



# Messenger

St. Mark's  
United Methodist Church

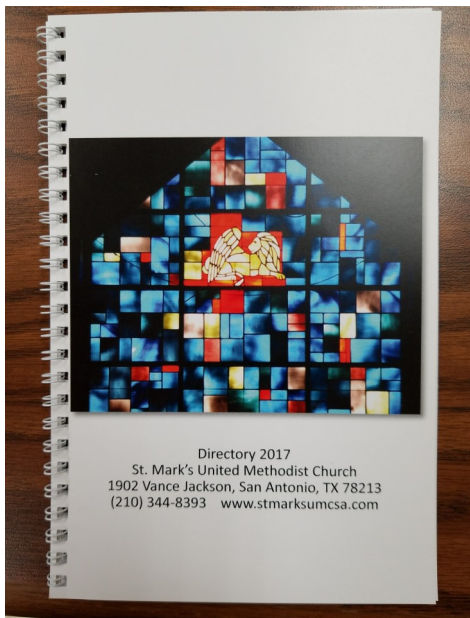
1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213  
210-344-8393

## Things to Remember:

- † **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- † Office Closed, Monday AND Tuesday, January 1 & 2
- † Trustees Meeting, Thursday, January 11 @ 7:00 pm
- † Administrative Council Planning Session, Saturday, January 13 @ 9:30 am
- † Office Closed, Monday January 15, MLK Holiday
- † SA Food Bank, Thursday, January 25 @ 8:00 am
- † Noisy Offering, Sunday, January 28 @ 10:30 am
- † Praise & Communion Service every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm
- † ***"Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Isaiah 60:1***  
***SHINE, JESUS, SHINE***

## CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE IN

The 2017 Church Directories are in. If you haven't picked up your new directory, please stop by the office or the foyer to get your copy! For those who were unable to participate but would like to purchase a copy, you can do so for a donation.



**IN THIS  
ISSUE**

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

## SERVING THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	11/26/17	12/03/17	12/10/17	12/17/17	12/24/17
Children	1	3	2	-	2
Youth	1	3	2	4	4
Adults	13	17	17	11	14
<b>Total SS</b>	15	23	21	15	20
<u>Worship</u>					
Sunday	49	66	55	64	74
Wednesday Night	16	18	16	17	No Service

### JANUARY USHERS

**Rob Remig, Joe Price, Johnny Mendoza**



### Altar Flower Calendar Openings



January 7	1 opening	February 4	1 opening
January 14	1 opening	February 11	1 opening
January 21	1 opening	February 18	2 openings
January 28	1 opening	February 25	1 opening

(A beautiful arrangement can be donated for only \$30.)

January 7	Dorothy Mace
January 14	Melinda Molina
January 21	Susan Philbin
January 28	Cynthia Ramirez



## WE GIVE TO MINISTER IN JESUS' NAME

When we *give* to support the missions and ministry of the Church, we create a climate of *giving* that causes the whole United Methodist Church connection to do more good.

The United Methodist Church's special *giving* structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

We *give* because . . . JESUS INVITES US TO

We *give* because . . . MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN

We *give* because . . . IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We *give* because . . . MANY TOGETHER ARE GREATER THAN ONE ALONE

Living God, you are the King of kings and Lord of lords. You rule the universe with all wisdom and tremendous compassion. We are awed that you have invited us to be counted among your children. Our times and our lives are in your loving hands. We want to follow Christ, your Son, as true disciples in our daily lives. Empower us by your Spirit to speak words of grace to our loved ones and to extend your hospitality to strangers. May we *give* generously from all that we have received from you. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to your service in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Amen (*Matthew 26:31-46*)

[www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)

The 2017 **Tax Statements** will be available after the first of the year in the foyer. If you are unable to pick yours up, it will be mailed to you at the end of January.

### PRAISE & FELLOWSHIP *(by Melinda Molina)*

The Wednesday evening Praise Services before Thanksgiving and Christmas were made extra special by the loving hands of Pastor Maria Soto. She had the Fellowship Hall looking extra festive and chose to cook the main dish on both nights. Fellowship was relaxing as we feasted on all the delicious dishes brought by others. The messages both evenings were short but powerful, and the music extra special as we prepared for the birth of Jesus.



