



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church

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

Regular Weekly Activities:

- † Praise, Bible Study,
Communion, Wednesday,
January 8 @ 5 pm
- † Children's Church,
Sunday, January 12
@ 10:45 am
- † Praise, Bible Study, Wed
January 15 @ 5 pm
- † Children's Sermon,
Sunday, January 19
@ 10:45 am
- † Praise, Bible Study, Wed
January 22 @ 5 pm
- † Children's Church,
Sunday, January 26
@ 10:45 am
- † Praise, Bible Study, Wed
January 29 @ 5 pm

ANGEL TREE

Wow!! St. Mark's you did it again!! This year we helped 12 Angels from Arnold Elementary and 10 Angels from Longfellow Middle School. Every year I worry can we support an Angel Tree and every year you amaze me. Each child received a clothing gift and a non-clothing gift like a toy or a tin of popcorn. There were so many gifts and we even had a couple of people say they missed the angels but here are a couple of gifts to add in case there are any other needy children. AMAZING!!! Thanks to everyone for making Christmas merry for so many.

Susan Philbin



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

SERVE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	11/24/2019	12/1/2019	12/8/2019	1/15/2019
Youth	4	3	3	3
Adults	16	14	10	19
Total SS	20	17	13	22
WORSHIP				
Sunday	66	47	57	60
Wednesday Night	8	7	7	--



Rob Remig
 Daniel Wilke
 Mario Mercado
 Johnny Mendoza



Thanks to everyone who was able to dedicate altar flowers in 2019. If you are interested in participating in 2020, contact Joanne Green. Cost remains at \$30, which is a really great price!



Children's Church

Schedule will be announced soon. Would you like to volunteer? Call the office for information.



The schedule for 2019 will be announced soon. St. Mark's is blessed by all who faithfully served as liturgist in 2019. May God bless you!

PASTOR: Rev. Maria Soto 210-344-8393

SECRETARY: Lillian Herrera CUSTODIAN: Johnny Mendoza
 CHOIR DIRECTOR: Carolyn Hahn WESLEY NURSE: Rose Miranda

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m - 2:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday Closed Friday

EMAIL: stmarksumc@grandecom.net WEBSITE: www.stmarksumcsa.com



With Your Help The United Methodist Church is Making a Difference

SUICIDE SURVIVOR REACHES OUT TO OTHER YOUTH TO HELP STOP THE CYCLE.

When Tanaya Winder took an overseas semester from Stanford University to study at Oxford University in England, she received news that one of her best friends at Stanford had died of suicide. Her world shattered, and she had trouble continuing her studies.

“I was so sad,” she said. “I’d never been that sad.” Later that summer, she got involved with University of Colorado Upward Bound (CUUB), a program that she had attended while in high school. CUUB works with indigenous youth from eight different reservations. Tanaya is an enrolled member of the Duckwater Shoshone tribe. She grew up on the Southern Ute Reservation in southern Colorado.

“At the beginning, a lot of working with UB was that I couldn’t save my friend, but I could work with these kids and explore their passions and dreams,” Winder remembered. “I don’t ever want anyone to feel that they have nothing left. “My work gives me insight into what Native youth struggle with but also what they hope for – and how important they are, and how many amazing things they have inside of them,” Winder continued. “Through Dream Warriors, we create more paths of possibility. Youth begin to see, maybe I can be a hip-hop writer. Maybe I can be a role model.” Dream Warriors is a collective of North American Indigenous artists who believe in uplifting others through

storytelling, poetry, music, workshops and performance. They present culturally appropriate suicide and substance abuse prevention workshops, free concerts, linkages to mental health services, and instruction in writing and creative expression.

