



Things to Remember!

- † Sunday, April 27th, 6:00 PM: F-Troop @ Johnny Mendoza's
- † Sunday, May 11th - Food Drive
- † VBS Meeting, Monday, May 12th 6:30 PM (FH)
- † Saturday, May 17th - BBQ benefitting the Boy Scouts
- † Thursday, May 22nd - Food Truck
- † Monday, May 26th - Memorial Day Holiday (office closed)
- † Tuesdays at 9:30 AM - Drive Thru Prayer
- † Praise and Communion Bi-Cultural Worship Service Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm (FH)

FOOD DRIVE, Sunday MAY 11

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, May 11 as the next St. Mark's Food Drive to restock our in-house Food Pantry. Your canned and packaged food are always welcome and can be distributed immediately as neighbors and passersby come to the church for assistance. We can also buy food from the San Antonio Food Bank and stretch our dollars to buy even more food than we can at the grocery store for the same amount of money. Please bring your food and cash donations to church on May 11 and place these "offerings" on the altar. Specific items needed at this time include box milk, cereal (individual or family box), breakfast or energy bars, canned meat, Spam, chicken, tuna, peanut butter crackers, 10-ounce juice, peanut butter, jelly, plain crackers. Please bring loose change to fill our "Noisy Offering" cans; mark checks and envelopes with cash for "Food Pantry."

Thank you for caring!



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STATE OF THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	3/30	4/06	4/13	4/20
Children	2	1	4	2
Youth	6	7	10	12
Adults	44	40	41	32
Total SS	52	48	55	46
<u>Worship</u>	110	83	95	112



USHERS

- † Kathy Jack
- † Sue Horner
- † Susan Philbin
- † Sharon Somerville

TAPE MINISTRY

- † Daniel Wilke

GREETERS

- † Susan Philbin
- † Brooke Sommerville



Finance Committee Reflections: Sounds From the Bean Counters

It sure has been a strange spring for South Texas. The cooler, almost winter, weather continues to hang around. Hopefully, that will result in some beneficial rain.

March contributions were slightly higher than a year earlier, but trail the budgeted amount by almost \$1800. Year-to-date, our contributions are \$5200 lower than 2013 and \$7100 lower than planned.

Operating expenses in March were \$800 less than last year and nearly \$3100 less than budgeted. Trustee spending was higher than last year; however, more than offset by favorable Council on Ministries, Pastor Compensation and Lay Personnel Compensation. Our favorableness versus the budget is primarily the result of lower apportionment payments and Council on Ministries expenses. Our year-to-date operating expenses are \$13,300 higher than last year, primarily the result of our higher apportionment payments and higher Trustee expenses. Versus the budget, we are unfavorable by \$1500 once again due to our higher apportionment payments, partially offset by lower Trustee expenses when compared to the budget.

For the month of March, we had a cash outflow of \$1500, bringing our year-to-date cash outflow to \$10,100.

Our apportionment payments through 3 months are in great shape. We are \$4845 ahead of the budgeted amount.

Our operating cash balance, however, is somewhat a concern. We currently have a negative operating cash balance of \$2775. We are hopeful that generosity during the Easter season will help get this back to a positive position.

We continue to be so grateful for the financial support from all of you. We are optimistic the strong giving will continue. The committee's thoughts and prayers are with each of you.



\$2,450,000

Pensions and Benefits

Goal: Take care of those who care for the church. 2.3 cents of every apportioned dollar goes to Pensions.

They gave their lives in ministry to the Southwest Texas Conference Churches. Now it's time for the Southwest Texas Conference Churches to give back.

This apportionment subsidizes current health benefits for pastors. The pension apportionment pays 50% of the cost of the coverage for each full time pastor appointed to one of our churches, while the remainder of the cost is paid by the church and the pastor.

We have all been blessed with a gift, and talent, and a passion. Have you discovered yours and are you ready to share it? Volunteering to serve on the VBS team can be just the way for you to do it. Please consider helping in any of the following areas by contacting the person in charge, or myself.

