



Things to Remember!

- † Confirmation Retreat, May 3-4
- † Food Drive - Sunday, May 12th
- † Mother's Day - Sunday, May 12th
- † BBQ Dinner benefitting the Boy Scouts - Saturday, May 18th
- † Confirmation Sunday, May 19th
- † Pot Luck Dinner - Sunday, May 19th
- † Food Truck - Thursday, May 23rd 9:00 am
- † Praise/Bilingual Worship Service - Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm (FH)



FOOD DRIVE - MAY 12TH

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, May 12 as the next St. Mark's Food Drive to restock our in-house Food Pantry. Another article in this newsletter outlines that in addition to the usual canned foods we are now seeking cash donations. Your canned

and packaged food are always welcome and can be distributed immediately as neighbors and passersby come to the church for assistance. However, we can now buy food from the San Antonio Food Bank and stretch our dollars to buy even more food than we or you can at the grocery store for the same amount of money. Please bring your food and cash donations to church on May 12 and place these "offerings" on the altar. Specific items needed at this time include box milk; individual boxes of cereal; canned meat, Spam, chicken, tuna; individual and canned fruit, applesauce; pull-top chili, stew, ravioli, chunky soup; Saltines; 12 oz drinks; jelly; macaroni & cheese; 18 oz and smaller peanut butter; spaghetti noodles; dry pasta; 8 oz and smaller syrups.

Thanks for caring!

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STATE OF THE CHURCH



ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday School</u>	03/31	04/07	04/14	04/21
Children	2	3	3	3
Youth	10	6	5	8
Adults	48	39	48	43
Leaders	8	8	9	1
Total SS	68	56	65	55
<u>Worship</u>	160	111	111	114

GREETERS FOR MAY

- † Stephanie Bercegeay
- † Rob Remig

TAPE MINISTRY

- † Daniel Wilke



USHERS FOR MAY

- † Daniel Wilke
- † Lynn Swatzell
- † Zachary Wilke



Finance Committee Reflections:

Sounds From the Bean Counters

We hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the beautiful weather of late. We were blessed with some much needed rain, but certainly need much more.

Contributions in March were less than both the budget and 2012. We trail both by approximately \$2000. Year-to-date, our contributions are lower by \$3,200 versus the budget and \$2,800 compared to last year.

Our March operating expenses were \$3,745 less than budgeted as a result of not paying our budgeted apportionments and favorable trustee spending. Compared to 2012, our expenditures are higher by approximately \$1,200 primarily the result of the Pastor compensation being higher due to a temporary position compared to the current full-time position. This was partially offset by higher lay compensation expense. Year-to-date, expenditures are approximately \$7,000 favorable in both the Mission giving and Trustee expense. Our year-to-date expenses compared to 2012 are only slightly lower.

For the month, we had a cash outflow of \$2,030 compared to a \$1,907 inflow in March 2012. Year-to-date, we have a cash inflow of \$2,752 which is \$4,265 less than 2012.

Our Mission Giving Payments have been \$4,637 through March which results in us trailing the budget by \$7,175. The Easter donations are going towards apportionments, thus we will see significant improvements in April.

At the beginning of the month we had an operating cash balance of \$9,033. At the end of March our operating cash balance was \$7,699.

As always, we thank you for your continued financial support. Your commitment of time, talent and treasure makes St. Mark's a special place.



UMW Happenings...

May 1 Executive Committee 9:00 AM
General Meeting 9:30 AM

Leader: Dorothy Dare

There will be a salad luncheon hosted by Martha Circle. Everyone please bring a salad to share!

Esther Circle 7:00 PM

May 15 Dorcas Circle 9:30 AM (meet at the church at 9:00 to carpool to the Meadows)

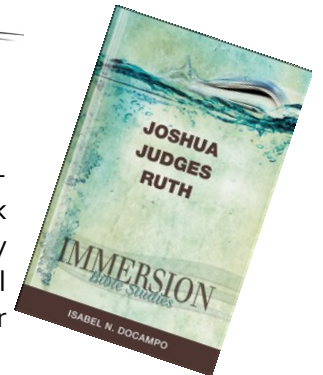
May 21 Martha Circle 1:00 PM at the home of Joanne and Margery Green

There will be a Potluck Dinner on May 19th - Pentecost Sunday - honoring our 2013 Confirmands! Meat and dessert will be furnished. Please bring a side dish (salad, veggie, etc) to share and plan to stay for lunch following our worship service.



Mid-week Bible Study...