## From Rev. Soto's Desk

December 25, 2017



*A year already has passed, and we are facing a new-year looking to see how this New Year is going to be for all of us. We want it to be the year where we accomplish new goals, or maybe to finish what we started that for some reason we were not able to get done. We have new ideas, new challenges and 365 days (if it is God's will) to live and experience new victories.*

*We reflect on the need to have new resolutions, for each new year. To even imagine that the Lord has the same thought in mind for us is sometimes far from our expectations. Very often we are the ones making new resolutions for ourselves. What I find most fascinating is God's desire, willingness and passion to do wonders and amazing things to us. The reading in Isaiah 43:19 "**Behold, I will do a new thing**; now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? **I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.**" is a promise of God that he will do a new thing. A promise that he will make a way in the most extreme situations of our lives. Whatever the situation is, be of danger, overwhelming situation, desperation, or in the absence of resources in life; The Lord says that **he will do a new thing** in the loneliest, desolate, unproductive, and overwhelming situation any human can ever encounter.*

*This New Year I want to ponder on God's new thing for me in ministry, our congregation and my personal life. It really brings excitement and great expectation knowing that he has plans for us. The Lord's desire is to do a new thing in St. Mark's and in each of us. The new and unprecedented is present in God's wonderful character; this is God's manifestation of Power and Love!*

*From the pastor's pen: Rev. Maria R. Soto ; Feliz Año Nuevo !*

## January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																	
	<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b> 1:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (LL) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)	<b>4</b> 7:45 AM Bus Stop Ministry 10:00 AM Exercise (FH)	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM ESL Classes (LL)																																																																																																																	
<b>7</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	<b>9</b> 6:30 AM ROMEO's 10:00 AM Exercise (FH)	<b>10</b> 1:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (LL) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)	<b>11</b> 7:45 AM Bus Stop Ministry 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 7:00 PM Trustees (FH)	<b>12</b> Office Closed	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM ESL Classes (LL) 9:30 AM Administrative Council Planning Session																																																																																																																	
<b>14</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Choir Practice	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH) <b>Office Closed - MLK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30 AM ROMEO's 10:00 AM Exercise (FH)	<b>17</b> 1:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (LL) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)	<b>18</b> 7:45 AM Bus Stop Ministry 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 10:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 11:00 AM Nutritional Potluck (FH)	<b>19</b> Office Closed	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM ESL Classes (LL)																																																																																																																	
<b>21</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Choir Practice	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	<b>23</b> 6:30 AM ROMEO's 10:00 AM Exercise (FH)	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (LL) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)	<b>25</b> 7:45 AM Bus Stop Ministry 8:00 AM SA Mobile Food Bank 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) Newsletter Mail Out (YAMS)	<b>26</b> 8:00 AM Healthcare Ministry Team Mtg (FH) <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 AM ESL Classes (LL)																																																																																																																	
<b>28</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Choir Practice Noisy Offering	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	<b>30</b> 6:30 AM ROMEO's 10:00 AM Exercise (FH)	<b>31</b> 1:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (LL) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="padding: 5px;">Dec 2017</th> <th colspan="7" style="padding: 5px;">Feb 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">S</th><th style="padding: 5px;">M</th><th style="padding: 5px;">T</th><th style="padding: 5px;">W</th><th style="padding: 5px;">T</th><th style="padding: 5px;">F</th><th style="padding: 5px;">S</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">S</th><th style="padding: 5px;">M</th><th style="padding: 5px;">T</th><th style="padding: 5px;">W</th><th style="padding: 5px;">T</th><th style="padding: 5px;">F</th><th style="padding: 5px;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>			Dec 2017							Feb 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2						1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28				31													
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## CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK'S

*(by Rob Remig)*



The sanctuary was a beautiful sight during Advent and it set the mood of waiting and expectation of the Christ Child at Christmas. Thanks to those who decorated the altar, windows, tree, and to those who gave the poinsettias in honor and memory of loved-ones. And what a perfect setting it has been for the worshipful and joyful hymns sung by the Chancel Choir.

Pastor Soto and Rey send their blessings to all at Christmas and throughout the New Year!



# NOTES AND NOTICES



A great big THANK YOU to all who helped at the Food Truck distribution. We served many families all year. Please come join us in doing God's work **JANUARY 25**. We have a lot of fun! It is a great feeling to help others.  
Thanks again, Patti Austin

Looking for a Handyman?  
**Johnny Mendoza**  
210-765-1869



## 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



**Don't forget our Noisy**  
**Offering the last Sunday of every month!**

## ANGEL TREE (by Susan Philbin)

Once again this year St. Mark's knocked it out of the park providing gifts for 20 needy children at Arnold Elementary School. Each child received 2 gifts - one clothing gift and one nonclothing (toy) gift. Katanna Larralde was so excited to see all the gifts show up for these students and we even took a box of the toys from Lovely Lane. She said that the next day they were holding an ugly sweater contest and they would be wonderful prizes for that contest. Thank you St. Mark's congregation once more for joyfully giving to these wonderful children. Merry Christmas.



