

Messenger

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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

Things to Remember!

- † Sign up for Altar Flowers!!
- † Wednesday, February 4,5:30 PM VBS Meeting (FH)
- † Monday, February 16th -Finance Meeting 6:00 PM (FH)
- † Monday, February 16th -Church Council 6:30 PM (FH)
- † Wednesday, February 18th
 Ash Wednesday Services
 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- † Tuesday, February 24th -Food Truck Vouchers 9-11 (GYM)
- † Thursday, February 26th -Mobile Food Bank
- † Starting March 5th Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University
- † Tuesdays at 9:30 AM -Drive Thru Prayer
- † Praise and Communion Bi-Cultural Worship Service Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm (FH)

Vacation Bible School NFWS IIIIII

Mark your calendar now for VBS the week of June 15th! A planning meeting for St Mark's 2015 Vacation Bible School was held in December,



and was attended by six of our dedicated leaders. After prayerful consideration, we have decided to go in a new direction this year by creating our own curriculum. We are attempting to reach those children and young teens that perhaps do not have a strong background in The Good News.

With that in mind, our theme will focus on a very basic question..... Who is Jesus?

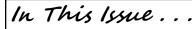
Another meeting (Wednesday, February 4th at 5:30 pm) will allow for more discussion and exchange of ideas.

God is without a doubt blessing our efforts by sending our enthusiastic pastor and experienced teachers to lead the way.

Please begin now to pray for this very special ministry, so close to the hearts of so many of our St Mark's family!

Melinda

State of the Church	2	Finance Committee Report	7
Stewardship / Altar Flower Openings	3	Memorial / Community Garden	8
Note from the Pastor	4	Notes & Notices	9
Calendar	5	Thank You Notes	10
Wesley Nurse	6	Prayers, Birthdays, Anniversaries	11





STATE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday School	12/21	12/28	01/04	01/11	01/18
Children	3	4	4	4	2
Youth	5	7	8	5	5
Adults	43	23	31	38	36
Total SS	51	34	43	47	43
Worship	119	84	69	81	83

<u>USHERS</u>

- † Tom Jack
- † Bob Bailly
- † Jeff Brown
- † Bob Mace
- † Johnny Mendoza

TAPE MINISTRY

† Daniel Wilke

<u>GREETERS</u>

† Leticia & Mario Mercado



Starting March 5 - Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU). This is a 9 week course teaching financial responsibility. Within the first 90 days of this class, the average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700. These nine lessons will teach you to get out of debt the same way you learned to walk -- one step at a time. Classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays from 6:00pm to 7:30pm from March 5 through May 7, 2015 (no class on Thursday, March 26).

The fee for the course is \$49 which includes 9 classes, member workbook, envelope system, Complete Guide to Money Book, audio CDs and case, budget forms holder, progress poster, free lesson vouchers, and access to FPU central.

If you are interested in attending this course, please contact the church office @ 210-344-8393.



Ethnic Ministries

Purpose: Support ethnic ministries in the Southwest Texas area.

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.

We live in an area that is increasingly made up of persons whose ethnic background is Hispanic, Black and Asian. Most of the members of our churches are Anglo. But that is changing as we reach out to increasing numbers of other cultures in our communities.

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.

Upcoming Altar Flower Opportunities

If you would like to sponsor the flowers on an upcoming Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call Joanne Green or the church office. The cost is \$25 and you get to enjoy a beautiful floral arrangement in your home all week! Just mark your check "Altar Flowers" and place it in the offering. Upcoming available dates are:

February 08	1 Opening
February 15	2 Openings
February 22	2 Openings
March 01	1 Opening
March 8	2 Openings
April 12	2 Openings
April 19	2 Openings





Christmas is over, a New Year has begun, Epiphany cake has been eaten and Jesus' baptism has been honored; now....get ready for it...Lent is on the way!

That's right, life goes on, fast and sometimes furious, and Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18 and will last through Holy Saturday, April 4th, giving way to Easter Sunday on April 5th. Feeling tired or overwhelmed yet?

Well, take heart, help is on the way. Lent actually is the season that helps us to get more grounded, centered and guiet, resting and relying on God's presence as we make this journey with Jesus to the cross. Many people will spend more time in contemplation, prayer and devotion; setting aside more quality time to spend in soul-searching reflection, seeking to deepen their relationship with God, Jesus and each other. There will be ample opportunities for Bible study, special worship, and various grace-filled experiences.

