



**Things to Remember!**

- Adult Choir Rally, February 1 - 2 Travis Park UMC
- Ash Wednesday Services, February 13th @ 12:00 PM
- Lenten Suppers - Starting Wednesday, February 13th at 6:00 PM through Wednesday March 27th
- Praise Worship Service - Wednesdays at 7:00 PM (Sanctuary)
- February 28th - 9:00 AM Mobile Food Pantry
- February 28th - 11:30 AM - UMW Rummage Sale at Wesley Community Center

Greetings St. Mark's!

Our Food Pantry is running low and we are in need of the following items:

- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta / Noodles
- Saltine Crackers
- Canned Meats
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal (regular sized-box and individual boxes)
- Canned Fruit
- Chili
- Dry Milk
- Boxed Milk
- Canned Vegetables
- Dry Beans
- Dry Rice

Walmart or HEB Gift cards in various Amounts are also always appreciated!



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Thanks very much!

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# STATE OF THE CHURCH

## ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>6-Jan</u>	<u>13-Jan</u>	<u>20-Jan</u>
Children	3	3	4
Youth	11	4	11
Adults	33	44	44
Leaders	1	1	1
TOTAL SS	48	52	60
<b>Worship</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>114</b>

### GREETERS FOR JANUARY

† Bill & Fran McMahon

### TAPE MINISTRY

† Daniel Wilke



### USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

† Sue Horner

† Kathy Jack

† Susan Philbin

† Sharon Somerville



## Finance Committee Reflections:

## Sounds From the Bean Counters

Where did 2012 go? It's hard to believe we are already in 2013 where we face another year of financial challenges for St. Mark's.

However, before we get overly involved in 2013, let's look at how we did in 2012. We believe every one of you should stand before a mirror and congratulate yourself. In 2012, St. Mark's met its financial goals. Apportionments were paid in full, five star contributions were made, and we ended the year with some money in our operating account. It was not as much as we would have liked, but it certainly could have been worse. We were able to achieve our financial commitments even though our contributions were approximately \$30,000 less than budgeted. We were able to do this because of keeping our expenditures lower than budget as well. St. Mark's is an unbelievable congregation where so many people give of their time, talent and treasures. St. Mark's is able to do so many things on so little money as a result of each of you. We thank each and every one of you.

As we enter a new year, we will be up against the same financial challenges. In discussions with Pastor Jay, he firmly believes in St. Mark's and each of you and is confident that, whatever the situations might be during 2013, each of you will step forward and get us to a positive result.

We look forward to working with you in 2013, and will keep you apprised of the church's finances. We ask that you all pray for the church's financial well being and we thank you for all your continued support.

# UMW Happenings...



Wednesday, February 6th

7:00 PM - Esther Circle's meeting to be announced

Tuesday, February 19th

1:00 PM - The Martha Circle will meet at the home of Janice Coley and Mona Rosfeld

Wednesday, February 20th

9:00 AM - The Dorcas Circle will meet at the church and carpool to The Meadows

Thursday, February 28th

11:30 AM to 2:00 PM - Rummage Sale at the Wesley Center



EVERYWHERE FUN FAIR will make friends with neighbors from the Bible and explore the everyday life of neighbors from Japan, Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Mexico. We will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God's

love can be found everywhere including our own neighborhoods!

During this entire process, we will ask the congregation to join us in prayer for the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program, the adults and children who will participate, and especially for those who are in need of a church home so that they may be welcomed here.





## *Pastor's Message*

The year continues to move pretty quickly! It's already time for the season of Lent! Ash Wednesday services will be held on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. We will observe a full service at noon, which will include the imposition

of ashes. Also, we will incorporate the imposition of ashes at our Contemporary Praise service at 7 pm. You can come to one or the other...or both!

Ash Wednesday has been a very meaningful day as a prelude to the Lenten season. Growing up, I knew little about the season of Lent, and my home church didn't observe it. It wasn't until I was at seminary in 1979 that I became familiar with the themes and rituals of this powerful season. With its underlying emphasis on repentance and renewal, it fits in so well with our resolutions that we made at the beginning of the new year.