Registration : Lucille Armitage

Decoration and Publicity : Susan Philbin

Class leaders, AKA Floaters : Patti Austin

(these adults take a class from activity to activity)

Food Servers : Imogene Brown and Sue Horner

Adult teacher : Jay Brown

Youth teacher : Misty Adams

Assembly: Jay and Ann Brown

Music: Patti Gardner

Crafts : Kim Durick

Discovery : Ann Brown

Bible Story Time : Carolyn Hahn

Please continue to pray for this ministry.

Thank you in advance.

Your sister in Christ,

Melinda Molina

VBS Director

(C) 724-5442

melindadolores@aol.com



From the Pastor



I hope that everyone has had a very happy and very blessed Easter! Christ the Lord is risen and, because He lives, so do we! One of my favorite sayings of Jesus is that He has come to give us abundant life. When we live life under his care, following his examples and walking in his way, we find that life takes on a delightful and joyful quality. New experiences, new opportunities open up and we get a chance to grow and become new creations that are constantly living life to the fullest measure. Here at St. Mark's, Christ has been leading us in ways of living and ministries that we, perhaps, had never imagined possible. Our outreach to the community through our food ministries, our new community garden, our new worship services and our new English as a Second Language class are but a few examples of the full life we live through Christ's gracious leading.

A new possibility (among others) that could be realized is the offering by Rev. Chavez and his wife (they are the teachers of the ESL classes) of an informal conversational beginner's Spanish Class to us. At the last BBQ luncheon, he shared with me his gratitude to St. Mark's for partnering with the ESL classes. He is offering, if there is any interest, to teach Conversational Spanish to us at St. Mark's. I have shared this offer with several different folks in casual conversation and the response was of some excitement and genuine interest. If you have ever wanted to begin to learn some Spanish, or would like to just practice what you already know or deepen your skills then this offer is for you! We have an educated, professional teacher offering his services to us at a very opportune time.

If this is something that you would be interested in pursuing, let me or Imogene know and we will start looking at when a good start up time might be. I remember taking Spanish courses for years in High School and College; I was very proficient in reading and writing...but I could barely speak more than a few words or phrases. What was needed was for me to "practica, practica, practica"! Rev. Chavez is offering St. Mark's an opportunity to do exactly that; in a friendly, casual non-threatening environment. Who knows? Maybe this will be the year of St. Mark's becoming conversant in Spanish, in order to make disciples for the transformation of the world for Jesus Christ! God bless you!

Jay

May 2014

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">April</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">June</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>				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				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="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p>4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">-OFFICE CLOSED-</p> <p>4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">3</p> <p>8:00 AM Sat. Morning Reunion 9:00 AM ESL - LL</p>
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The Wesley Nurse programs for the month of May will include: “Be Active” physical activity class, “Healthy Eating” nutrition class, and “Fitness For Life” education program. These programs are designed to make you proactive rather than reactive to your health by giving you the tools you need to live a happier, healthier life. Please browse my monthly calendar for the specific programming times that is posted on the nurse’s board in the Fellowship Hall. As the Wesley Nurse, I provide health education, health screening, and community referrals. If you would like to meet with me to address your specific health needs, please call to schedule an appointment so I can assist you.

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Physical activity provides long-term health benefits for everyone! By being active, you will burn calories that you store from eating throughout the day and—it can be as easy as walking the dog or as rigorous as running a marathon. Physical activity, along with proper nutrition, is beneficial to people of all ages. Over the last 20 years, there's been a significant increase in obesity in the United States. About one-third of U.S. adults (33.8%) are obese and approximately 17% (or 12.5 million) of children and adolescents (aged 2-19 years) are obese.

By incorporating physical activity into your daily life—30 minutes for adults and 60 minutes for children—as well as healthy eating, you will experience positive health benefits and be on the path for a better future. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for everyone to get more physical activity. Make a difference: Spread the word about fun ways to get moving!