Here is one of the grace-filled opportunities that I'm writing about: how would you like to join with others in writing a brief reflection/devotion and prayer to be compiled in a booklet to be used by your friends this Lenten season? If you are familiar with the Upper Room Devotional, you know that ordinary people will tell a brief story (usually no more than a paragraph or two) in their own words of an experience that spoke to them. People from all walks of life; new believers, old saints, children, you name it...people who's lives have been touched by Christ and want to share with others their experience, strength and hope. Is God calling you to grow in such a way?

If so, write out a brief experience (personal and unique to you...no internet stories, poems etc that someone else wrote) of how God has touched your life or how you've seen God's love at work. Write out your personal devotion, close it with a prayer (the Lord's Prayer or one you have prayed) and turn it in to the Church Office as soon as possible; no later than Friday, Feb. 6th so we can collate it and put it all together in time for Ash Wednesday. If you've never done something like this before, let me encourage you to ask for God's help and guidance in order to offer your particular story as a gift to God and God's people. All of us have at least one example of how God has touched or is touching our lives. There's no grades, no one is going to criticize your vocabulary, your grammar, your theology...your story is your story; God's gift to you. You can thank God by sharing your gift with us! So... get your Bible out and get your pen or pencil and paper out or get your computer ready; write and share your story with us for Lent! You'll be glad you did, and so will we!

God bless you,

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	2 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC)	6:30 AM ROMEO'S @ Cracker Barrel 9:00 AM Drive Thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (F H) 2:00 PM My Healthy Child (F H) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 6:30 PM Torres Admin Coundi (F H)	4 12:00 PM Bible Study (LL) 1:00 PM Yoga (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tgers (HC) 5:30 PM VBS Meeting (FH) 6:30 PM Light Supper (FH) 7:00 PM Esther Circle 7:00 PM Praise/Bicultural Service	5 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion
8 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	9 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Conversational Spanish (LL)	6:30 AM RO MEO's @ Cracker Barrel 9:00 AM Drive Thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 2:00 PM My Healthy Child (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM NEISD Choir (FH)	11 1:00 PM Yoga (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 6:30 PM Light Supper (FH) 7:00 PM Praise/Bicultural Service	12 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Trustees (FH) 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion Valentine's Day
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	10.00 AM Exercise (F H) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 6:00 PM Finance Meeting (FH) 6:30 PM Admin C ounci (FH) 7:00 PM Conversational Spanish (LL)	6:30 AM R OMEO's @ Cracker Barrel 9:00 AM Drive Thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 2:00 PM My Healthy Child (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM NEISD Choir (FH)	9:30 AM Dorcas Circle (MM) 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 1:00 PM Yoga (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service ASH WEDNESDAY	19 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 10:00 AM NL Deadline 11:00 AM Nutritional Potluck 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion Roxanne Hinojosa (FH)
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM F-Troop	23 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Conversational Spanish (LL)	24 6:30 AM ROMEO'S @ Cracker Barrel 9:00 AM Drive Thru Prayer 9:00 AM Food Bank Vouchers (HC) 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 2:00 PM My Healthy Child (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM NEISD Choir (FH)	25 1:00 PM Yoga (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Lenten Service (FH)	9:00 AM NL Mailout (YAMS) 9:00 AM SAFood Bank Truck 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice	27 4:00 PM TX Tigers (HC) OFFICE CLOSED	28 8:00 AM Saturday Moming Reunion

Jan 2015						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mar 2015							
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					

Wesley Nurse News - January 2015

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. Locally, as with the rate of heart attacks, older Bexar County adults were more likely than younger adults to report having heart disease in 2012. Males in Bexar County were slightly more likely (5%) than females (3%) to report in 2012 that they had had a heart attack. Twenty percent of Bexar County adults age 65 years or older had heart disease, while only 1% of those between the ages of 18 and 29 years had heart disease. A greater percentage of White respondents had heart disease (8%) compared to Hispanics (4%). The rate of heart disease also varied by education and income level. A higher proportion of college graduates in Bexar (9%) than those with lower levels of education reported that they had heart disease. Compared to the rate reported by respondents with household incomes less than \$25,000 (5%), a slightly higher proportion of those incomes of more than \$50,000 (7%) reported having heart disease.

You can make healthy changes to lower your risk of developing heart disease. Controlling and preventing risk factors is also important for people who already have heart disease. To lower your risk:

- Watch your weight.
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.
- If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation.
- Get active and eat healthy.

Did you know? Just one cup of blueberries per day could be the key to reducing blood pressure and arterial stiffness, both of which are associated with cardiovascular disease. Findings suggest that the addition of a single food, blueberries, to the diet may mitigate the negative cardiovascular effects that often occur as a result of menopause.

For more information, visit the American Heart Association website at http://www.heart.org/
http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho/
FebruaryToolkit.aspx, and 2013 Bexar County Community Health Assessment Report.



