



Messenger

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

Things to Remember:

- † Angel Tree Ministry!!
- † Saturday, December 3 - 10:00 AM - Ladies Christmas Party
- † Saturday, December 10 - 6:00 PM - Caroling with Area Churches at Walmart
- † Children's Church - Sundays - December 11th
- † Sunday, December 18th Choir Cantata
- † Sunday, December 18th - Noisy Offering
- † Thursday, December 22nd - Mobile Food Pantry 8:00 AM
- † **Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion 5:00 PM**
- † **Christmas Day Service - Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 AM**
- † Wednesdays @ 6:30 - Praise Communion Service



Invitation to all Women of the church

*Our annual Christmas Bunco Brunch
will be held on
Saturday, December 3rd
at 10:00 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall*

*If you don't know how to play bunco,
come and we'll teach you!
Come join us and get in the holiday spirit!*



Serving / Altar Flowers / Liturgists	2	Notes & Notices	7
Stewardship	3	More Notes & Notices	8
Message from the Pastor	4	Christmas Services/Angel Tree	9
Calendar	5	Commitment Sunday/Food Pantry	10
Wesley Nurse	6	Prayers, Birthdays, Anniversaries	11



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SERVING THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	10/30	11/6	11/13
Children	2		4
Youth		3	2
Adults	23	22	25
Total SS	25	25	31
<u>Worship</u>			
Sunday	63	80	79
Wednesday Service	28	28	

DECEMBER USHERS



**Kathy Jack
Sue Horner
Susan Philbin**

**Sharon Somerville
Brooke Somerville**

Altar Flowers

We have a wide open calendar for 2017! Call Patti in the church office or Joann Green at 210-690-5714 to reserve your favorite spots!!

Flowers are \$25 and you can place your donation marked for "Altar Flowers" in the offering plate. The flowers are yours to take home following the service and enjoy!

December Liturgists

December 4	Patti Austin
December 11	Brett Codd
December 18	Leticia Mercado
December 25	Ann Brown



Stewardship

What would John Wesley do?

Methodism founder John Wesley (1703-91) didn't just talk about being generous. He put stewardship into practice. In his sermon on "The Use of Money," he encouraged his followers to gain, save and then give "all you can." In 1731, Wesley began to limit his expenses so he would have more money to give to the poor.

In his journal, Wesley recorded that one year, his income was 30 pounds and his living expenses 28 pounds, so he gave away 2 pounds. The next year his income doubled to 60 pounds, but he kept his living expenses to 28 pounds. Thus, he shared 32 pounds.

This practice continued throughout Wesley's life. At his death, he had given away most, if not all, of the 30,000 pounds he had earned in his lifetime. To Wesley, spending money was a living theology in response to what God gave him.

He would have appreciated Med Thomas, 17, a member of the United Methodist Church of the Master in Westerville, Ohio. "I would love to think that giving my time, my talents and my prayers fulfills God's call for stewardship, but it doesn't," Thomas says. "There are people in need that I do not know and will not ever meet. The only way to help them is through God. When I give my tithes and offerings to the church, and thus to God, I know that I am helping my neighbors in ways I cannot do in person."

"I give as a response to a love affair that I have with God," adds the Rev. Frank Alegria, First United Methodist Church, Duncanville, Texas. "I love my wife and children. I give them all that I have and all that I am. I should give God no less than my all, inclusive of my gifts."

*Our noisy offering this month will be taken on
Sunday, December 18th.*

Remember to save your change!!

Our noisy offering benefits the St. Mark's Food Pantry.

*(Quiet money is also accepted and
appreciated!!)*





From Our Pastor. . .

