



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church

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

Things to Remember:

- † Trustees Meeting, Thursday, February 8 @ 7:00 pm
- † Scouting Sunday, February 11 @ 10:30 am
- † Children's Church, Sunday, February 11 @ 10:45 am
- † Finance Meeting, Monday, February 19 @ 6:30 pm
- † Administrative Council, Monday, February 19 @ 7:00 pm
- † SA Food Bank, Thursday, February 22 @ 8:00 am
- † Children's Church, Sunday, February 25 @ 10:45 am
- † Noisy Offering, Sunday, February 25 @ 10:30 am
- † Praise & Communion Service every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm

"The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting." Psalm 50:1



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

February 14, 2018

12:00 p.m.
And
7:00 p.m.

Services will be held in the Sanctuary.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

(There will not be Praise/Communion Service Wednesday, February 14.)

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SERVING THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	12/31/17	1/7/2018	1/14/2018	1/21/2018
Children	1	3	3	2
Youth	5	5	3	4
Adults	18	18	17	14
Total SS	24	26	23	20
<u>Worship</u>				
Sunday	52	56	59	50
Wednesday Night	6	24	12	

12/24/17 Candelight Service 63

FEBRUARY USHERS

Tom Jack, Bob Bailly, Bob Mace, Braden Somerville



Altar Flower Calendar Openings

February 11	1 opening
February 18	2 openings
February 25	1 opening
March 4	1 opening
March 11	2 openings

(Arrangement can be donated for only \$30.)

February 4	John Williams
February 11	Leticia Mercado
February 18	Patti Austin
February 25	Patti Gardner



APPORTIONMENT DOLLARS HELP PRESERVE CHURCH'S RICH HISTORY

Your support of the [General Administration Fund](#) apportionment allows them to fulfill its mission in maintaining historical records of the church's rich history. One of the ways they do this is preserving stories of Methodist missionaries. Here is one of their stories from the archives:

Gertrude M. Feely was a Methodist Episcopal Church, South, missionary in Japan. She served under the guidance of the Women's Division of the MECS and after 1940 of the Methodist Church. Feely received her B.S. from the University of Missouri in 1927. She earned an M.A. from Scarritt College in Tennessee in 1930 and a Ph. D. in education from Columbia University in 1950.

Feely was a missionary for more than forty years, and worked in several Japanese cities. From 1931 to 1933, she taught English and language study at the Kure Naval Station and at Kobe. While in Oita from 1933 to 1941, Feely was involved with youth work and taught English.

In 1941, she went to the Philippines and during the Second World War was interned by the Japanese. She spent time in the Santo Tomas and Los Banos Camps and stayed with a group of Methodist missionaries at Harris Memorial Training School for some time before she was finally interned in Los Banos. She served as an interpreter for two and a half years of the war.

Upon her liberation on February 23, 1945, Feely was furloughed to the United States, where she remained until 1949. Feely returned to Japan later in 1949 and became the director of the Kobe Christian Youth Center, which opened in 1953. She continued to teach, working at the Night School, at the Palmore Institute and at Seiwa Junior College, where she was an instructor in the Old Testament. In 1954, Feely was ordained by the Church of Japan.

The collection has a variety of information about her experience as a missionary and as a person during the Second World War. There is a touching meditation that she wrote on her 36th (1939) birthday describing the challenges, both personal and emotional, involved in becoming a missionary. There are also camp newsletters produced by the internees. The last newsletter leads off with the following: "After 37 long months we celebrate our first day of freedom today with the final departure of the Japanese from the City of Manila, and await with bounding hearts our own, our friends, our allies." Feely also kept a diary during her interment. The diary was in the form of letters to a friend in Manila. She also kept a notebook which tracked conditions in the camp.

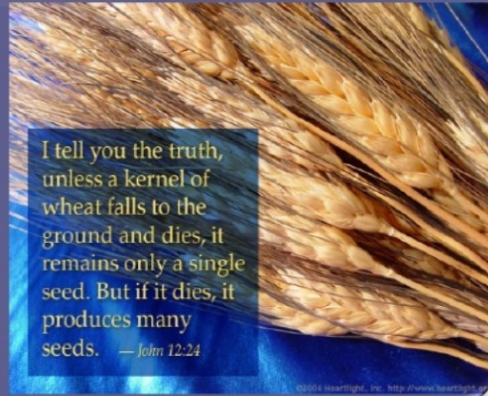
In these documents we see the humanity of the individual. She returned to Japan after the war and helped the people there re-build their lives and their church. She retired in 1972.

www.umciving.org

The 2017 **Tax Statements** were distributed Sunday morning, January 21.
If you were unable to pick yours up, it will be mailed to you
at the end of January.

