



# Messenger

St. Mark's  
United Methodist Church

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

## Things to Remember:

- † **Ash Wednesday Services - March 1 @ Noon & 7:00 PM**
- † Matter of Balance - Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM (FH)
- † March 12 & 26 - Children's Church
- † Friday, March 17th - Day Trip to Kerrville
- † BBQ - March 18th 11:00 - 5:00 (Benefits Scouts)
- † Monday, March 20th - Finance @ 6:30 PM, Ad Council @ 7:00 PM (FH)
- † Thursday, March 23rd - San Antonio Mobile Food Bank
- † Wednesday Praise @ 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- † **Psalm 27:1** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (RSV)



## WE'VE SEEN YOU IN THE PARKING LOT!

Cars have changed. So have the traffic rules, driving conditions, and the roads you travel every day. If you're interested in learning current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, and how to operate your vehicle more safely, perhaps a Driver Safety Program for Ages 50+ is for you. If you have already signed up with Patti Austin or with the church office, you don't need to do anything else. We are still trying to identify an instructor to lead us and a date for the four-hour classroom course.

If you are interested, please contact the church office to register.



Don't forget - BBQ - March 18th  
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Proceeds benefit Scout Programs



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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>	1/29	2/5	2/12	2/19
Children	3	5	3	2
Youth	2	4	4	4
Adults	25	20	17	20
<b>Total SS</b>	30	29	24	26
<u>Worship</u>				
Sunday	69	66	83	66
Wednesday Service	31	30	30	

### MARCH USHERS

**Tom Jack, Bob Bailly,  
Bob Mace, Braden Somerville**



#### Altar Flower Calendar Openings

March 5	1 Opening
March 12	2 Openings
March 19	1 Opening
April 2	1 Opening
April 9	1 Opening
April 30	1 Opening

We will once again fill our Sanctuary with Lilies on Easter Sunday morning! If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in honor or memory of someone, please call the church office - 210-344-8393. Deadline for these orders will be Sunday, April 9th. Forms will be available in the bulletins on the first two Sundays of April. They will be \$10 again this year.

*March Liturgists*

March 5	Cynthia Ramirez
March 12	Eddie Rodriguez
March 19	Bob Ross
March 26	Shelley Ross



TOGETHER,  
**WE DO**  
MORE

## A Theology Of United Methodist Giving Apportionments

The role of steward is a central one throughout the Bible. The Scriptures illustrate deep biblical foundations. In Exodus 16, the story of the manna in the wilderness is a foundational story for understanding the way in which God provides for the needs of the community of the people of God and its journey through the world. It defines the important qualities that distinguish God's people as a community of stewards.

**The first of those qualities is discernment.** The name "manna" itself comes from the Hebrew words for the response made by Israel. "What is it, manna?" Like Israel, we stand surrounded by resources and often fail to recognize them for what they really are. Namely, God's gifts to provide for human need and to empower a community to serve those needs. The manna story urges us to the discernment that sees all of our resources as the gift of God, for the needs of God's world and not as our own individual or local possessions.

**A second quality out of the manna story is equity.** The distribution of the manna was related to need. No one was to have too much or too little. Now, of course, this was a divine miracle at the time; but the church -- the community of faith -- has read this Scripture as a mandate. We must exercise stewardship over the gifts of God's resources in ways that make resources accessible to those who have the greatest need. Resources are not to be hoarded. The abundant life is not the life marked by excess, but by enough, and enough for all.

And finally, a third quality from this story is the quality of mission. We receive God's gifts as God's stewards to enable our participation in God's mission, and not as the result of the success of our own strategic plans or material security. As in the manna story, this requires ongoing commitment and engagement in receiving and using God's gifts. We cannot hoard those gifts for a future day. We cannot measure their use by our needs alone. The mission requires distribution and use of God's gifts for the sake of the mission in a consistent commitment to receiving and giving God's gifts.

***Discernment, equity and mission are the constant marks of the people of God as the community of stewards.***

All of these qualities are inspiringly reflected in Paul's letter to the church at Corinth, when he wrote to ask for a collection to aid the church in Jerusalem. In 2 Corinthians 8:13-14a (NRSV), Paul writes, "I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need."

As it is written, the one who gathered much had nothing over, and the one who gathered little had no shortage. Take to heart Jesus' admonition, "To those to whom much is given, much will be required."

**--Comments by the Rev. Bruce C. Birch, dean, Wesley Theological Seminary**



## *From Our Pastor. . .*

This Wednesday, March 1st, is the day that we refer to as Ash Wednesday, a day that ushers in a new season of the gospel year, Lent. Lent is the 40 days (excluding Sundays) that occur before Easter Sunday and is traditionally a time of repentance and self-examination and reflection, leading to a deeper spiritual life of faith and discipleship. As a child, the church that I grew up in didn't observe Ash Wednesday or the season of Lent; we didn't observe Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, Easter was the big celebration. The Bible never actually refers to Ash Wednesday or Lent, but the practice of imposing ashes as a sign of repentance and mourning is found in various passages, such as 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1, Job 2:8 and others.