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope that everyone is enjoying our cool (finally!) Fall weather and the new season that we are in! An extra hour of sleep (yay!) and the promise of turkey and dressing on the way; and experiencing the gratitude that comes from counting our many blessings! I thank God for our Veterans, who have fought, sacrificed and paid the ultimate price for our freedom. I'm thankful, more than I can say, to be the pastor of St. Mark's UMC! And, I'm profoundly grateful for the generous response by our members for our Commitment Sunday; together, we have pledged a significant amount that will allow us to keep our promise to God to be in mission and ministry! Thank you all from the bottom of my heart! We all know that our attendance and our membership has declined; we all know that many of our families are on fixed incomes and have to observe a strict budget; we know that our church has to follow a strict budget also! That being said, we will continue to pay our salaries, our bills, our apportionments and fund our ministries. This will happen because of your faithfulness and your commitment to Christ and to St. Mark's! Yesterday, following our Sunday worship service, we celebrated our meal together in the Fellowship Hall. As I munched on all the tasty goodies that we all brought, I looked around at the joy and laughter and friendship that was being shared; it brought home to me, once again, that "somos familia"...we are family! We were doing what families do; sharing, loving, laughing and partaking of a meal together. Yes, it's true that we are a diverse group. There are times that we step on each others toes or disagree about some issue. That doesn't mean that we don't love and care for one another! That is evident by the generous response to our Commitment Sunday pledges and the sweet spirit that was present in worship and at our celebratory meal. So, once again, Happy Thanksgiving! May you personally be as blessed as the blessing that you are to God, St. Mark's and to me! Enjoy these "holy days" that God has given us, treasure each moment and let us give God thanks, from whom all blessings flow!

God bless you,

Jay

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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10 tips Nutrition Education Series

make healthier holiday choices



10 tips for a healthier holiday

The holidays are often filled with time-honored traditions that include some of our favorite meals and foods. As you celebrate, think of little changes you can make this holiday season to create healthier meals and active days.

1 create MyPlate makeovers

Makeover your favorite holiday dishes. Use My Recipe on SuperTracker to improve holiday recipes and get healthier results. Go to <https://www.supertracker.usda.gov/myrecipe.aspx>.



6 tweak the sweet

For dessert, try baked apples with cinnamon and a sprinkle of sugar instead of apple pie. Invite your guests to make their own parfait with colorful sliced fruit and low-fat yogurt.



2 enjoy all the food groups at your celebration

Prepare whole-grain crackers with hummus as an appetizer; add unsalted nuts and black beans to a green-leaf salad; include fresh fruit at the dessert table; use low-fat milk instead of heavy cream in your casseroles. Share healthier options during your holiday meal.

7 be the life of the party

Laugh, mingle, dance, and play games. Focus on fun and enjoy the company of others.

3 make sure your protein is lean

Turkey; roast beef; fresh ham; beans; and some types of fish, such as cod or flounder, are lean protein choices. Trim fat before cooking meats. Go easy on the sauces and gravies—they can be high in saturated fat and sodium.

8 make exercise a part of the fun

Make being active part of your holiday tradition. Have fun walking and talking with family and friends after a holiday meal. Give gifts that encourage others to practice healthy habits such as workout DVDs, running shoes, and reusable water bottles.



4 cheers to good health

Quench your thirst with low-calorie options. Drink water with lemon or lime slices. Offer seltzer water with a splash of 100% fruit juice.



9 enjoy leftovers

Create delicious new meals with your leftovers. Add turkey to soups or salads. Use extra veggies in omelets, sandwiches, or stews. The possibilities are endless!

5 bake healthier

Use recipes with unsweetened applesauce or mashed ripe bananas instead of butter. Try cutting the amount of sugar listed in recipes in half. Use spices to add flavor such as cinnamon, allspice, or nutmeg instead of salt.



10 give to others

Spend time providing foods or preparing meals for those who may need a little help. Give food to a local food bank or volunteer to serve meals at a shelter during the holiday season.



NOTES AND NOTICES

Don't forget your Christmas cards! The Youth are still selling Christmas cards - \$7 for a pack of 12. They also have a limited number of 2017 pocket calendars left to sell!