## Blessings to all this New Year of 2018!

I would like to offer information that may be of interest to you. Please review the questions below. You may submit your responses by Email to [smontes@MHM.org](mailto:smontes@MHM.org) Phone 210-344-8393 Or submitting this form into a box that will be provided at the back of the church.

I am also available to meet privately to discuss any health related questions you may have.

### Topics for Health Education ?

#### Body

- Nutrition
- Health tests-lab work
- Sleep

#### Mind

- Habits of Happiness
- Stress management
- Grief support

#### Spirit

- Health benefits of prayer
- Healthy Aging

#### Other

- Fall prevention
- Disaster preparedness
- Child proofing
- Smoking cessation



Are you interested in any of the following?

- ⇒ Immunizations?
- ⇒ Vision screening?
- ⇒ Blood drive"
- ⇒ Mammography mobile?
- ⇒ Dental screening?
- ⇒ Other suggestions?

I am looking forward to embarking this venture with you!

Yours in Christ,

**Sandra Montes RN, Wesley Nurse**

### ANNUAL BUNCO (by Melinda Molina)

What a fun and festive time the women of St. Mark's had on the morning of December 2. The UMW's annual bunco Christmas party began with the piano playing of Lynette Ramon as she led us in some favorite Christmas songs. Pastor Soto then shared her memories of growing up in Puerto Rico, focusing on the traditions of the season. Food was of big interest and we all listened attentively, enjoying her often humorous descriptions. Lots of delicious food was offered and enjoyed by all before the games began. Thanks to the Esther Circle for all the effort they put in to making the event both beautiful and memorable.







## SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

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

Operating Cash balance at 10/31/2017	483
Non-Designated Contributions - November	12,798
Operating Expenses:	
Council on Ministries	1,364
Special Mission Giving	0
Mission Giving	1,130
Administration	
Expense	84
Trustees	11,517
Pastor's	
Compensation	5,433
Lay Personnel Compensation	5,431
	<hr/>
	24,959
Other Income/(Expense)	<hr/> <u>(320)</u>
Operating Cash balance at 11/30/2017	<hr/> <u>(11,998)</u>

### Comments:

October contributions were \$1,164 less than budgeted and \$2,378 less than November 2016. Other income was \$156 less than budgeted and \$487 higher than 2016.

Operating expenses were \$3,098 higher than budgeted and \$5,826 higher than 2016. Versus the budget Operating expenses were unfavorable primarily due Trustee expenses, which were partially offset by lower Mission Giving and Lay Compensation. Versus 2016, operating expenses are primarily the result of Trustee Expenses.

October had a cash outflow of \$11,116. Our operating cash balance decreased to a negative \$11,998.

As we are in the Christmas season, we ask that you be as generous as possible with regards to St. Mark's. Since our operating cash balance is negative and we still owe nearly \$8,000 for apportionments to achieve our annual commitment, we will need to transfer funds from our TMF operations savings account. Your donations will reduce the amount needed to be transferred.

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    | Carol Crenwelge | Kathryn Wilson    |
| Jill Anderson   | Esdras Cuervo   | Calvin Schovajsa  |
| Kennedee Bailey | Sylvia Gonzales | Loda Joan Miller  |
| Connor Benjamin | Alice Logan     | Eduardo Lagos     |
| Patty Braselton | Michael Mendoza | Basilio Soto, Jr. |
| Kylee Brown     | Eric Milette    | Elizabeth Cruz    |
| Megan Brown     | Gerald Morriss  | family            |
| Bucky Coley     | Will Schuetze   | Mary Jo Price     |
|                 | Kirk Tomerlin   |                   |

Our sincere sympathy to the family of :  
 Lisa Travieso  
 You remain in our thoughts and prayers.



- Jan 1 Diane Haag
- Jan 4 Reynaldo Rodriguez
- Jan 5 Abraham Cruz
- Jan 6 Patsy Perryman
- Jan 8 Wayne Adams, Sr.
- Jan 9 Patti Austin
- Jan 9 Carl Swatzell
- Jan 10 Hunter Hoffman
- Jan 12 Richard Burchfield
- Jan 16 Bob Bailly
- Jan 17 Mikayla Mendez
- Jan 18 Mary Jo Price
- Jan 19 Daniel Wilke
- Jan 27 Zoe Cruz
- Jan 28 Stephen Reyes, Jr.
- Jan 29 Mary-Kathryn Schmidt

Ralph & Patsy  
 PERRYMAN  
 (January 21)



Tom & Kathy  
 JACK  
 (January 23)

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, 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



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

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

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

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