



**Things to Remember!**

- † YAMS Holiday Party - Friday, January 3rd
- † Tuesdays at 9:30 AM - Drive Thru Prayer
- † Wednesday Bible Study starts back on Wednesday, January 15th at 12:00 pm in LL Hall.
- † Food Truck - January 23rd
- † Praise and Communion Bi-Cultural Worship Service Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm (FH)

Another year is coming to an end. Once again your faithful support of the programs at St. Mark's have been made possible by your commitment. Thank you to each and everyone who made this happen.

Commitment Sunday was a success because of your prayers, your delicious food, and the work of many people. We started with our Prayer Vigil Saturday led by Imogene Brown. Our meal was put together with Sue Horner and Imogene's leadership and hard work, along with the Yams Class preparing the brisket, serving, and cleaning up. The Yams and Koinonia Classes donated the briskets. Virginia Barlow's fall decorations made our tables look so festive. The Youth helped serve those who needed a helping hand.

Before that could happen Mary Parramore and Johnny Mendoza had contributed their expertise doing all the paper work and setting up the gym. Lynda Swatzell, Sherry Wilke, Mary Jo and Joe Price quickly put all the numbers together for us.

Last, but not least, Pastor Jay's guidance and his sermon made this a special day.

*Lucille Armitage*

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# STATE OF THE CHURCH

## FAITH IN ACTION



<u>Sunday School</u>	12/1	12/8	12/15
Children	2	6	1
Youth	9	7	5
Adults	42	41	39
<b>Total SS</b>	54	55	45
<u>Worship</u>	109	88	100

### USHERS

- † Joe Price
- † Stephanie Bercegeay
- † Carl Swatzell
- † Rob Remig

### TAPE MINISTRY

- † Daniel Wilke

### GREETERS

- † Kim and Jake Durick



## Finance Committee Reflections: Sounds From the Bean Counters

This year is quickly coming to an end. As you prepare for Christmas and the New Year, we ask that you keep St. Mark's in your thoughts and prayers.

Contributions in November were nearly the same as last year, but were almost \$1,500 lower than budgeted. Year-to-date contributions are \$6,600 higher than 2012 while \$5,000 behind the budget.

Operating expenses in November were \$13,300 higher than November 2012 and \$7,300 higher than budgeted. Compared to last year, most expense areas were higher. The most significant variance relates to Mission Giving, where we made payments to reach our annual commitment. November was a five-week month; therefore, payroll expenses were higher compared to last year. Year-to-date, our operating expenses are \$18,800 higher than last year while \$4,800 lower than budgeted. Mission Giving is significantly higher than last November as a result of our apportionment payments. Pastor Compensation is higher as a result of a full year with a full-time pastor. Both Trustee Spending and Christian Formation are lower. Versus the budget, Mission Giving is higher while Trustees, Pastor Compensation and Lay Personnel are less than budgeted.

At this point, we would like to thank you all for your financial support to the congregation. This is the first time this century that our apportionments have been paid in full before December. Congratulations to each and every one of you. All December contributions designated for apportionments will be used to get a quick start in 2014.

Our operating cash balance at the end of October was \$1,920. At the end of November, the balance is \$3,363. We did transfer \$5,000 from our TMF operating account and \$4,500 from the Parsonage account which helped us maintain the positive balance.

As 2013 comes to a close, we would like to thank everyone. Without your generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure, we would be unable to meet our financial needs. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.



Rev. Cheryl A. Owens went home to be with the Lord, November 29, 2013.

Cheryl was born July 15, 1947 in Brady, TX. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Alline Harwell.

She is survived by her children, William Alan Owens and wife Nina, John Walter Owens and Angela Owens Moss; grandchildren Gregory Scott Moss, Austin Curtis Owens, Allison Marie Owens; brothers, Billy Harwell and wife Sue, Tom Harwell and wife Judy and numerous nieces, nephews and many dear friends.

Cheryl was loved by so many and touch more lives than she ever knew. She was a Methodist minister for over 25 years in the Southwest Texas Conference and was loved by her congregations. She spent years teaching, counseling, supporting, and caring for those around her. She will be remembered for her gracious and loving spirit.

Most importantly, Cheryl was an amazing mother and grandmother who gave her all for her children. She will be missed more than words can say and loved forever.



