



Messenger

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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

Regular Weekly

Activities:

† Calendar of regular activities will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

Thanks for your patience, prayers, and for following safety guidelines.



IN THIS ISSUE

Ushers, Liturgists	2
Stewardship - Finance	3
Pastor's Message	4
Project Transformation	5
Prayers, Graduations	6

Last year, Pastor Soto made the difficult decision to take a voluntary leave from ministry due to family reasons.

In her announcement to the congregation she expressed words of gratitude, "I am so grateful to God for giving me the honor to be part of St. Mark's UMC and to serve with all my heart to this congregation. I will be for ever grateful to St. Mark's for the welcoming, acceptance and patience you all have towards me and my family. All the love you have shown for us will not go unnoticed in the eyes of God. The Lord will continue to bless St. Mark's and will provide the right person you all need. My family and I love you very much. Thank you for all your love. I love you with all my heart. Peace be with you and remain with you."

Pastor Soto will continue to serve until the month of June 2020. By July 2020 a new pastor will be in charge of ministry at St. Mark's.

Many thanks and much appreciation to Pastor Soto and Reynaldo Rodriguez for their faithful service. We wish them the very best and will continue to keep them in our hearts and prayers.



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



Although our buildings have been closed for several months, plans are in the works to gather for Sunday School and Worship. For now, we can't return to the way things used to be. As we enter church buildings, please wear a mask, visit a hand sanitizing area, and practice social distancing. Let's continue to be responsible and safe.

June 14 - 9:15 am Resume In-Person Sunday School - Fellowship Hall

June 14 - 10:30 am Resume In-Person Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary



Kathy Jack
Sue Horner
Susan Philbin
Sharon Crippen



June 14 - Melinda Molina
June 21 - Susan Philbin
June 28 - Marcos Barrientos



Due to the COVID-19 virus and the need to practice "social distancing," the St. Mark's Food Pantry has been closed the past two months and will continue to remain closed at this time. Thanks to staff and volunteers from Project Transformation (our new neighbors in the Lovely Lane building) food bags continued to be handed out during this time. Several of our regular clients were fed, while many new people from the neighborhood also learned of the food giveaway.

St. Mark's will continue to monitor the governor's and mayor's requests for limiting physical interaction and will determine when it is as safe as possible to resume the distribution from our Food Pantry. Please watch "The Messenger" church newsletter for further information.

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

JUBILEE WATER PROJECT PROVIDES WATER TO MOUNTAIN HOMES

The United Methodist Jubilee Project (Advance #781350,) in Sneedville, Tennessee, has met the unique needs of Hancock County residents since 1991. The entire county has a population of about 6,500. Sneedville, its county seat and only incorporated town, accounts for 1,300 of county residents. The beautiful rural mountain scenes that tourists and hikers see when they visit rarely reveal the stories of the people who have lived in these mountains for generations.

Four-year-old Tammy loved to go to Head Start classes. She and her twin brother lived with their grandmother. While she may have enjoyed the company and playtime with other children, what she really looked forward to was the opportunity to take a warm bath. Her home on the mountain ridge had no indoor plumbing. Her grandmother drew water from a well outside and an outhouse was their only sanitation facility. It is cold and frosty up in the mountains of Northeastern Tennessee in the winter.

“The need for water here is amazing. People living up in the ‘hollers’ even today lack access to clean, fresh water,”

confirmed Lisa Nichols Advance, the director of the Jubilee Project. Nichols is a seasoned Church and Community Worker missionary. The UM Jubilee Water Project builds about three wells each year in Hancock County, where many residents don't have access to clean, safe water. The project, a mission of the Holston Conference, also helps with indoor plumbing.

The many ways that Jubilee approaches the pervasive poverty in the county is an indication of how these Appalachian mountain communities have been left behind, for perhaps 100 years, in basic necessities like food, water, sanitation and shelter. Just recently, the county received a substantial grant to work on water infrastructure, but once again, plans for access stopped at the foot of the mountains. As Morris says of her friends on the mountain ridge, “It’s their turn to have water in their homes.”

The Advance is the accountable, designated-giving arm of The United Methodist Church. The Advance invites contributors to designate support for projects related to the General Board of Global Ministries. Individuals, local churches, organizations, districts and annual conferences may donate to The Advance. One hundred percent of every gift to The Advance goes to the project selected by the giver. Gifts to missionaries support the entire missionary community. www.umcsgiving.org



Apportionments

ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR MONTH OF APRIL - 2020

Operating Cash Balance on March 31, 2020	2,820
Non-Designated Contributions - April	15,512
Operating Expenses	14,486
Other Income/(Expense)	585
Operating Cash Balance on December 31, 2019	4,431

April receipts were higher than budgeted. April operating expenses were \$6,093 lower than budgeted. Mission Giving was favorable to the budget as we are only paying amounts specifically donated for apportionments. Trustee expenses were favorable as a result of expense timing.

