



# 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, December 4 @ 5 pm
- † Children's Church, Sunday, December 8 @ 10:45 am
- † Children's Sermon, Sunday, December 15 @ 10:45 am
- † Children's Church, Sunday, December 22 @ 10:45 am
- † Children's Church, Sunday, December 29 @ 10:45 am



**ATTENTION:** The start time for Wednesday Bible Study has changed. New start time is 5:00 pm. We hope to see you there!



**Ladies Christmas Bunco**

**Saturday,**

**December 7, 2019**

10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Make plans to attend and  
bring a friend!

Ushers, Flowers, Liturgists 2  
Stewardship - Finance 3  
Pastor's Message 4

Calendar (December) 5  
Children's Ministry 6  
Notes/Notices, Christmas Eve 7



Prayers & Praise 8



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

# SERVE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	10/27/2019	11/3/2019	11/10/2019	11/17/2019
Youth	3	4	4	5
Adults	11	15	21	20
<b>Total SS</b>	14	19	25	25
<b>WORSHIP</b>				
Sunday	44	58	49	56
Wednesday Night	8	7	7	



Kathy Jack  
Sue Horner  
Susan Philbin  
Sharon Crippen



## Altar Flower Calendar

Thanks to everyone who was able to participate in our Poinsettia dedications. They will adorn the altar beautifully during Advent and Christmas.



Children's Church

December 8 - Lillian Herrera  
December 22 - Melinda Molina  
December 29 - Samantha Alvarez



December 1 - John Williams  
December 8 - Leticia Mercado  
December 15 - Joanne Green  
December 22 - Dorothy Mace  
December 29 - Melinda Molina



**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***

### **ETHNIC SCHOLAR, MAKALAH CANNON, LISTENS TO GOD'S CALL**

Family time, Girl Scouts, track and band add meaning to Makalah Cannon's life. But right now, school takes precedence for the young African-American woman from Lithonia, GA. Now a student at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, GA, Makalah has already taken the Certified Nursing Assistant course, which offered hands-on experience. She recently applied to nursing school.

"Growing up," Makalah recalled, "my life was very fun." Her mother worked for the school system so always had summers off. Makalah, her brother and their mom traveled and participated in activities at Stone Mountain and the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta.

Makalah is grateful for her faith family's role in her life. "The United Methodist Church," she said, "has supported my upbringing by giving me a church home, a foundation and a doctrine grounded in structure, which helps me in my daily studies. My church has been my support throughout my childhood years and has ingrained in me the importance of praying, biblical teachings and United Methodist beliefs. They have given me the mindset that I am able to do anything I put my mind to do."

She heard about the Ethic Scholarship, supported by the offering on World Communion Sunday, through her

church, Andrews Chapel United Methodist, Jonesboro, GA.

"Receiving this scholarship," she noted, "has helped my life tremendously. With my brother recently graduating from college with a significant amount of student-loan debt, it has been a struggle for my parents to pay his debt and my student expenses as well. Any scholarship money I receive is truly a blessing." Already, Makalah knows that the road to becoming a nurse is tough.

"Many times," she admitted, "I get really stressed out and overwhelmed and start to think I cannot do this. However, I know that this is what God has called me on this earth to do, so I depend on my faith to get me through the hard times. It may not be easy, but it will be worth it."

Makalah's goal is to become a registered nurse, working with neonatal or geriatric patients. "As a successful nurse," she said, "I will focus on quality patient care and making people's lives better each day. I would also like to pursue my master's in nursing in hopes of becoming a nurse practitioner."

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God's children. The special offering provides World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program. [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)



Apportionments

### **ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER - 2019**

Operating Cash Balance on September 30, 2019	( 2,612 )
Non-Designated Contributions - October	11,439
Operating Expenses	15,108
Other Income/(Expense)	8,815
Operating Cash Balance on October 31, 2019	2,534

October receipts were \$1,389 lower than budgeted. Mission Giving Expenses were favorable as we did not make an apportionment payment in October. Trustee expenses were favorable as a result of overpaying utilities in September and using the credit in October. Lay Personnel expense was favorable primarily the result of a budgeted but unfilled Choir Director position.

Our operating cash balance on October 31, 2019 was a positive \$2,534. This resulted as we transferred \$10,000 from our TMF Operating account.

As you can note, our spending continues to exceed our contributions. As a result we continue to spend our reserve funds. 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. God Bless you all.


# From Rev. Maria Soto's Desk

December 2019




Greetings to you. December is here already and for many is the most wonderful time of the year. I love this time of year because not only the weather changes but also because everywhere we begin to see all the Christmas decorations that this time brings.



What is most important is that on  we will celebrate the reason for all the expectations, good wishes for this season; the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Celebrate and Rejoice not because of the eagerness to buy or share gifts.



