Reedy
Steve Reyes Sr.
Mike Ross
Will Schuetze
Doris Sinclair
Kirk Tomerlin
Abraham Wamah
Family and friends of Katrina Woods
Alexcia Shorten
Family of John Kosmich
Family of Gladys Johson
Annette Blanton & Jamel
Mayra Marquez
Gary Young & Family
Gary & Cynthia Bankston
Manny Rivera

Family of Mary Jo Lee
Family of Doris Sinclair
Family of Mike Johnson
Malcom Austin
Bob Mace



12/02 Eddie Rodriguez	12/09 Sanjuana Allen Lynn Swatzell Val Korzekwa	12/18 Carolyn Brown Brienne Somerville	12/26 Joseph Scutti
12/03 Jacob Wilke Kathryn Wilson	12/10 Bruce Schmidt	12/19 MacKenzie Hoffman	12/27 Linda Cerda
12/05 Johnny Mendoza	12/11 Billy Kiesel	12/20 Patsy Rolirad	12/28 Julia Ybarra
12/08 Sandra Leija	12/15 James Wilson	12/23 Lynn Swatzell	12/29 Katie Wilke
	12/16 Cody Black	12/24 Stephen Reyes Dana Adams	
	12/17 Tom Jack Vanessa Pe'Vey	12/25 Daniel Leija	

Charles & Sanjuana Allen - December 10th

Melinda & Hubert Molina - December 25th



*Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of
John Kosmich
and
Doris Sinclair*

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, 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



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