What is the meaning of the word Lent?

- Lent is a Germanic word that basically means spring season.
- The Latin equivalent is *quadragesima* a word meaning "forty days".
- Spring is a time of **change and renewal**
- The winter is over life begins to grow again.
- Lent is a spiritual spring, a time for **spiritual growth and renewal**.



Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 14, with dust and ashes. On this journey of 40 days we acknowledge our human limitations and we are reminded that we are dust and to dust we will return. It is a time of change, renewal and spiritual growth.

In John 12:24, Jesus prepares his disciples for the great law of life. ²⁴“**Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.**”

“Unless a kernel of wheat **falls** to the **ground** and **dies**.” A grain of wheat contains in itself the germs of life. It remains only a single seed unless it falls to the ground and dies. That corn which dies in the earth through the bursting forth of the living germ, in this way of death, produces much fruit. Releasing the inner life-power which the husk held captive before.

In this Season of Lent, may the Holy Spirit lead us into a journey of 40 days of self-denial for our spiritual growth and renewal as people of God, and as a church in a community that more than ever needs to see that “living germ” inside of us, bursting forth. We are no longer held captive, we have been set free by Him.

Rev. Maria R. Soto

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																							
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <caption>Jan 2018</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <caption>Mar 2018</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</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	1	<p>7:45 AM Bus Stop Ministry</p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)</p>	2	<p>7:00 PM SA Choppers (GYM)</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	3	<p>9:00 AM ESL Classes (LL)</p>
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BUS STOP MINISTRY WITH STUDENTS

(by Lillian Herrera)



Last year, the Bus Stop Ministry was developed to reach middle school students who wait for the school bus near the Boy Scout Lodge. The purpose was to let the students know that God loves them, St. Mark's is here for them, and to share breakfast treats.

Melinda Molina and I were so excited each Thursday to see the ministry grow and to make new friends. After the students boarded the bus with an extra taco or two for a friend at school, Melinda and I would lift them up in prayer.

The ministry team this school year has grown. Pastor Maria Soto and Nurse Sandra Montez have joined us and share their delicious pancakes and "abuelita" hot chocolate. Nice treats to have, especially on those cold mornings.

Thanks to everyone to has helped us with this ministry. Also, thanks to Hubert Mendoza and Johnny Mendoza for lending a hand when needed. *Muchas Gracias!*



St. Mark's
Children's Council
needs a few volunteers.

If you're interested,
please contact
Patti Gardner
or Melinda Molina.

NOTES AND NOTICES



A huge THANK YOU to all who help at the monthly Food Bank distribution. Once again we served many families last month. Please come join us in doing God's work.

The next distribution will be **Thursday, FEBRUARY 22.**

We have a lot of fun! It is a great feeling to help others.

Thanks again, Patti Austin

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
- ♥ Cooking Oil



Noisy Offering

the last Sunday

of every month!



Looking for a Handyman?

Johnny Mendoza

210-765-1869



January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month



Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness.

As much as 40% of vision can be lost without a person noticing.

Although the most common forms primarily affect the middle-aged and the elderly, glaucoma can affect people of all ages.

Vision loss is caused by damage to the optic nerve. It usually happens when fluid builds up in the front part of your eye. That extra fluid increases the pressure in your eye, damaging the optic nerve.

The most common type happens gradually, where the eye does not drain fluid as well as it should (like a clogged drain). As a result, eye pressure builds and starts to damage the optic nerve. This type of glaucoma is painless and causes no vision changes at first.

Another type of Glaucoma can sometimes be a cause for a visit to the emergency room. When the drainage angle gets completely blocked, eye pressure rises very quickly. This is called an acute attack. You should call your ophthalmologist right away or you might go blind.

Here are the signs of an acute angle-closure glaucoma attack:

- o Your vision is suddenly blurry
- o You have severe eye pain
- o You have a headache
- o You feel sick to your stomach (nausea)
- o You throw up (vomit)
- o You see rainbow-colored rings or halos around lights

There is no cure for glaucoma—yet. However, medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss.

Early detection is vital to stopping the progress of the disease!

-Blessings, Sandra Montes RN Wesley Nurse



Project Transformation is a ministry within the United Methodist church. Their mission is to engage young adults in purposeful leadership and ministry, support children in holistic development, and connect churches with communities.

The ministry provides an opportunity for young adults to experience leading high quality programs working with children and youth in low income communities. The programs focus on enriching the children's minds, bodies, and spirits, however, their emphasis is in improving the literacy of the children. The ministry improves the opportunities of the children while allowing the young adults to explore their potential service in the clergy.