I don't know about you, but my prayer life and my Bible/Devotional study times can sometimes be sporadic at best. I have good intentions, but the time from September through December is so filled with busy activities: Pumpkin Patch, Charge Conference, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas fill most of my days and ways of being. I pray throughout the day, I read portions of God's word on the go (there's even a podcast that I get from a Jesuit group based in London entitled "Pray as you go"!)...but my soul wants and needs so much more depth. Lent is the time that is created for just such a need! We are called to stop and listen to the Lord, reflecting on our relationship with Him, renewing a right spirit within.

If you'd like to join me in a 40 day daily Lenten prayer focus, I invite you to engage in this powerful gift that God offers to us. I have a daily guide that will help us in our prayer time through prayer, reflection and journaling. Once a week we will come together with a prayer partner to pray and account to each other how our spiritual life is. If this interests you, call or speak with me and we'll put our groups of 2 or 3 prayer partners together. We'll begin on Ash Wednesday and hopefully, these 40 days will lead to a lifetime of daily prayer, one day at a time!

Whether you decide to pray in a group, with a prayer partner, or not let us all covenant to deepen our prayer life that we honor the God who saved us and gave Himself to us that we might have life and have it abundantly!

God bless you, see you in church,

*Jay*

# February 2013

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>January</caption> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>March</caption> <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> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </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	31			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							<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p><b>-OFFICE CLOSED-</b> <b>Adult Choir Rally</b></p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p><b>Adult Choir Rally</b> 8:00 AM Saturday Moming Reunion 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Homer Family (FH) 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM Kairos Outside (HC)</p>
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## Missions Offering

### Africa University

The Christian Church is growing faster in Africa than in any other continent in the world. For many years The United Methodist Church has

helped Africans to meet Christ through our missionary efforts. Now local leaders are being trained in the Africa University to lead the Church.

Africa University is a place where Africans from across the continent can come together to learn about Christ, to learn about the church, to learn about leadership. A place where they can share with each other successful methods of reaching their own people for Christ.

## ETHNIC MINISTRIES

Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso has historically provided most of the pastors to Spanish speaking congregations in Texas. Ethnic Local Church funds provide direct grants to local churches who are initiating ethnic ministries and to ethnic congregations who need special assistance. Our sister conference, the Rio Grande Conference, receives direct support for its clergy candidates through scholarships.

Most of our members are Anglo, but we live in an area that is increasingly made up of persons whose ethnic background is Hispanic, Black and Asian and we need to reach out to them.

There is one Christ and one table at which we all share bread and wine. Through this apportionment, we work to reach out to our neighbors and bring them to Christ and into our churches.

Fellow animal lovers!

Beginning in January and continuing each month, I will be collecting pet food donations to hand out as part of St. Mark's support of our community. The distributions will take place during the scheduled food truck visits.

Many folks do not realize that beloved pets are sometimes the first family members to be affected by a down-turn in a household's financial situation. These pets are turned into already overflowing shelters or worse, they are put out on the streets to fend for themselves. By assisting these families with the ability to feed their pets, many of these animals will be kept in their loving homes.

Please help me help those who have no voice and rely on us to care for them. It has been said that great civilizations are judged by their treatment of the animals and the poorest among them. Let us be judged well!

You can contact me at 342.5099 or email me at [fbllidy@satx.rr.com](mailto:fbllidy@satx.rr.com)

Bless you and thanks,

*Jerrí Ecclestone*



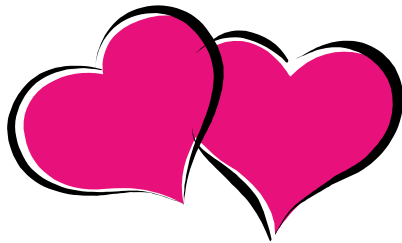
# News from the Learning Center . . .



Greetings from your friends at the Learning Center! February will be a busy month here at the Learning Center. We will be covering many fun themes in our lesson plans, such as Groundhog Day, Heart and Dental Month, and of course Valentine's Day.

We will be having our Valentine's Day parties on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers have planned a fun-filled day for the children.

They will start off with a special Valentine's Day breakfast. During the morning many fun activities, crafts, and games will be played. Lunch will follow with all kinds of great food. Our afternoon is sure to be a blast with all our Valentine cards/goodie exchanges. We are looking forward to all of the excitement and joy this day will bring!