Our Deuteronomy study will continue through May 15th. As we forge ahead on our journey through the Bible, our next study will be Joshua, Judges and Ruth - another 6 week study that will not begin until September. Please contact Patti Gardner in person, by phone (830-431-3157) or email (pjdgardner@aol.com) if you would like a book. We will continue meeting in the YAMS classroom on Wednesdays at noon beginning September 4th. Bring your lunch and meet a few minutes before class!



VBS Volunteers



There will be a VBS meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 @6 PM for all VBS volunteers. It will be held in the YAMS room. We will be going over details regarding the VBS program which will take place the week of June 17th.

Linda & Melinda



I went to a 5 day workshop in March at the Oblate Center here in San Antonio. I wanted to explore some of my Celtic spiritual roots at a retreat was led by John Phillip Newell, one of the (if not the) foremost authors of Celtic Spirituality in the world today. It was awesome, rewarding, inspiring, refreshing...I liked it a lot! One of the things that JPN said during the retreat was that he believed that we are witness-

ing a "Second Pentecost" globally. My first reaction to this was of mild acceptance, agreement; as I have pondered what that might mean and what an event like that might look like, I have come to believe that he wasn't just giving a sound-bite to see if we were still awake. In other words, he really believes it...and I do, too.

I certainly see it happening in our congregation. We have had more and more visitors of all shapes, ages, ethnicities and stages of belief. We have had 13 people join since January; that equals the number we received in all of last year! Attendance at worship is up and Easter Sunday, we ran out of bulletins! We are involved in outreach, mission, service and there is a sweet, powerful spirit felt and experienced in our worship.

Who can doubt that this is a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us? The Holy Spirit has been around since creation, moving and working as part of the Holy Trinity of God. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit expressed and manifested itself in a new, powerful and profound way such that the Church Triumphant and Universal was born. There have been spiritual movements throughout history, calling and claiming persons of faith to deepen and express their faith in dramatic and meaningful ways. I believe that such a time is happening in the world generally...and at St Mark's in particular. We must pray to receive such power and to let it manifest itself in the mission and ministries of our congregation and in our own personal lives. On the day of Pentecost this year, I am inviting you to join me in a 50 day time of daily prayer and devotion. This prayer and devotional time will help strengthen us as we look to the future that God is preparing for our church and our ministries. I will hand out copies of the devotional on Pentecost Sunday, so I hope that you will be in church to receive one. This will be a special day; we will bring our confirmands into the membership of the church and follow with a special luncheon. You surely want to be here!

Pray, pray, pray that we can be faithful to the leading of God's Holy Spirit, moving among us, transforming us and growing us into the mature Christian disciples that God has created us to be. God bless you! This is an exciting time to be a member at St Mark's; let us give God the praise, glory and honor! See you in Church,

Jay

Lectionary Scripture Readings For May

May 05, 2013	Psalm 67 John 5:1-9	May 19, 2013	Genesis 11:1-9 Acts 2:1-21
May 12, 2013	Psalm 97 John 17:20-26	May 26, 2013	Psalm 8 John 16:12-15

May 2013

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																					
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STEWARDSHIP

PENSIONS

Purpose: Take care of those who care for the church

250 retired pastors and 153 surviving spouses gave their lives in ministry to the churches of the Southwest Texas Conference. Now it is time for the SWT Conference Churches to give back to their support.

A retired pastor with 30 years of service to the church prior to 1982 has a pension in 2009 of \$17,700 and a surviving spouse a pension of \$12,390.

As a church we did not put aside money to pay that expense while they served. Not having done so, we must pay about \$1 million each year to fund their basic pension benefit. Much of that comes from gifts to the pension apportionment. It will be the middle of

this century before this responsibility will be met.

The apportionment also goes to subsidize current health benefits for pastors. The pension apportionment pays 1/2 of the coverage for each full time pastor appointed to one of our churches. The remainder of the cost is paid by the church of the pastor.

The health benefit plan itself is a self funded plan sponsored by the board of pensions and made available not only to pastors, but to lay employees of churches who elect to participate. In 2009 the lay benefit plan has been completely restructured in order to make it more competitive with plans that are offered on the marketplace. This restructuring has been a major benefit to the lay employees as it provides better benefits than they were able to secure on the marketplace at a lower cost.