CHRISTMAS CARD SET

POCKET CALENDAR

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



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!!



Bob Cermin has moved! I'm sure he would love to hear from his old friends at St. Mark's!! You can reach him at his new address:

Bob Cermin
Orchard Park at Southfork
3151 Southfork Pkwy.
Manvel TX 77578

The December Food Truck date is
Thursday, December 22nd.
If you are available to help, please come!



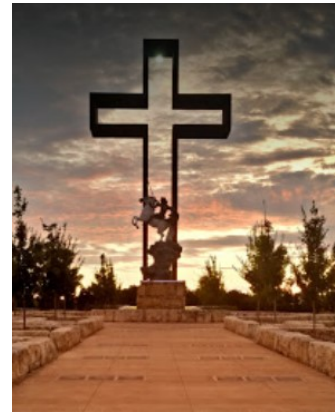
MORE NOTES AND NOTICES

How does a Road Trip sound? On December 30th, anyone who is interested is invited to join in a road trip to Kerrville! We will visit the Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden.

Quoting directly from the website (<http://www.thecomingkingfoundation.org/sculpture.htm>)

"The Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden is being built in Kerrville, TX to share the love of Jesus Christ using visual art, music and writing. Visitors have direct access to God of the universe at the garden without having to go through a person or church.

This non-denominational garden is the prototype of what one day will be many Christ-honoring Sculpture Prayer Gardens created by **The Coming King Foundation**.



The location of the first TCKF prototype garden is no accident. By the providence of God, the Texas Hill Country property looks like the Holy Land of Israel with its limestone and vegetation. Located at the same latitude as Israel, it is approximately half way between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, on IH-10.

Over \$3,000,000 worth of original fine art has already been donated by three Christian artists and their families, for the glory of God. Even though the Kerrville garden is not finished yet, eight monumental sculptures have already been installed and can be viewed.

The Christian sculptors who have already donated their monumental sculptures to the Kerrville garden include Beverly Paddleford www.hopemonument.com, David Broussard www.jeweledsteel.com, and Max Greiner, Jr. www.maxgreinerart.com. Ultimately, over two dozen monumental sculptures are planned for the Kerrville garden.

This Christ-honoring garden is free to the public and is open seven days a week, from 6:00 AM until midnight. Free guided tours may be available with advance notice.

The Kerrville garden is not finished yet. However, it is being used by God. The spiritual garden is being built on faith in God, without debt. At this time, funds are still needed to finish the roads, landscaping and public restrooms. Your prayers and support are appreciated."

More information will be made available closer to the date. If you are interested in going, please contact Melinda Molina (210-724-5442), or Patti in the church office (210-344-8393).

Candlelight & Communion Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th

5:00 PM



Christmas Morning Service

Sunday, December 25th

10:30 AM

The Angel Tree is coming! The Angel Tree is our opportunity to show a child the love of Christ through anonymous donation. Imagine the joy of a child on Christmas morning with a special gift chosen just for them. You have given that child the magic of Christmas, by sharing the light and love of Jesus Christ.

Angels will be available to adopt beginning Sunday, November 27th. All gifts will need to be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 11th so they can be delivered that week before school is out. If you would like

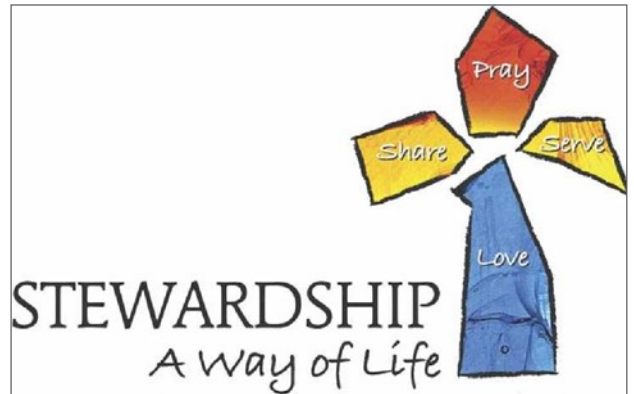


to donate to the Angel Tree but would like one of our Elves to do your shopping for you, you can make a donation to the church and mark it for the "Angel Tree". The appropriate gifts will be purchased, wrapped and delivered to Arnold the week of December 11th.