But because . We celebrate and rejoice the greatest gift mankind have ever received from God himself, his only son, Jesus. Rejoice and celebrate God's wonderful gift to us. This is what we as Christians celebrate and rejoice. To you and your family: Peace and may you all have a



**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](mailto:stmarksumc@grandecom.net)

WEBSITE: [www.stmarksumcsa.com](http://www.stmarksumcsa.com)

## December 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 worshiping 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.



BLOOM  
WHERE YOU ARE  
PLANTED



*"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."  
Colossians 2:7 NLT*

As the "branches" of Christ (John 15:5), Christians, too, are expected to grow; indeed, we are commanded to do so.

There are times to bloom where we are planted, and times for us to be transplanted so we can bloom even better elsewhere. Just follow the Lord where he leads.

Remember, God has planted you where you are that you might be a blessing. He wants you to take deep root. He wants you to bear rich fruit. And if you will draw upon His spiritual power, He will enable you to be a blessing. As we use our God-given talents, we glorify Him and bless others. Bloom where you are planted and bear fruit to the glory of God and the enrichment of others.

So instead of begging God for better soil, more sunlight, or revolutionary fertilizer, let's watch Him do amazing things by being faithful right where we are!



The following was approved at the CHURCH CONFERENCE November 17, 2019.

**"The Church Conference directs the Trustees of the church to begin negotiations with Project Transformation Rio Texas for the purposes and intent to transfer to Project Transformation Rio Texas ownership of the building known as Lovely Lane, a portion of real estate surrounding that building, and the parking lot on the south side of the sanctuary. Upon reaching a successful agreement, the Trustees may transfer the property in accordance with church and civil laws."**

The Trustees will be removing things from Lovely Lane in December. There are some crosses and other items that someone may like to have returned. If they want them, they need to make arrangements soon so they won't be lost or destroyed. Questions may be directed to John Williams.

# NOTES AND NOTICES

**Don't forget our Food Pantry!**



**Noisy Offering the last Sunday of every month!**

**NOTE:** The Food Pantry will **NOT** be open Christmas Day (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1).

**FROM YOUR STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE . . .**



The SPRC would like to take time to thank St. Mark's staff for their faithful service in the past year. We would like to be able to give a monetary Christmas gift to the staff. The SPRC recommended that a free-will donation be taken for three weeks in December.

If you choose to participate, your donation can be placed in the offering plate on December 1, 8, and 15 OR mailed to the church office any time before December 15. Please mark your check **Staff Christmas Gift 2019.**

Have a blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas season!

Yours in Christ, *Sue Horner* SPRC Chairperson

**NEWS FROM THE WESLEY NURSE**



Wednesday, December 11, 2019  
5 pm - 6 pm  
Fellowship Hall

**Popular Diets for Weight Loss & Health**

From the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Program

Everyone welcome to attend!

## **NEWS FROM THE WESLEY NURSE**

Cooking for a Lifetime - Cancer Prevention Cooking School  
Presented by Univ of Georgia

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

Learn about reducing risk of cancer; who should get screened for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer; how to get screened.

Free cookbook, recipe tasting, and prizes.

All who attend will be entered into a drawing for one of two fitness kits valued at \$30 each.



Join us on Christmas Eve for our annual Holy Communion and Candlelight Service in the sanctuary. We will worship together, share communion and celebrate the birth of our Lord.  
**Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.**

# PRAYERS & PRAISE



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

Michael Mendoza  
 Eric Miletti  
 Will Schuetze  
 Warren Dunetz  
 Joyce Codd  
 Patricia Barnes  
 Roland Canales

Ramon Pacheco  
 Susan Philbin  
 Mary Bailly  
 All impacted by school  
 shootings  
 Family & friends of  
 Nora Ramirez

## All Saints Sunday

On November 3, All Saints Day was celebrated during morning worship. It was a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for the lives of those who during the last twelve months entered into eternal glory.

*Joe H. Price ~ January 20, 2019*  
*Ralph W. Perryman ~ July 11, 2019*  
*Mona Rosfeld ~ August 25, 2019*  
*Billie Jackson Gabour ~ September 6, 2019*



DEC 2 Eddie Rodriguez  
 DEC 5 Johnny Mendoza  
 DEC 9 Sanjuana Allen  
 DEC 9 Lynn Swatzell  
 DEC 17 Tom Jack



DEC 17 Vanessa Pe'Vey  
 DEC 18 Brianne Somerville  
 DEC 20 Sandy Molina  
 DEC 23 Lynn Swatzell  
 DEC 28 Gabriel Cruz

**Celebrate this very exceptional day of yours with the knowledge that Almighty God is guiding and watching over you as you journey through life. Have a wonderful birthday!**



Charles & Sanjuana ALLEN ~ December 10  
 Hubert & Melinda MOLINA ~ December 25