## BIRTHDAYS/IMPORTANT DATES

February 2nd	Groundhog Day
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Valentine's Day(classroom parties)
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	President's Day
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Day(starts at 7:30AM)
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jae Dy's Birthday
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ms. Amanda's Birthday

## VALENTINE'S DAY TREAT:

### Strawberry Roll-Ups

- 4-6 inch tortilla
- Low-fat strawberry cream cheese
- 4 tablespoons strawberry jam

Spread the cream cheese evenly across each tortilla. Add 4 tablespoons of jam, spread down the center. Roll up the tortilla and slice it in half for a perfect snack.



## SPECIAL NOTE:

Learning Center Parents, we will be taking Spring Pictures on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Reminders and permission slips will be sent home prior to this date.



Have you ever considered attending the Walk to Emmaus?

## A Journey with Christ

*While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. - Luke 24:15*

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation they complete an application. The Emmaus leaders prayerfully consider each applicant and in God's time, the person is invited to attend a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle.

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ.

Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant's individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

Reference: <http://emmaus.upperroom.org>

There is a Women's Walk February 14 - 16 at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville with openings. If you think you might be interested, please contact Imogene Brown.

# Thank You

To the parishioners of St. Mark's, thank you so much for the generous gift. It has been our pleasure to serve you. God bless you always and thanks again for your love, support and thoughtfulness:

- ♥ It is a joy to serve you at St. Mark's and I look forward to making "A Joyful Noise unto the Lord." In the words of St. Augustine, "Singing is praying twice". -- Joseph Scutti, Organist
- ♥ It has been my pleasure over the years to be involved with a loving, caring, hard-working choir in presenting music to the glory of God. Your supportive response as a congregation is and has always been deeply appreciated. -- Carolyn Hahn, Choir Director
- ♥ I would like to thank each and everyone for their generous gift, I am very grateful. -- Johnny Mendoza, Custodian
- ♥ The words "thank you" cannot express how blessed I was to receive your generous gift. I am overwhelmed by the love and generosity I have experienced here at St. Mark's. I am honored and blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church and congregation. God bless you! -- Mary A. Parramore, Church Secretary
- ♥ Thank you for your love and support.-- Linda Jimenez, Wesley Nurse





# From the Wesley Nurse

## Red Dress Sunday

Faith, health, and healing have been intertwined since ancient times. Today the message of health and hope is as powerful and important as ever.

At this time, I am sharing an urgent message about heart health with all the women in our congregation and those who love them. Most women don't know their biggest health threat. Its not breast cancer, or aids, it is heart disease. Yet, most women still think it is a man's disease. A new slogan says it well: "Heart disease doesn't care what you wear-it's the #1 killer of women."

This month, some agencies have asked the women in their agency to wear a red dress as a powerful visual reminder to take care of their hearts. Our wives, mothers, daughters, nieces, and granddaughters need to learn the truth about heart disease:

- † *One out of four American women dies of heart disease.*
- † *Approximately 6 million American women have coronary disease.*
- † *Two-thirds of women who have had a heart attack do **not** make a full recovery*
- † *Heart disease can permanently damage your heart and your life.*

But there's good news too. During the month of February, we are supporting a nationwide awareness campaign called "The Heart Truth" sponsored by the federal government and many other national and community organizations.

The *Red Dress* has one main purpose: to remind everyone (women in particular)

that our hearts are not only important to our spiritual life, but to our physical life as well.

To have a healthy heart is critical to know the risk factors for heart disease, they are:

- † High blood pressure
- † High cholesterol
- † Diabetes
- † Smoking
- † Being over weight
- † Being physically inactive
- † Having a family history of early heart disease
- † Age (55 or older for women)

Having just one risk factor increases your chances of having heart disease. Your risk sky rockets with each added factor.

God has given us the job of keeping ourselves healthy. For women, this means taking the time to care for themselves. We all have the power to prevent or control heart disease, and we can do this by taking simple steps:

Don't smoke and if you do quit.  
Aim for a healthy weight.  
Get moving (physical activity).  
Eat a diet low in saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol and moderate in total fat.  
Know your numbers, as your doctor or Wesley Nurse to check your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood glucose.

Making the changes that lead to heart health is not easy, but with God's help, we can find the courage and strength to take action.

*Linda*





December 21, 2012

To the Staff of St. Mark's Church,

We would like to thank you all so much for the generous donation you provided us with again this year. The hay and pumpkins added so much to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pre-K Pumpkin Patch. The children had a great learning experience, as they moved from station to station, doing hands-on activities in various subject areas.