In January 2019, the United Methodist Committee on Relief partnered with Dream Warriors to support the “Heal It” Project, which the group developed to harness art’s power to transform, heal and connect individuals, families, communities and society. They seek to reach youth in schools with predominantly Native American enrollment. Last year, they visited schools in Oklahoma. This year, with UMCOR’s support, they were able to reach reservation schools in South Dakota. The “Heal It” Project encourages students to use poems and songs to find their dreams and create their own definition of success. Dream Warriors perform hip-hop songs and then tell the stories behind the songs – stories that resonate with the youth. They talk about growing up on a reservation, coming from a single-parent household, experiencing physical abuse or drug addiction and they share other stories of struggle and resilience.

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR Sunday calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Your gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God’s love with communities everywhere. The special offering underwrites UMCOR’s “costs of doing business.” www.umcgiving.org



Apportionments

ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER - 2019

Operating Cash Balance on October 31, 2019	2,534
Non-Designated Contributions - November	32,559
Operating Expenses	17,106
Other Income/(Expense)	2,245
Operating Cash Balance on November 30, 2019	20,232

November receipts were \$20,731 higher than budgeted. Mission Giving Expenses were favorable as we did not make an apportionment payment in November. Trustee expenses were favorable as a result of timing of expenses. Lay personnel expenses was unfavorable, the result of 5 pay periods, partially offset by the vacant choir director position.

Our operating cash balance on November 30, 2019 was a positive \$20,232.

Without the \$20,000 donation, our spending continues to exceed our contributions. As a result we continue to spend reserve funds. It is important that we find a way to meet our expense needs through our contributions. We look forward to any suggestions you have. The Finance Committee thanks you for your support to St. Mark's. God Bless you all.

From Rev. Maria Soto's Desk

January 2020



This past year has been an exciting one for us, while at the same time being trying and difficult at times. 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 finish what we started that for some reason we were not able to get done.

While we can't know what is coming in the new year, we can find hope in God's word, and maintain a positive outlook that things will be better than ever in this coming year.

May God's love shine and bless you and your family throughout the new year!

Pastor Soto



I hope to keep everyone informed as to what is going on with Project Transformation. I can report that very little has happened so far. The folks at PT have been studying ideas about how to make the transfer from St. Marks to them, but as of December 16 we have not had any conversations with them. We hope to meet as in the next few days to begin our discussions. In the meantime the Trustees will need to decide what we are going to do with some of the furniture and equipment still in Lovely Lane. We hope to sell some of the furniture, especially what is left in the nursery, and raise some funds for the church. Please don't hesitate to offer suggestions. *John Williams*

San Antonio Needlework Guild

Thank you so much to the San Antonio Needlework Guild for making these wonderful angels for our Angel Tree. They are exquisite and you can definitely tell they were made with love. Our tree used to look very bare after the paper angels were taken but now it looks wonderful. Thank you again for your thoughts and prayers that went into making each of these wonderful angels. *Susan Philbin*



January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
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"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME"

Children at St. Mark's UMC are very much a part of our worshiping community. Here are opportunities for age-appropriate worship, Bible lessons, activities, praise music, and fun!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month at 10:45 a.m. for elementary aged children.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE on the 3rd Sunday of each month during Sunday worship. All children are invited to the front of the sanctuary to join Pastor Soto for a brief sermon, keeping our younger worshippers in mind.



Children's Church is about worship, Bible lessons, activities, praise music, and fun. It also allows children to demonstrate what they learn as well as develop leadership and social skills.



Working on Christmas treats isn't a big deal to many of us. To a small child it means being creative, offering ideas, decorating envelopes, handing out goody bags, and sometimes it means you are the only person who participates. Let's all keep praying for the children and for this very important ministry!



**Holy Baptism
November 24, 2019**

If you were not able to attend Colt's baptism, here are a few pictures of this precious gift from God.

COLT SAMUEL DURICK was so sweet and agreeable at his baptism. He even slept through some of it.



Congratulations to Kim & Jake (proud mom and dad), to Melinda & Hubert (grandma and grandpa) and to all the Durick and Molina families. Thank you for sharing this special moment in Colt's life with the St. Mark's church family.