Lately, with retirement very much on my mind and, with it, an awareness of my own mortality, I find that Ash Wednesday is a very profound and meaningful practice that helps me to put my faith journey and life in perspective. We will be celebrating the Imposition of Ashes at a noon service on Wednesday, March 1st in the sanctuary. This service is very much a time of personal reflection and participation and I am grateful that our church will be able to offer this unique experience to all. We will also offer the service again on Wednesday evening at 7 pm. I will also be available for "ashes on the go" throughout the afternoon for those who seek to receive this sign of faith but are constrained by time demands to participate in a more reflective experience. For the last four years, I have been able to serve people who were waiting at the bus stop or who were simply passing by and who would otherwise be unable to pause during their day to invoke the meaning of this season of the gospel year.

Again, while I find this service very profound, it doesn't necessarily speak to everyone. If you have never participated in this ritual, why not inquire of the Lord and ask if this might not be an experience that can help you on your journey of faith? We are all different, unique and diverse, coming from different backgrounds and faith positions. The one thing that unites us all is God's universal and unending love for us. I hope that we can all be touched more deeply by that love as we journey through Lent and life together.

God bless you,

*Jay*

# March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Feb 2017</td></tr> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Feb 2017							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					<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Apr 2017</td></tr> <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>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Apr 2017							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							<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>1</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Matter of Balance (FH)  <b>12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service</b>          6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)          6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)  <b>7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service</b>          7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>2</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)          6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>4</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion          9:00 AM ESL (LL)</p>
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>12</b></p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School          10:30 AM Worship          10:45 AM Children's Church (LL)          11:30 AM Choir Practice</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>13</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)          1:00 PM Staff Mtg          1:00 PM Yoga (FH)          6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>14</b></p> <p>6:30 AM ROMEO's          10:00 AM Exercise (FH)          10:00 AM Parenting Class (LL)          6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)          7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>15</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Matter of Balance (FH)          6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)          6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)          7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>16</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)          10:00 AM NL Deadline          11:00 AM Nutritional Potluck          6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)          Bus Stop Ministry (Gym) Time TBA</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>17</b></p> <p>Day Trip to Kerrville (TBA)  <b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><b>18</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion          9:00 AM ESL (LL)          11:00 AM BBQ</p>																																																																																																										
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# **COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS**

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the United States and the second leading cause of death from cancer. Colorectal cancer affects people in all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people age 50 and older.

The good news? If everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, 6 out of 10 deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to encourage people to get screened.

## **How can Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month make a difference?**

We can use this month to raise awareness about colorectal cancer and take action toward prevention. Communities, organizations, families, and individuals can get involved and spread the word.

Here are just a few ideas:

Encourage families to get active together – exercise may help reduce the risk of colorectal cancer.

Talk to family, friends, and people in your community about the importance of getting screened for colorectal cancer starting at age 50.

Ask doctors and nurses to talk to patients age 50 and older about the importance of getting screened.

For more information about this subject, please contact your Wesley Nurse, Charzes Flowers, RN at 210-344-8393 or visit the Center For Disease Control website: [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/pdf/Basic\\_FS\\_Eng\\_Color.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/pdf/Basic_FS_Eng_Color.pdf)



# NOTES AND NOTICES

## *St Mark's On the Road...*

† Join us as we caravan down IH 10 to the beautiful city of Kerrville where we will visit The Coming King Scripture and Prayer Garden - Friday, March 17th (meeting in the church parking lot at 9:00 am)

## *St. Mark's Reaching Out to the Community*

† Our Bus Stop Ministry will have a Spring break activity in the Gym on Thursday, March 16th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

## *St. Mark's Reaching Out to our Members*

† Thank you to Deborah Molina and to Esther Circle for sending cards and notes to various members of our congregation!

## *St. Mark's Gifts of Time, Talents and Treasures*

† Are you available to give of your time, talent or treasure? We have several volunteer opportunities, including rotating leaders for Children's Church, switching out with other volunteers cleaning and organizing the pews each week, or doing various tasks around the church. See Melinda Molina so she can match your time and talent or treasure with the right opportunity!

## **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



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

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



**Don't let it sneak up on you!  
The Easter Egg hunt is coming soon!**

**Lots of volunteers will be needed  
and any monetary donations are  
appreciated!!**



SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

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

Operating Cash balance at 12/31/2016	510
Non-Designated Contributions - January	17,486
Operating Expenses:	
Council on Ministries	85
Special Mission Giving	0
Mission Giving	406
Administration Expense	25
Trustees	5,041
Pastor's Compensation	5,513
Lay Personnel Compensation	5,205
	16,275
Other Income/(Expense)	2,585
Operating Cash balance at 1/31/2017	4,306

Comments:

January contributions were \$134 lower than budgeted and \$1,361 lower than January 2016. Other income was \$1,030 more than budgeted and \$1,642 more than 2016. January contributions included five Sunday and \$975 in Christmas Contributions. Other Income was higher due to receiving \$2,594 interest income from TMF.

Operating expenses were \$5,586 favorable to the budget while \$310 more than 2016. All expense categories were favorable to budget for the month with the exception of Pastor compensation.