In the reading station, the students learned the stages in the life cycle of a pumpkin. In the science stations, they planted pumpkin seeds and used their senses to feel and guess what different materials were in empty pumpkins. In the math station, the students made fall patterns and measured pumpkins with unifix cubes.

The students also did finger plays and songs in the music and movement station. They had their photos taken with a fall background, and then they made picture frames in the art station.

The students learned so much at our Pumpkin Patch, and they had fun while doing so! Your kindness and donations helped to make it all possible. We thank you again, and we hope to have your help again next year.

Sincerely,

Arnold Pre-K Teachers

*Sarah Padilla*  
*Rosa Rodriguez*  
*Cynthia Murray*  
*Christina Vaa*  
*Natalie Urbina*



# ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .



Lord, hear our prayers. . .



Jill Anderson  
Megan Brown  
Margaret Broxton  
Bill & Isabel Centeno  
Bucky Coley  
Esdras Cuervo  
Gladys Johnson  
Mary Krwawicz  
Clay Laster  
Michael Mendoza  
Charles Mixon

PerryWayne Perryman  
Comfort Quesnell  
Gloria Reedy  
Steve Reyes Sr.  
Mike Ross  
Ed Setterfield  
Will Schuetze  
Kirk Tomerlin  
Abraham Wamah  
Martha Troop  
Jethro White

Claudia Pilar's Sister  
Family of Gladys Haas  
Family of Ralph Parr  
Pastor Cheryl Owens  
Adelma Wilkins  
Diana Russo  
Burnet Family  
Lessie Todd  
Paula Zepeda  
Family of Irma Laster  
BJ Jackson

Deborah Sanborn  
Michael Morris  
Family of Bill Simons  
D'Andre Washington  
Gloria Coe  
The Hawthorne Family  
Gene Pitman  
Family of Bud Voth

★ **HAPPY** ★  
**BIRTHDAY!**

February 3  
Ashley Ramirez

February 15  
Mildred Hood

February 5  
Emma Caragonne

February 18  
Zachary Wilke

February 9  
Clark Davis  
Greg Moss

February 22  
Sarah Tencate

February 13  
Mary Bailly

February 26  
Jeff Brown

February 13  
Xavier King

February 28  
Gladys Johnson

*Thank  
You*

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for you calls, cards and kind expressions of sympathy at the death of my brother, Monte Tomerlin. It was very thoughtful and much appreciated.

In Christ,

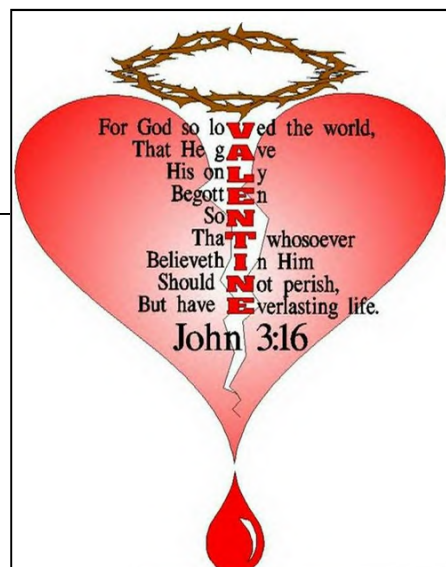
Joyce Codd

*We extend our Sincere Sympathy to . . .*



The family of Irma Laster

The family of Gladys Haas



## YOUR CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR.....Rev. Jay Brown  
 SECRETARY.....Mary Parramore  
 WESLEY NURSE.....Linda Jimenez  
 CHOIR DIRECTOR.....Carolyn Hahn  
 ORGANIST EMERITUS.....Ruth Foerster  
 ORGANIST.....Joseph Scutti  
 DIRECTOR OF LEARNING CENTER.....Julie Aguilar  
 CUSTODIAN.....Johnny Mendoza

OFFICE HOURS..... 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**CLOSED** on Friday

PHONE..... (210) 344-8393

Email: [stmarksumc@grandecom.net](mailto:stmarksumc@grandecom.net)  
[stmarkspastor@grandecom.net](mailto:stmarkspastor@grandecom.net)  
[linda.jimenez@mhm.org](mailto:linda.jimenez@mhm.org)

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



## 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

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 1902 Vance Jackson – San Antonio, Texas 78213-4455  
 (210) 344-8393  
[stmarksumc@grandecom.net](mailto:stmarksumc@grandecom.net)