In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. The family would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Rasco and the START Center for their dedication and perseverance in fighting pancreatic cancer and to Vitas Hospice for their care and support during the end her of life.





Merry Christmas! I hope that you have been able to focus on the reason for the season: Jesus Christ! It is sometimes difficult to do so with all the clang and clamor of the worldly values that are shoved in front of us day and night. I see lights and lines everywhere as people rush to get to the next event, to buy the next gadget, to get the best deal, to pay homage to Santa Claus, trying to fill the empty void of their lives with the things of this world. Sadly, the only One who offers peace, wholeness and holiness, meaning and relevancy gets lost in the craziness of crass consumerism.

How are you coping with the season? I pray that we can take some time to stay grounded; reading God's word; listening for the still, calm voice of Christ; basking in the glow of God's love as we offer hope and assurance to those we encounter: friends, family and the ones that the Lord has placed in our lives. Turn off the tv, the radio, the music (even if it is Christmas music!) just for awhile... unplug and unwind. Let the real love and light of the season embrace us and enfold us with a depth of love that the world will never know or even comprehend. The shepherds watched their flocks at midnight, with only the night sky for entertainment. They were rewarded with the sights and songs of the angels proclaiming the birth of Christ! The priests and people of God, who had prayed and looked for such a miracle for hundreds of years missed out; they slept through the moment that would change all life forever.

Christ still comes. How tragic, how infinitely sad would it be to miss him because of mindless, meaningless misplaced focus. We will seek what matters most to us; who or what will it be? Jesus Christ or the World? We have been saved; that's the great good news! But God is not finished with us yet! There are still gifts of the spirit to unwrap, each and every day and they are not to be limited by being found under a Christmas tree. Enjoy the time; enjoy the season; have fun; stay safe...and stay focused on the One who is the reason for the season. Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year! Dios le bendiga! God bless you!

*Jay*

# January 2014

Monthly Planner

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;"> <caption>December 13</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>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>February 14</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></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</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		<p><i>1</i></p> <p><b>*New Years Day</b> -OFFICE CLOSED-</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>-OFFICE CLOSED- YAMS Christmas/New Years Party 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion</p>
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## PERSONAL ENERGY TRANSPORTATION TEXAS

PET San Antonio  
P.O. Box 941, Helotes, TX 78023

December 6, 2013

St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
1902 Vance Jackson Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78213-4455

Dear Members of St. Mark's United Methodist Church,

On behalf of Personal Energy Transportation Texas (PET San Antonio), we acknowledge and thank you for your most recent donation from the Missions Committee bringing the "Gift of Mobility" to disabled people in underdeveloped countries throughout the world. It is the continued donations of PET friends, such as you, who are a key part of our organization's continued success.

We also would like to thank you for allowing us to participate in the recent barbecue held at St. Mark's.

Thanks to donations like yours, PET San Antonio continues to succeed on many levels. Our product, a three-wheeled, off-road wheelchair, operated by hand power. It is designed for people who have lost the use of their legs due to birth defects, diabetes, war injuries, spinal cord injuries, polio, land mines and amputations. These rugged wheelchairs have succeeded in rural locations on unpaved terrain where conventional wheelchairs have failed. The vision of a retired missionary and funded entirely by tax-deductible donations, PETs are built by caring hands of dedicated volunteers in 13 locations around the United States and in 4 other countries. They are shipped into 49 countries that have limited resources, including such places as Mexico, Africa, Honduras, Ukraine, India, Nigeria, Vietnam and Afghanistan. A PET can be built and shipped anywhere for the cost of \$250.

Personal Energy Transportation Texas – PET San Antonio is an outreach ministry whose goal is to deliver these wheelchairs, at no cost, to disabled people around the world. Recipients' lives are changed. Socialization is increased for those previously isolated in their remote homes and villages. Some are able to go to school or return to work and lead more active, productive lives. They no longer have to crawl to get from one place to another or rely on others to carry them. Dignity is returned. Also, operating the hand-cranked PET restores overall physical strength and health. PET is more than wood, metal and paint – it is gift of hope. Please pray for the continued success of PET.

The grant from the Shield-Ayres Foundation was only for three years and is not renewable. Therefore we are asking our friends of PET if they know of other foundations that might want to support what we do. We are a faith-based, 501(c)(3), tax-deductible, volunteer organization. Please contact Tom Martin if you know of any other foundations.