Project Transformation is already working in San Antonio. College age adults have been recruited from across the country and they have been working as summer programs with host churches within our conference since 2015. The college interns live together in intentional Christian community. One of the biggest struggles has been securing adequate housing for the young adults during the time that they are here in San Antonio.

St. Marks has been recommended by our district superintendent as a possible solution for their housing needs. Lovely Lane has been under-used for several years since the day care was closed. We now have the opportunity to put it to good use again. The directors of Project Transformation would like to upgrade and remodel Lovely Lane into a building where the young adults could live

during their stay in San Antonio. Some of the classrooms would be repurposed as dormitory rooms and the restrooms would be remodeled to include showers and other amenities for them. The plans are just now being discussed so we don't know all of the changes that would be required. During the summer programs there would be 30 or more young adults that would go to their assigned churches each day and return to Lovely Lane in the afternoon. One day each week they would meet as a community in the Sanctuary for a worship service. Volunteers from local churches provide them with meals each evening. There would be at least 2, more mature, adults that would act as resident hosts to stay in Lovely Lane the year round. From time to time traveling clergy, missionaries on leave, or others in San Antonio may also take advantage of a night's lodging on St. Mark's campus.

Can we afford it? St. Marks has already made the investment in a wonderful building that we are no longer using to its potential. Project Transformation will raise the funds to do the remodeling and upgrading of Lovely Lane. They will reimburse St. Marks for the additional utility expenses and assume the cost of future maintenance. The cost to St. Marks is that we will have to share the use of Lovely Lane with groups of young adults who could potentially be our future clergy. When we can make this happen it will guarantee that the property at 1902 Vance Jackson will remain a United Methodist presence in the Dellview Neighborhood.

The goal is to complete the remodel for the young adults to begin living here in the summer of 2019, but many details still need to be worked out.

For more information about Project Transformation contact John Williams or check the following site:
www.projecttransformation.org/rio-texas

SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

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

Operating Cash balance at 11/30/2017	(11,998)
Non-Designated Contributions - December	42,843
Operating Expenses:	
Council on Ministries	489
Special Mission Giving	404
Mission Giving	8,078
Administration Expense	553
Trustees	2,205
Pastor's Compensation	4,757
Lay Personnel Compensation	6,464
	22,950
Other Income/(Expense)	29,950
Operating Cash balance at 12/31/2017	37,845

Comments:

2017 Total receipts were \$9,025 higher than budgeted, while \$14,878 Lower than 2016. A larger than expected Christmas contributions resulted in our exceeding budget. A large Christmas contribution from one family made the difference.

Total year operating expenses were \$19,457 lower than budgeted and \$9,839 lower than 2016. Lower Lay personnel compensation coupled with lower Trustee expense resulted in being favorable to the budget and 2016.

December had a cash inflow of \$23,599 and for the year a cash inflow of \$34,634. In 2017 we had other contributions of \$91,192 (primarily the result of being the recipients of insurance policies left to the church).

While the year looks quite impressive, it's important to remember that without the Other Income, we would have had a cash outflow of approximately \$25,000. We can't expect similar events this year.

The Finance Committee asks you to review your level of support to St. Mark's, and ask that you keep St Mark's in your prayers.

God Bless you all.

ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .



Bob Ailerson	Esdras Cuervo	Ann Burney
Jill Anderson	Sylvia Gonzales	Manuel Cadena
Kennedee Bailey	Alice Logan	Warren Dunetz
Connor Benjamin	Michael Mendoza	Yvonne Quarles
Patty Braselton	Eric Miletti	Basilio Soto, Jr.
Kylee Brown	Gerald Morriss	Soliz Family
Megan Brown	Will Schuetze	Gonzalez Family
Bucky Coley	Kirk Tomerlin	Family of Jake
Carol Crenwelge	Kathryn Wilson	Shirley

Blessings

	Feb 9	<i>Greg Moss</i>
	Feb 11	<i>Sonia Aguirre</i>
	Feb 13	<i>Mary Bailly</i>
	Feb 13	<i>Xavier King</i>
	Feb 18	<i>Zachary Wilke</i>
	Feb 22	<i>Sarah Tencate</i>
	Feb 26	<i>Patricia Barnes</i>

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
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 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

PASTOR Rev. Maria Soto
SECRETARY Lillian Herrera
CHOIR DIRECTOR Carolyn Hahn
ORGANIST Joseph Scutti
WESLEY NURSE Sandra Montes
CUSTODIAN Johnny Mendoza

OFFICE HOURS 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday—Thursday
 CLOSED on Friday

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stmarkspastor@grandecom.net