Charzes Flowers, WN 210-344-8393



Finance Committee Reflections: Sounds From the Bean Counters

The holidays are now behind us and we try to get used to the New Year.

December contributions were \$27,800 which included \$12,390 from our Christmas collection. The month was \$7,800 higher than budgeted and \$5,300 greater than last December. Year-to-date, receipts were \$700 less than budgeted and \$1,100 lower than last year. This all sounds good, but it's important to realize that our other income was \$36,000 less than budgeted and \$3,200 less than last year. What is other income? When preparing our annual budget we have the amounts from commitment Sunday. We also know historically there are families that don't pledge but do give generously. We estimate this amount. These two amounts effectively become our budget contributions. We then determine the cost to operate the church. In recent years the projected operating expenses have exceeded the budget contributions. This shortfall is budgeted as "Other Income" (required to operate the church). When we don't receive this other income we are required to use funds from savings to keep St. Mark's operating as it currently operates.

Our operating expenses in December continued to be good. All expense categories were less than budgeted with the exception of Pastor and Lay Personnel Compensation. Versus December 2013, our operating expenses were slightly higher. Our operating expenses for the total year were \$13,400 lower than budgeted and \$4,100 lower than 2013. The favorableness versus the

budget is almost entirely due to Trustee spending being lower.

In December we had a cash inflow of \$8,200 which allowed us to end the year with a cash outflow of \$23,300.

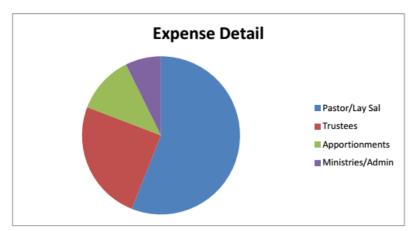
On a positive note, our apportionments were paid in full and we also achieved 5-Star status as a result of our Special Missions Giving.

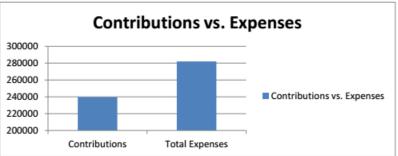
At the end of November our operating cash balance was a negative \$13,701. We finished the year with operating cash balance of a negative \$6,795. We are expecting a check from TMF (Texas Methodist Foundation) in the amount of \$4,500 which helps offset the Pastor's housing allowance for the 2nd half of 2014. We also will be receiving a check from TMF representing the interest earned on our endowment fund there. This should effectively result in our operating cash balance being near zero.

As we begin 2015, we would like to thank you all for the time, talent and treasure that has been given to St. Mark's. A day doesn't go by when there are not church members at the church volunteering their time and saving the church money. It's one of the things that make the St. Mark's community so great.

God bless!

Contributions	239616
Total Expenses	281994
Pastor/Lay Sal	158057
Trustees	69800
Apportionments	33489
Ministries/Admin	20648









Edward Vincent Sebera, Jr.

July 13, 1932 - January 10, 2015

Edward Vincent Sebera, Jr., 82, of San Antonio, passed away on January 10, 2015. He was born on July 13, 1932, in San Antonio. He is survived by his loving wife, Doris Sebera; one daughter, Sharon Rutkowski and husband Hank; 2 sons: Steve Sebera and wife Sandra, and Edward Sebera III and wife Sharon; 1 granddaughter, Jessica Gronberg and husband David; 2 grandsons Austin Sebera and wife Monica, Drew Riggs and 2 great grandchildren: Noah Sebera and Conor Sebera. He was preceded in death by his father Edward Sebera, Sr. and his wife Leona and his mother Grace Arnold Hauser; 1 daughter, Brenda Sebera and 1 granddaughter, Samantha Sebera. Ed retired from the San Antonio fire department after 35 years. He was part of the first graduating EMS class in 1974 and graduated from Peacock Military academy in 1949. He also officiated High School football for many years.

Community Garden ...

It is time to grab your hoe, some seeds or plants and to begin thinking garden!! We have sent you "info" from time to time about plots in the garden and we still have several unused spaces. We would welcome any one of you to help us out by assuming the planting and care of one of the plots. The weather has kept us very busy this winter trying to keep the plants from freezing and so far, we have been quite successful. If you have not walked out by the garden, I invite you to do so and you will be surprised by what is growing during this cold season of the year. God willing we will have another successful year and learn and grow together through another year. Perhaps adding a few more fruit trees and an arbor and who knows what else.