If time allows, please visit the PET website at <http://www.petsanantonio.org> and learn more about how we are putting your generous donation to work.

Thank you for caring. Your continued prayers and support will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Tom Martin*   
Tom Martin

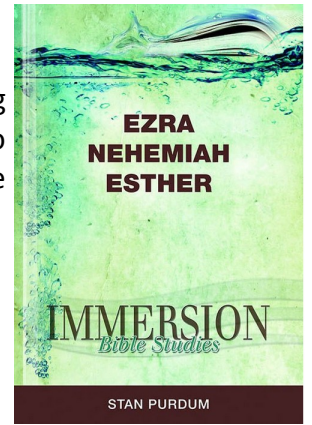
*Bringing the "Gift of Mobility" to disabled people around the world*

### Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday Bible Study continues... Join us for a 6-week study beginning January 15 - February 19 on Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. We will continue to meet from Noon - 1:00 PM on Wednesdays. Study books are \$10.00 and will be available the first of January.

Contact Patti Gardner if you are interested in joining us!

(830-431-3157 or [pjdgardner@aol.com](mailto:pjdgardner@aol.com))



The YAMS Sunday School Class Holiday Party will be Friday, January 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Please join us for fun, games and munching.

### Stewardship Moment

According to the United Methodist Church Communications, of each dollar that you give:

- † 83.2 cents stays in your local church for ministries and expenses
- † Less than 4 cents goes to United Methodist church wide missions, salaries, and administrative costs
- † 12.8 cents goes for regional ministries in your annual conference and jurisdiction.

To paraphrase John Wesley's words: ***Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can.***

One way to accomplish this task is through apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the general church budgets to conferences (which subsequently apportion to local churches). This method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition and a personal lifelong commitment.

Together, through connected congregations, United Methodists accomplish what no single church, district, or annual conference ever could hope to do. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work.





UMW Circles will observe a Day of Prayer and Self Denial during the month of January at their individual circle meetings.

The Dorcas Circle will meet January 15th at the Meadows, meeting at the church at 9:00 for anyone wishing to carpool.

Thanks to everyone for making this year's Angel Tree a resounding success. We had the same number of angels but far fewer volunteers so I was very worried, but you made me so proud when all the angels were taken. These children truly appreciate their gifts and are so needy (and from the church neighborhood). Everyone of you can add a little star in your own halo. We even had a volunteer buy undies and socks to add to the gifts because she missed out on an individual angel. Thanks again to everyone!!



### Youth Fund Raising



Are you still looking for a gift for someone who is home-bound or who may not be able to get out much? The All Occasion cards from the Youth Fund Raising project make great gifts and are only \$6.

The calendars are also just \$6 and are filled with truly beautiful pictures. If you are in need of any of these simply ask one of the youth or contact Susan Philbin at 313-5929.



The money raised by the youth will help pay their way to Mid-Winter camp in February.

You know my needs, Jesus.

Yes I do, Ann.

You know what I'm going to ask of you before I even ask.

Of course, Ann. And maybe someday your needs and what you ask of me will be the same thing.



# Healthy Cooking

## Adapted from Cooking Light

This recipe is modified a little based on comments from people who have tried it. All you need is twenty minutes to get this dish in the slow cooker. You'll have a hearty chicken and veggie supper waiting for you when you get home. If you don't care to use the wine, you can use 1/2 cup of additional chicken broth.

### Ingredients

1 3/4 cups vertically sliced onion  
Cooking spray  
2 cups baby carrots  
6 small round red potatoes (about 1 pound), cut into 1/4-inch slices  
1/2 cup fat-free, lower-sodium chicken broth  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
3/4 teaspoon salt, divided  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided  
1 teaspoon paprika  
6 (6-ounce) bone-in chicken thighs, skinned  
1 teaspoon olive oil  
Chopped fresh thyme (optional)

### Nutritional Information

#### Amount per serving

Calories: 229  
Calories from fat: 0.0%  
Fat: 4.9g  
Saturated fat: 1.1g  
Monounsaturated fat: 1.7g  
Polyunsaturated fat: 1.1g  
Protein: 21.7g  
Carbohydrate: 20.7g  
Fiber: 3.2g  
Cholesterol: 80mg  
Iron: 2.6mg  
Sodium: 454mg  
Calcium: 51mg

### Preparation:

1. Place onion in a 6-quart electric slow-cooker coated with cooking spray; top with carrots and potatoes.
2. Combine broth, next 3 ingredients, 1/2 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp pepper. Pour over vegetables
3. Combine paprika, remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt, and remaining 1/4 teaspoon pepper; rub over chicken. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add oil to pan; swirl to coat. Add chicken. Cook 3 minutes on each side or until browned. Arrange chicken on top of vegetables.
4. Cover and cook on LOW for 5 hours or until chicken is done and vegetables are tender. Garnish with additional thyme, if desired.