The congregation of St. Mark's was so generous with your support of the Back-to-School supplies and uniforms drive last August that we actually ended up with a little money left over. We decided to hold onto that money in case additional students at Arnold Elementary School needed uniforms during the year due to new students transferring in or normal wear and tear. Well, sure enough, the call came in a couple of weeks ago that six students were in need of uniforms and their families were having difficulty affording them. So, six, \$30 gift cards were purchased with our remaining funds and given to the Community Outreach Coordinator at Arnold to give to the

six families. With the gift cards, the families will be able to buy two shirts and two slacks for each child, which will meet their uniform needs for the remainder of the year.

Thank you again, St. Mark's, for supporting the children in our neighborhood!

PET FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR THE NEEDY!

There is now a box in the narthex for the collection of pet food for distribution to the needy who also receive human food when the Food Bank Truck is in operation the 4th Thursday of each month in St. Mark's parking lot.

When you pick up food for your furry family member, please remember to pick an extra sack box or can for those who are struggling to feed their families and the furry family who lives with them. This small contribution will go a long way to keep beloved animals in their homes instead of being surrendered to already over crowded rescues, followed by euthanasia!

Thank you for your compassion for this ministry.

Questions and/or comments and suggestions should be

directed to Jerri Ecclestone at 210-342-5099 or ftbldy@satx.rr.com

A special thanks to Rob Remig for creating such an inviting collection box and the first package of food that went into it!



What's Going On at The Learning Center?

For the month of May, as the school year comes to an end, we will be reviewing our colors, letters, shapes, numbers, etc. We will also be helping the children create something special for Mother's Day. The teachers will also start planning for the summer and all of the "hot," fun themes that come with it.

Important Dates in May

May 12 - Mother's Day
May 27 - Memorial Day

The center will be closed in celebration of Memorial Day



May Birthdays

May 5 - Dario Leija
May 6 - Felix Garza
May 8 - Ms. Julie
May 16 - Kamryn Jurado
May 17 - Katalina Van Hoose
May 17 - Serenity Cervantes
May 18 - Isaiah Martinez

**THANK YOU
VERY MUCH**

Special Note: We, the staff at St. Marks Learning Center, would like to thank everyone that helped with our BBQ Plate Sale on Saturday, April 20th. Whether it was selling tickets, distributing fliers, cooking/baking the delicious food, or even serving, your help was extremely appreciated and we couldn't have done it without you. THANK YOU!

IT IS SPRING

(Sung to "If You're Happy And You Know It")

It is spring
and it's time to fly a kite!
It is spring
and it's time to fly a kite!
It is spring
that's the season!
We don't need
a better reason!
It is spring
and it's time to fly a kite!



A PRAYER IN SPRING

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today,
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest, keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.
Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night,
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the happy trees.
And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid-air stands still.
For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

LADYBUG APPLES

Ingredients:

- 1-small red apple
- 2tsp.-strawberry cream cheese (low fat)
- 1/8 cup-raisins or dried cranberries
- 1 or 2-red or black seedless grapes
- (Optional) lettuce leaves for garnish if desired



Directions:

- Wash the apples and lettuce. Arrange a few lettuce leaves on each plate. Cut apples in half stem to bottom.
- Remove seeds. Lay each half of apple cut side down on

cutting board and cut in half from stem to bottom. With skin side up place both halves of apple on top of lettuce.

Put a small amount of cream cheese in between the apple halves to adhere the apple back together (enough to have a small amount squish out the top). Stick raisins to cream cheese down the middle of the apple, then use a small dab of cream cheese to adhere the raisins on each wing. Cut a grape in half and use cream cheese to stick it to one end of your ladybug apple for the head.



Sunday School Class Offerings...

Searching for a Sunday School Class? Try one of these!

Currently, all classes gather on Sunday mornings at 9:15

Children's Class: Elementary Aged children meet in Lovely Lane Hall, Room 6 together with Lucille Armitage. We are currently studying Paul. We would love to have all of the children from Kindergarten through 5th Grade come join us!

Junior and Senior High School students are led by Susan Philbin. This class meet upstairs in the gym and is currently using the curriculum BL4L - Bible Lessons 4 Life. The class is made up of youth from 6th grade through 12th grade with the occasional college student dropping by. If you are in this age group looking for a Sunday School class, come on in! What's SAID in class STAYS in class!

Friendship Class: Led by Louise Chaffin, we are studying the Adult Bible Studies. We are a group of friendly, mature ladies, full of love and we enjoy studying together with lots of discussion. We meet in the Parlor and we would welcome any new members or guests!

Homemakers Class: This class is led by Joanne Green and meets in Lovely Lane Hall, Room 9. We are currently studying the Adult Bible Studies. We are a group of older adults and would love to have you join us!