Thank you so much for your support.

Commitment Celebration

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Commitment Celebration!



Your prayers and financial support will help us continue our programs at St. Mark's for another year! Thank you!!

Thank you for bringing delicious food to fill our bodies. Thank you to the YAMS Class who provided the roast and dressing, got everything all ready, and to the YAMS and New Beginnings Classes who cleaned up afterwards! Thank you to the Prices for providing the beautiful cake and a special thank you to Sue Horner for working tirelessly behind the scenes, and decorating and the million other things she did to make the meal a success! Also thank you to Kathy Jack & Dorothy Mace for helping with the decorations (which were lovely!!)

More thanks to Pastor Jay, Patti and Johnny for their usual guidance and unseen preparation. Thank you to Lucille Armitage for everyone you did to get ready and for getting the letters out! And finally a large thanks to Joanne Green, Mary Jo and Joe Price for tallying the commitment cards for us!

A Note from Our Food Pantry

Due to a change in focus with the St. Mark's Food Pantry, we will no longer be providing Lunch Bags to those folks who stop by the church looking for something to eat. It was the decision of our Administrative Council to now only provide Family Emergency Food Bags to those families in crisis. We will now concentrate on families who request food assistance due to delays in their paychecks, waiting for a job to start, just moved to the area, or many other reasons they have run out of food and need help for their family for a few days.

Therefore, we will still need your financial assistance on the last Sunday of each month with the Noisy Offering, as this Food Pantry Ministry is run entirely on your specific donations and not as an expense to the church budget. Also, your

donations of food items are greatly appreciated to fill our immediate needs since we only go to the San Antonio Food Bank about once every six weeks to purchase large quantities of food.

The types of food we typically pack in a Family Emergency Food Bag are the following: rice; beans; spaghetti; pasta sauce; macaroni & cheese; cans of tuna, chicken, and Spam; cans of fruit; boxes or bags of cereal; cans of soup; instant mashed potatoes; instant milk; cans of vegetables (green beans, corn); stew; chili; etc. We try to provide for a family of four for about three days.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .



Bob Ailerson
 Jill Anderson
 Connor Benjamin
 Kylee Brown
 Megan Brown
 David Cavazos
 Bucky Coley
 Esdras Cuervo
 Alice & Ben Logan
 Michael Mendoza
 Pastor Eric Miletti
 Gerald Morriss
 Jean Newman
 Ann Payette

Cindy Payette
 Steve Reyes, Sr.
 Will Schuetze
 Kirk Tomerlin
 DeVonte Williams
 Kathryn Wilson
 Darell Wright
 Ebony Lincoln
 Family of Charles Brown
 Family of Rev Frank Estrada
 Erwin Chambers
 Peggy Boland
 Family of Nell Crosier
 Johnie Williams

Johnny & Irene Mendoza &
 Family
 Irma Vinton
 Toni Alvarado
 Otis Family
 Rose Johnson
 Emma & Stella Davis
 Roy Islas
 Lila Cotton
 Fran McMahon
 Beth Stewart
 Family of Willie Barnes
 Ayden Blanton



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



Charles & Sanjuana Allen

Hubert & Melinda Molina

Our Sincere Sympathy is extended to the families of Lois Starr who passed away in October, the Mendoza family at the loss of Irene's father, Louis Carney and to Patricia Barnes and her family and friends at the loss of Willie Barnes.



Sympathy

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


NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 P A I D
 SAN ANTONIO, TX
 PERMIT NO. 1632

Current Resident Or:

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