It is important to remember that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, services were not held during April. While contributions were stronger in April, since the church office has been not fully operational, it is believed that some of the April contributions were actually March contributions deposited in April.

Year-to-Date operating expenses are favorable by \$20,296. Other income in December was \$2,488. In December we recorded a cash outflow of \$14,805. Our operating cash balance on December 31, 2019 was a positive \$5,120.

We continue to spend more each month than we receive in contributions. This will result in our need to use reserve funds to pay our monthly obligations. If you have any suggestion on how we can increase our monthly contributions, please let us know. The Finance Committee thanks you for your support to St. Mark's. God Bless you all.



Jeremiah 29: ¹¹ *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

This are the words from the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Israel taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar as stated in verse 1 of chapter 29.

Words of hope of a new day in times of difficulties. Words from the heart of God. The good Lord is always present in the history of mankind to bring hope of a new beginning. The crisis does not have to be a time without a solution. There is hope for a bright sunrise.

The Lord cares about our welfare and He has the intention to do good to us. God tell us that He has a plan. God's plan for us to prosper. God's plan for us is meant to do good to us, it is not in any way to harm us.

The Lord promises us hope and a future. He has designed the perfect plan for us. No one more qualified than the one who has the best intention for us.

This is my last article and I just want to remember that the Lord has a plan for all of us. We might go different ways, take many decisions but we have God in our lives and as long as we are guided by Him, things will turn out to be good for us. In God there is a plan to give us all hope and a future.

May the good Lord keep blessing your life.

May the good Lord keep blessing this congregation in St. Mark's UMC.

May God bless you with good health and strength.

May the Lord be your shield and your source of blessing all your life.

May the Lord shine his glory in St. Mark's UMC now till He comes. God be glorified in all of us until the end.

Thank you all for your love and kindness. Love you!

God's Peace be with you always.





When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Grape Juice

An Update on Project Transformation Housing and Home Kercida McClain

The long and short of it is that Project Transformation will have a fabulous new home by the end of May.

The details: PT has completely re-modified its summer 2020 program to be virtual out of love for all those we work with and beside. That means no interns living in community this summer. The good news is that as we hit the typical speed bumps of construction, we are no longer on a compressed time table and everything is still being completed meeting high expectations and code requirements. The building looks fabulous. The transformation is remarkable.

The Capital Campaign that had just begun has been paused in light of people needing to support much more basic needs in the crisis. The good news is that gap funding had already been secured from TMF and it is being used and is enough. The generosity of the Las Misiones District and the Coker UMC Foundation got everything rolling and TMF will sustain us until we ramp the Capital Campaign back up in the fall.

PT has also had the privilege during COVID to stand in the gap for St. Marks' neighbors needing food. When the church needed to close during COVID, so did the food pantry. So, PT has been serving 10-15 families each week to make sure those in need are cared for. This has allowed PT to get to meet and interact with our neighbors. Our presence on the campus has meant activity and interaction when things would have been very quiet otherwise.

Our immediate plan is to relocate the PT offices into two rooms in the Housing building so as to not have an amazing building sit empty and to continue the work anchoring in the neighborhood that began this spring. The goal is still for the Afterschool Fellow(s) to live there when it is safe to be back together physically and of course we are looking toward a full building next summer. PT is working on guidelines for fall and spring guests visiting our community to be offered low cost accommodations as they serve in our area.

We can't wait to throw the doors open wide and celebrate this facility and all the potential it holds. Thank you for your partnership with us and so many yet to come.

Questions about Project Transformation may be directed to the Trustees Chairperson, John Williams.

PRAYERS & PRAISE



Bob Ailerson
 Jill Anderson
 Kennedee Bailey
 Kylee Brown
 Bucky Coley
 Esdras Cuervo
 Alice Logan
 Michael Mendoza

Eric Miletti
 Will Schuetze
 Warren Dunetz
 Pastor Soto & Family
 Reynaldo Rodriguez &
 Family
 Maria Ortega

St. Mark's Shut-ins &
 homebound friends
 Graduating seniors
 Those suffering from
 coronavirus
 Those suffering from
 job/economic loss
 For justice and peace



CONGRATULATIONS
 & HATS OFF TO
 OUR 2020 GRADUATES



Braden Somerville—Churchill High School

**Zachary Wilke—Texas A & M—Masters
 Degree in Accounting**



God loves you more than you can fathom. He knit you together, knowing you before you were born, His masterpiece. May you revel in His amazing love on your birthday.

- June 11 Robert Mace
- June 12 Joanne Green
- June 15 Rosa Rodriguez
- June 18 Laylah Cruz
- June 20 Evelyn Rodriguez
- June 21 Jake Durick
- June 24 Imogene Brown
- June 26 Braden Somerville
- June 30 Mario Mercado