Koinonia Class: Our class is led by our Pastor, Jay Brown. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. We are an adult class, studying the Adult Bible Studies.

New Beginnings: The New Beginnings Class is a recently formed group of women who enjoy discussing the biblical interpretation of contemporary topics. Ann Brown is the facilitator. For the next several weeks we will be studying Joanna Weaver's book, Having a Mary Heart in A Martha World. If you are looking for a contemplative study with a lot of discussion, come to the Library and join us! We will advertise our topical studies so please feel free to join us temporarily for a study that interests you. And it doesn't *have* to be all women, it just currently is :).

Nursery: Our nursery is available for children 6 weeks to 5 years during Sunday School. During worship, older children are also welcome. The church nursery is located in Lovely Lane Hall and is attended by Jennifer Reynolds.

YAMS (Young Adults Married & Singles): Led by Imogene Brown, this class meets in the classroom off the Fellowship Hall (known as the YAMS Classroom). We are studying the Adult Bible Studies. We are a Bible-oriented class, applying scripture to our daily lives as we reach out to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome one and all with open arms. Our class is dedicated to service, both inside and outside of St. Mark's. A very warm, friendly atmosphere is extended to everyone.



"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."

* **Note:** Would you like to receive your monthly newsletter early and read it in color instead of black and white? If so, we can set you up to receive an email notification and you can go to our website at your leisure to print all or part of it or read it - and past issues - online! If you are interested in changing from printed copy to email, please contact the church office. Yes, there is a minimum number required for bulk mail, but there is a point where we can actually save money AND the environment!
* www.stmarksumcsa.com



From Your Wesley Nurse

Greetings from your Wesley Nurse!

March was the colon cancer month. I am bringing it up now because it needs to be talked about.

If you are 50 or older, you **NEED** to get tested for colon cancer. Most colon cancer occurs in men and women who are 50 or older.

You may say "but no one in your family has had colon cancer." Most people who get colon cancer have no family history of the disease. You can have the disease and not even know it. If someone in your family had colon cancer then testing is even more important.

You have the power to stop colon cancer before it starts. Colon Cancer starts with a growth called a polyp that may not be cancer yet.

We believe that preventing colon cancer (and not just finding it early) should be a major reason for getting tested. Finding them and removing polyps keep some people from getting colon cancer.

Don't be afraid to ask your doctor about getting the test for colon cancer. It is called colonoscopy.

The tests for polyps and colon cancer are Flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy. There are other tests you can do at home such as: Fecal occult blood test (gFOBT). This is a kit you take home. This test allows you to test your bowel movement on a card. It has to be done 3 different times. The card is then taken back to your doctor's office or lab. If blood is present then you will need a colonoscopy. The other tests for hidden or occult blood are Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) and Stool EDNA Test (sDNA). All these tests are kits the Doctor send home with you. The (sDNA test) Is the new test which also checks the stool for colon cancer.

Your WN is asking you to please have these tests done. To be sure that no cancer exists without being noticed with a colonoscopy or the above mentioned tests.

You might not need to do other exams. You can do the colonoscopy only. It is the most complete exam.

Linda



Sponsoring the Altar Flowers is a wonderful way to recognize someone, remember a loved one or celebrate an event. We have numerous Sundays available for you to place flowers in the church in "Memory of" or "In Honor of" loved ones or friends. The following dates are available:

June 23 - June 30 - July 28 - September 1 - September 29 -
October 6 - October 13 - October 20 - November 3 - November 17

If you would like to sign up for flowers, call Joanne Green at 210-690-5714 or Mary in the church office at 210-344-8393.

The San Antonio Food Bank offers courses for interested volunteers. There are two courses that might be of particular interest to some of you - an Orientation course, and a Food In, Food Out Course. Classes will be held at the Food Bank Headquarters at 5200 Old Highway 90 West on May 7, June 5, and July 9. If you are interested please contact Roshunda Smith at 210-337-3663.

The classes are very interesting and informative. You also receive a tour of the facility and their community garden.





Beginning Sunday, May 5, and following the first Sunday of each month, you will be given the opportunity to donate cash to the St. Mark's Food Pantry. This is our own in-house pantry that allows us to provide emergency food to neighbors who come by the church seeking assistance. From our small pantry, we are only able to give a bag of food to last an individual or small family a day or two, but hopefully this gets them over their difficult time. The St. Mark's Food Pantry is not to be confused with the San Antonio Food Bank, which brings us a mobile food truck once a month from which we give out a shopping basket full of food to recipients.