God Bless, Imogene

NOTES AND NOTICES

Thanks to all the many volunteers who helped in December. We fed approximately 225-250 people. I was thanked so many times for the help that the volunteers give. I had at least 35 people tell me that they pray for all the volunteers and for St Mark's. Isn't that a wonderful blessing to have others pray for you? I walked on air for a few days over that. God bless you all and thanks again for your prayers and support.

Patti Austin



Believe it or not, Easter is right around the corner. Keep your eyes and ears open for information on the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th.

Youth Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 28th, the youth of St. Mark's presented their Christmas program congregation. The theme was the "gifts" of Christmas and this was shown through presents and bible Sixteen Christmas carols were also shared with the youth group singing, a saxophone solo by Braden Somerville, a flute duet by Brooke Somerville and Sharon Somerville, and a beautiful solo of "I Wonder as I Wander" by Gloria Coe. While the youth had a great time presenting this program the congregation seemed to truly enjoy every minute of it.

Youth Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 28th, the youth of St. Mark's joined together to celebrate their friendships and the Christmas season. They met at Shenandoah Homeowners Club House where they watched the movie "Elf", made and ate pepperoni pizza and queso, played their favorite card game "Spoons", and actually played on the playground. If you have never witnessed the game of Spoons you are missing a treat as this is a very physical game similar to musical chairs only with plastic spoons and a deck of cards. It is also quite loud. After several hours of fun and friendship everyone helped clean up and went home to continue their Christmas vacations. Until the next party then.....

Midwinter Camp?

The youth are looking forward to MidWinter camp this season. This usually happens in February and we are still making plans to attend. If you have a youth interested in cost and dates please contact Susan Philbin.





Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you SO much for your loving generosity this Christmas! Your gift is appreciated more than you know. I'm so happy to be working in such a loving, caring environment and every day I am thankful for each and every one of you!!

With many thanks and good wishes for the New Year!

Pattí

My Dear Friends,

My heart is filled with gratitude not only for your generous gift, but also for your continuing encouragement to our choir.

May we, the St. Mark's congregation and as the body of Christ, always glorify God in our singing and in our living.

It has been a privilege for me to serve as your choir director.

With Love, Carolyn Dear Church,

I wish to thank the wonderful people at St. Marks for the gift you have recently given me. It is truly an honor and pleasure in serving all of you, indeed I have made a "home" here so it seems. It gives me great joy in making a "joyful noise unto the Lord" every Sunday and being able to share my talent with you all. Your generosity is humbling, thank you very much!

Very sincerely, Joseph Scutti

Dear Church,

Thank you for the blessing gift that you gave to me and my family for Christmas. We truly appreciate your generosity.

Thank you for making me a part of your family.

Love, Johnny



ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S.



Please remember these in your prayers

Jill Anderson Connor Benjamin Kylee Brown Megan Brown Margaret Broxton Bill & Isabel Centeno **Bucky Coley** Esdras Cuervo Gladys Johnson Bea Kunkel Clay Laster Alice & Ben Logan Michael Mendoza Mendoza Family Charles Mixon Ann Payette Gloria Reedy

Steve Reyes Sr.

Ella Reyes Mike Róss Will Schuetze Kirk Tomerlin Abraham Wamah Latoya Barnes Lessie Todd & Family Kaye Evans Hannah Putsche Familiy of Lorene Hollinshead Family of Andrea Dombrowski Family of Ed Sebera Ramona & Jimmy Bissett Cora Fischer Peggy Laird Andrew Price Loda Miller

Olivia Page





February 13 Mary Bailly Xavier King

February 18 Zachary Wilke

February 22 Sarah Tencate

February 26 Jeff Brown

February 28 Gladys Johnson





Our deepest Sympathies are extended to:

The Family of Angela Dombrowski
The Family of Lorene Hollinshead
The Family of Ed Sebera
and to Louise Chaffin
in the loss of her sister

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CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES

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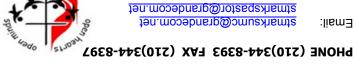
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INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY TO STRIVE TO IDENTIFY AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF

AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL TO LIVE IN THE WORLD AS

- THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP, WOR-
- TO NURTURE THEM IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SON, JESUS CHRIST
- PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH HIS TO HELP ALL PERSONS DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN A

MISSION STATEMENT



PHONE (210)344-8393 FAX (210)344-8397

www.stmarksumcsa.com

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CLOSED on Friday 9:00 am-4:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday **OFFICE HOURS**

Johnny Mendoza **CUSTODIAN** Joseph Scutti ORGANIST Carolyn Hahn CHOIR DIRECTOR

Charzes Flowers **MESLEY NURSE**

Patti Gardner **SECRETARY**

Rev. Jay Brown **AOTZA9**