Regular physical activity can produce long-term health benefits, such as, prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and stroke (the three leading health-related causes of death), control weight, Make your muscles stronger, reduce fat, promote strong bone, muscle, and joint development, condition heart and lungs, build overall strength and endurance, improve sleep, decrease potential of becoming depressed, increase your energy and self-esteem, relieve stress, increase your chances of living longer. When you are not physically active, you are more at risk for high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, stroke, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

For more information on these health topics, please visit the website for [President's Council on Fitness, Sports, & Nutrition](http://www.fitness.gov/be-active/why-is-it-important/) at <http://www.fitness.gov/be-active/why-is-it-important/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/trends.HTML>. Come join us at the “Be Active” physical activity class held in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10am – 11am each week to become a healthier you!

Your Wesley Nurse,
Charzes Flowers, RN

St. Mark's Bulletin Board

April 3, 2014

Dear Secretary,

I am sending Easter blessings to all my church friends. God bless each one of you -

Sincerely,

Lucille Montgomery

My mom, Gloria Reedy, is doing great and we love having her being closer to us. She's enjoying more family visits. She really misses her church friends!

Ann Johnson

(If you would like to send Gloria a card, you can send it in care of Ann at the address below.)

*Gloria Reedy
c/o Ann Johnson
375 Tynebridge Lane
Houston, TX 77024*

The BBQ Ministry Team of St. Mark's UMC has been "cooking" since 2008. Funds have been raised for 11 causes or organizations. Over \$30,000 dollars have been raised and donated to:



St. Mark's Boy Scout Troup 87	\$10,000
St. Mark's Learning Center	\$6,600
Make A Smile (Tiffany)	\$4,000
St. Mark's UMC	\$3,400
Kairos	\$1,800
St. Mark's Vacation Bible School	\$1,500
St. Mark's Youth	\$1,300
PET	\$1,000
St. Mark's Health Care Cabinet	\$800
Imagine No Malaria	\$300
Open Doors Fund	\$300

St. Mark's UMC BBQ's have become popular with the neighborhood and the congregation. The above is what that support has done. The Team thanks you for your continued support in the future. If you are interested in joining this team, call Mary at the church office and leave your name and number, and someone from the team will contact you.

Would you be interested to fill in occasionally as a volunteer in the church office? If so, please give Mary a call (210-344-8393). We are updating our list of volunteers. Thanks!



Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this past BBQ. The funds are dedicated this month to replenish the youth camp fund. We had so many people volunteer to help and so many more who participated by enjoying the delicious repast. The youth will surely appreciate all your kindness' this summer at Camp Sequoia.

Community Garden Update

If you haven't visited the Garden, please do so. It is growing and doing well, there are peaches on the trees and a tomato on one of the plants. Jay and Ann have harvested their strawberry crop, though it didn't take long to eat two berries!!! We have many hopes and plans to make our back lot into a beautiful, productive plot of ground and God willing, it will happen. Many of you have been helping with building, planning, moving dirt, planting, watering and all else that goes with gardening and we send a big **THANK YOU** your way.

Imogene and Lucille

Max Harvey called the church office to thank his St. Mark's Family for the "beautiful flowers" he received for his birthday. He loves them & sends his love to everyone!

YOU TOOK MY PARKING SPACE AT CHURCH

One day, a man went to visit a church, He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, " I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

Easter Lily Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of:

Jim & Valerie Jean Barlow
Blanche Pierce
Dean Coley
Our Parents
Mark A. Molina
Bobby Rodriguez
My Loved Ones
William Green
Nancy, Phil, Jimmy Harkins & Orpha Dougherty
Frannie Grafton
Joe & Callie Jo Horner
Anthony & Anna Kosmuch
Lois Long
Perry Wayne Perryman
Letha & Les Price; Tray & Hazel Gaston
Al & Virginia Rushton
George Skinner
Cheryl Owens
Louis & Leola Wilke
Bud & Loretta Voth; Ralph Williams

In Honor of:

Nancy & Debra and their families
Megan, Garrett and Val
Our Children: Steve, Debi, Jeff & Sarah
Ron & Imogene Brown
Bea Kunkel
My Children & Grandchildren

Given By:

Virginia Barlow
Margery Green
Janice Coley
Janice Coley
Kim Durick
Kim Durick
Margery Green
Joanne Green
Dee, Thad & Amy Harkins
Homemakers SS Class
Sue Horner
John Kosmuch
Howard Long
Ralph & Patsy Perryman
Joe & Mary Jo Price
Janice Rushton
Joanne, Mike & Pat Skinner
St. Mark's UMC
Daniel & Sherry Wilke
John & Diane Williams

Jimmy & Ramona Bissett
Jeff Brown
Ron & Imogene Brown
Steve, Debi, Jeff & Sara and families
Louise Chaffin
Louise Chaffin

Easter Lily Memorials and Honorariums

In Honor of:

My Grandchildren: Brandi, Hunter, Jacquelyn & Ryan

Billie Gabour; Katie & Clint Tucker; Carolyn Gardner & Jerry McDuff

Joanne Green

Margery Green

Pastor Jay & Ann

Carolyn Hahn

Vanessa Pe'Vey

Youth of St. Mark's

Jeana, Kristin, Kyra & Paul

Our Children

Brooke's 16th Birthday!

Our Children: Lynn, Irma, Lynda, Sherry & Daniel

Our Grandchildren: Christina, Gabe, Jacob, Katie, Zachary, Amelia, Carl, Blake & Logan

Jacob, Katie & Zachary Wilke; Lynn & June Swatzell

Steven & Leigh-Anne Williams & Family; Steven & Cheryl Campos & Family

Imogene Brown

Given By:

Joyce Codd

Patti Gardner

Margery Green

Joanne Green

Mary Parramore

Mary Parramore

Susan Philbin

Susan Philbin

Joe & Mary Jo Price

Jerry & Joan Schott

Sharon, Brianne & Braden Somerville

Lynn & June Swatzell

Lynn & June Swatzell

Daniel & Sherry Wilke

John & Diane Williams

YAMS SS Class



ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .

Please remember
these in your prayers



Jill Anderson
Kylee Brown
Megan Brown
Margaret Broxton
Bill & Isabel Centeno
Bucky Coley
Esdras Cuervo
Margery Green
Gladys Johnson
Mary Krwawicz
Bea Kunkel
Clay Laster
Alice & Ben Logan

Michael Mendoza
Mendoza Family
Charles Mixon
Gloria Reedy
Steve Reyes Sr.
Ella Reyes
Mike Ross
John Parramore
Will Schuetze
Kirk Tomerlin
Abraham Wamah
Clifton Dabney
Vicki Robinson's

mother
Jim Calhoun
Pamela Cline
J'Net Chambers
Tim Chambers
Ida's Family
Tenne Ward
Ernest Gallegos
Norma Williams
Jacquelyn Day
The Freeto Family
Ruth Foerster
Bruce Schmidt & family

May 2
Louise Chaffin

May 4
Laurie Sprowl

May 7
Lynda Hubbard

May 9
Wayne Adams
Edythe McKeown

May 11
Lois Starr

May 12
Fran McMahon

May 13
Sue Horner

May 21
Mel Davison

May 23
Lessie Todd

May 24
Brandi Horner

May 25
Misty Adams
Jessica Black

May 27
Virginia Barlow
Dennis Wilson

May 28
Jay Brown

May 30
Jazzmyn Lopez
Melinda Molina



*Our thoughts and prayers are extended
in heartfelt sympathy
to the family of
Barbara Freeto
and to the family of
Herb Snook at the loss of his brother, Richard Kline*

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 Parramore
 WESLEY NURSE.....Charzes Flowers
 CHOIR DIRECTOR.....Carolyn Hahn
 ORGANIST EMERITUS.....Ruth Foerster
 ORGANIST.....Joseph Scutti
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