January had a cash inflow of \$4,054. Our monthly contributions in January were stronger than budgeted. Our operating cash balance increased to a positive \$4,306.

The Finance Committee thanks you for your support during 2016 and looks forwards to strong contributions in 2017. God bless!



General Board of Global Ministries  
475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115  
212-870-3600 • [umcmmission.org](http://umcmmission.org)

February 3, 2017

Conf-Dist-Donor: 535-65-000076420

St Marks  
United Methodist Church  
1902 Vance Jackson Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78213

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your gift to support the following missionaries and ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries:

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Project /Missionary Name</u>	<u>Country/State</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
3022191	E-Readers for Theological Education	Global	\$33.34	12/30/2016
583634	Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Parish Partners	Oklahoma	33.34	12/30/2016
901670	Disaster Response, United States	United States	33.34	12/30/2016
3022172	Anna Troy	North Carolina	33.30	12/30/2016

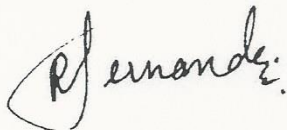
When giving through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church, 100 percent of your contribution is applied to the designated project(s) or to missionary support. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission.

Your generosity makes it possible for the church to extend God's mission across the globe to more than 60 countries and to many areas of the United States. Your gift supports missionaries and projects focused on evangelism, church development, education, disaster relief and rehabilitation, health services, and programs for children and young people. We are grateful for your support of this life-giving work.

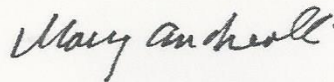
Please let us know if you have questions and/or concerns, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can reach the Gift Processing Unit at 404-460-7489. Information on Advance projects and missionaries can be accessed online at [www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org). We also invite you to sign up on our website to receive our electronic newsletter, Connect N Mission. This monthly publication will keep you informed about Global Ministries' work.

May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.

Grace and Peace,



Roland Fernandes  
General Treasurer  
General Board of Global Ministries



Mary Andreolli  
Executive Director of Communications, Advance & Fundraising  
General Board of Global Ministries

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution. PRL1-352



16400 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, TX 78248

(210) 408-4500

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

William C. Wyman, Jr.

Conference Treasurer

[bwyman@riotexas.org](mailto:bwyman@riotexas.org)

February 8, 2017

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Your congregation is an exemplary leader in the Rio Texas Conference. This is evidenced by your contribution of 100% of your Conference and District apportionments for the year 2016.

The purpose of this letter is simply to take just a moment to congratulate you on your leadership.

We are grateful for the willingness of your congregation to give so much to help carry out the ministry of our Lord and Savior both in the Rio Texas Conference and worldwide.

This is sent with prayers that God's blessings will continue to be with you in your local church. May we all move forward together on our journey in Christ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. C. Wyman, Jr." in a cursive style.

William C. Wyman, Jr.  
Conference Treasurer

cc: Rev. Carl Rohlfs, District Superintendent

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



Bob Ailerson  
 Jill Anderson  
 Connor Benjamin  
 Kylee Brown  
 Megan Brown  
 David Cavazos  
 Bucky Coley  
 Carol Crenwelge  
 Esdras Cuervo  
 David Duewall  
 Sylvia Gonzales  
 Alice Logan

Michael Mendoza  
 Pastor Eric Milette  
 Gerald Morriss  
 Jean Newman  
 Steve Reyes, Sr.  
 Will Schuetze  
 Kirk Tomerlin  
 Kathryn Wilson  
 Kerri Luker  
 Bob Mace  
 Mike & Sharon Day  
 Isabel Centeno  
 Ruth Szentes

Family of Larry Winget  
 Paula Byars  
 Gwenn Sawdon  
 Conrad Fong  
 Richard Thibedeau  
 Chuck Robie  
 Anthony & Sharon Lemons  
 Bill Pavlat  
 Family of Joel Garza  
 Mary Wilke  
 Arissa Dennis



March 1  
 Lillian Herrera

March 4  
 Blake Lopez

March 5  
 Sarah Connor

March 7  
 Ella Reyes

March 9  
 DeVonte Williams

March 12  
 Ima Roselle

March 13  
 Chase Black

March 17  
 Kaeleigh Horner

March 18  
 Patti Gardner

March 20  
 Kim Hoffman

March 21  
 Linda King

March 22  
 Nita Perdue  
 Sherry Wilke

March 29  
 Jean Jones  
 Herb Snook

March 30  
 Billie Gabour

March 31  
 Ernest Denham

March 14th  
 Daniels & Sherry Wilke  
 Jacob & Katie Wilke



March 24th  
 John & Olga Sidusky

March 29th  
 Bill & Fran McMahon

Please make a note of Helen Setterfield's new address!  
 5620 W. Highway 199  
 Springtown, TX 76082

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**  
 9:00 am—4:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday  
 CLOSED on Friday

PASTOR	Rev. Jay Brown
SECRETARY	Patti Gardner
WESLEY NURSE	Charzes Flowers
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Carolyn Hahn
ORGANIST	Joseph Scutti
CUSTODIAN	Johnny Mendoza