We found recently that we can purchase food directly from the San Antonio Food Bank to stock our own in-house pantry. And we also found we can buy 4 ½ times the amount of food from the Food Bank that we can buy from the grocery store for the same amount of money. We will always happily receive any canned or packaged food that you would like to bring to church to help fill our pantry. Look through your home food pantry, check the expiration dates, and bring in food you would like to share. But just remember: we can now buy 4 ½ cans of food for the same amount of money that you can get one can of food at the grocery store. Thank you for your ongoing help and generosity!

Mission Opportunity: We Need Your Help!

In a continuing effort to improve the quality and lives of their residents, Stonebrook Manor Nursing Home is requesting your help. Currently there is a need for volunteers to lend a hand with activities for their residents (i.e., reading, bible study, and prayer groups). Your volunteerism would be greatly appreciated. Members of our congregation are residents of Stonebrook Manor at Broadway.



Hi everyone,
I wanted everyone to know about how the Food Truck Ministry is doing. We have been feeding more people each month. I pray that this continues. We served 250 people at our March Food Truck Event. This means that we fed about 800 people. This is a great ministry for St Mark's. We are providing nourishment for the body and the soul through this ministry. I want to thank the many wonderful volunteers who come and help out every time. They are God's warriors in the fight against hunger in our community. I also want to thank all the members for their

prayers and support. Malcolm and I are blessed to be a part of this church.

We can always use volunteers come and join us on the fourth Thursday of every month around 9:am. We have a lot fun together.

God bless
Patti Austin



Update on the St. Mark's UMC Community Garden

Our first meeting was held on Thursday, April 18th. We shared lots of good ideas and agreed to move forward, working towards a small start in the Fall, partnering with the Dellview Area Neighborhood Association.

There is a lot to be done! We will start with a few small beds and see how they grow! If you are interested in being a part of this new ministry for our community, contact Ann Brown.

Ann Brown @830-857-5793 or annlacknessbrown@gmail.com

ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .



Esdras Cuervo
Gladys Johnson
Mary Krwawicz
Clay Laster
Michael Mendoza
Charles Mixon
Pastor Cheryl Owens,
Comfort Quesnell

Kirk Tomerlin
Abraham Wamah
Karen Williams
Archie
Family of Ruby Tabbert
Heerema Family
Patty Wheeler
A.J. Biasiulli
Dale Schneider
Jeffrey
Nora Ramirez,
Sue Williams

Joyce Boelsche
Barbara Jackson
Shawna Feldes
Mary Linda Wamsley
Family of Emma Garza
Jesse DeLeon
John Brown
Family of Keith Rodgers
Beverly and Henry Young
The families in West, Texas

Jill Anderson
Megan Brown
Margaret Broxton
Bill & Isabel Centeno
Bucky Coley

Gloria Reedy
Steve Reyes Sr.
Mike Ross
Ed Setterfield
Will Schuetze,



May 24
Brandi Horner

May 28
Jay Brown

May 25
Jessica Black

May 30
Jazzmyn Lopez
Melinda Molina

May 27
Virginia Barlow
Dennis Williams

May 2
Louise Chaffin

May 11
Lois Starr

May 4
Laurie Sprowl

May 12
Fran McMahon

May 7
Lynda Hubbard

May 13
Sue Horner

May 8
Julie Aguilar

May 21
Mel Davison

May 9
Edythe McKeown

May 23
Lessie Todd



Joe and Claire Cobb
May 5th



There will be a memorial service for Keith Rodgers on Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 pm at the Unitarian Church (7150 IH 10 - across from Crossroads Mall). Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Rowena Rodgers and family.

Directory Update: If you were unable to have your picture taken for the directory, you may either call Spring Branch UMC for a make-up picture, or bring Imogene a photo to use and she will include it in our new directory.

Thanks!!

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
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 (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 Farramore

WESLEY NURSE.....Linda Jimenez

CHOIR DIRECTOR.....Carolyn Hahn

ORGANIST EMERITUS.....Ruth Foerster

ORGANIST.....Joseph Scutti

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING CENTER.....Julie Aguilar

CUSTODIAN.....Johnny Mendoza

OFFICE HOURS.....9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
 CLOSED on Friday

PHONE.....(210) 344-8393

Email: stmarksumc@grandecom.net
stmarkspastor@grandecom.net
linda.jimenez@mhmc.org

Website: www.stmarksumcsa.com