## The Wicker Basket



The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again. This time the boy ran faster, but again the old wicker basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was 'impossible to carry water in a basket,' and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket."

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it was clean.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. *You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.*"

**Moral of the story:** Take time to read a portion of God's word each day; it will affect you for good even if you don't retain a word.

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

Jill Anderson  
 Kylee Brown  
 Megan Brown  
 Margaret Broxton  
 Bill & Isabel Centeno  
 Bucky Coley  
 Esdras Cuervo  
 Gladys Johnson  
 Mary Krwawicz  
 Bea Kunkel  
 Clay Laster  
 Alice & Ben Logan  
 Michael Mendoza  
 Charles Mixon  
 Gloria Reedy  
 Steve Reyes Sr.

Mike Ross  
 Family of Ed Setterfield  
 Will Schuetze  
 Kirk Tomerlin  
 Abraham Wamah  
 Gene Pitman  
 Connie Wells  
 Diana Russo  
 Chris Baird  
 Lee Rux  
 Northcut family  
 Lynn Mullican family  
 Margery Green  
 Tricia Garcia  
 Garrett Spears  
 Deborah Ramirez  
 Gretchen Tinkle

Anna Reyes & children  
 Phyllis McLeon  
 Joanne Green  
 Lucas Ortega  
 Justin Kaiser  
 Mamie Lemley  
 Family of Cheryl Owens  
 Glenn William  
 Family of Willetta Parish  
 Tim Williams  
 Virginia Thornton  
 Mendoza family  
 Family of Mary McKinney  
 Catherine Salamore  
 Maggie Wallace  
 Peggy Hensley  
 Marilyn Bonner



Juan Quinones  
 Jeff Donnell  
 Susie Rosas  
 Donna Tawkoyt  
 Carol Felkner  
 Shaun Gibson  
 Brian Bockman  
 Joyce McCoig



January 1 Diane Haag	January 8 Wayne Adams, Sr.	January 18 Mary Jo Price	January 31 Susan Thornton
January 6 Patsy Perryman Virginia Thornton	January 9 Patti Austin	January 19 Daniel Wilke	<i>Happy Belated Birthday To Linda Cerde December 27th</i>
January 7 Bea Kunkel Charles Mixon Lynda Swatzell	January 10 Hunter Hoffman	January 20 Mary Krwawicz	
January 16 Bob Bailly	January 12 Clay Laster	January 21 Sarah Brown Ridolpho	
January 17 Ann Brown	January 28 Stephen Reyes, Jr.	January 29 Mary Katherine Schmidt	



*Wishing a Happy Belated  
 Anniversary to  
 Melinda and Hubert Molina  
 On December 25th  
 And Happy Anniversary to  
 Ann & Jay Brown on  
 January 1st*

*Happy  
 Anniversary*



*May God  
 Grant you Comfort  
 and Peace*

*Sincere Sympathy...*

*To the families of  
 Cheryl Owens  
 and  
 Ed Setterfield*

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

**YOUR CHURCH STAFF**

PASTOR.....Rev. Jay Brown  
 SECRETARY.....Mary Faramore  
 CHOIR DIRECTOR.....Carolyn Hahn  
 ORGANIST EMERITUS.....Ruth Foerster  
 ORGANIST.....Joseph Scutti  
 CUSTODIAN.....Johnny Mendoza

OFFICE HOURS.....9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
**CLOSED** on Friday  
 PHONE.....(210) 344-8393  
 FAX.....(210) 344-8397

Email: [stmarksumc@grandecom.net](mailto:stmarksumc@grandecom.net)  
[stmarkspastor@grandecom.net](mailto:stmarkspastor@grandecom.net)  
 Website: [www.stmarksumcsa.com](http://www.stmarksumcsa.com)