NOTES AND NOTICES

Don't forget our Food Pantry!



Noisy Offering the last Sunday of every month!

Thanks to everyone who helped support this ministry throughout the year. We had numerous donations and many volunteers who helped buy food, bag the items, and distribute on Wednesdays.

NOTE: The Food Pantry will NOT be open Christmas Day (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1).



For the second year, Tiny Planet Pre-School designated St. Mark's UMC Food Pantry to receive the food donations made at their school during their November food drive. The folks at Tiny Planet realize there are many

people who need a little help from time to time. We thank the owners, Ms. Adriana and Mr. Miguel, director Jennifer, and the children and families for their generous donation of 120 pounds of food for our Food Pantry. Their mission statement is:

"Tiny Planet is a preschool designed to enable all children to enhance self-esteem and positive feelings toward learning."

Tiny Planet is located at 5205 Fredericksburg Road (at Callaghan) and can be reached at 210-971-8505.



MS YOGA

For several years, St. Mark's has been the meeting place for the weekly Gentle Yoga Class under the direction of Cheryl Alexander. December 16, 2019 was the last time they held their class here and are moving to a new location. In 2020, they will meet at a library nearby which allows them easy access to handicap facilities and there is no charge for them to have the Yoga class.

Before leaving, the class participants brought in treats for the staff and also donated several bags of groceries for the food pantry. We will miss these kind folks and are glad they felt well received and welcomed by St. Mark's.



"We will miss the hospitality."
B. Marie

"Thank you for providing our Gentle Yoga Class. We appreciate you!" *Cheryl Alexander*

"Thank you for the use of your church for our class! Merry Christmas!" *Debbie*

"Missing you already! Thanks for your hospitality!" *Dave*

"Thank you for having our yoga class at your church...always a peaceful, comforting place to work out. I'll miss you!" *Barbara*



PRAYERS & PRAISE



Bob Ailerson	Alice Logan	Susan Philbin
Jill Anderson	Michael Mendoza	Cindy Payette
Kennedee Bailey	Eric Milette	Gertrude Johns
Kylee Brown	Will Schuetze	Rose Miranda
Bucky Coley	Warren Dunetz	Family of Annie Fey
Esdras Cuervo	Patricia Barnes	Findeisen
Sylvia Gonzales	Nita Perdue	



*the family of Claire Bell Monk Cobb. Claire passed away
December 7, 2019, at the age of 95.*

*the family of Basilio Soto, Sr. Mr. Soto passed away
December 17, 2019.*

JAN 1 Dianne Haag
 JAN 4 Reynaldo Rodriguez
 JAN 5 Abraham Cruz
 JAN 6 Patsy Perryman
 JAN 9 Patti Austin
 JAN 9 Carl Swatzell
 JAN 16 Bob Bailly

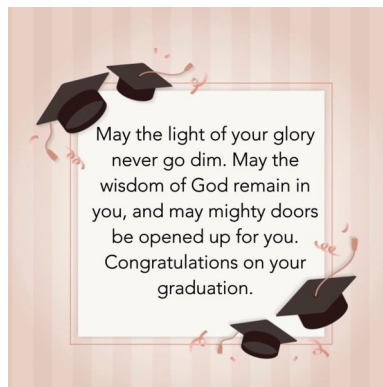


JAN 17 Mikayla Mendez
 JAN 18 Mary Jo Price
 JAN 19 Daniel Wilke
 JAN 27 Zoe Cruz
 JAN 29 Mary-Kathryn Schmidt
 JAN 31 John Williams

May God bless you with peace and happiness on this unique day that you celebrate. And may that divine peace and happiness follow you the rest of your life. Have a blessed and fun birthday!



Tom & Kathy Jack
January 23



Bravo!
 Congratulations to Brianne Somerville who graduated from UTSA December 15, 2019. We are thankful to God as we celebrate with her on achieving this wonderful milestone. May this be the beginning of a future filled with much success!