



# Messenger

St. Mark's  
United Methodist Church  
1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213  
210-344-8393

**Things to Remember:**

- † Thursday, May 11th - Trustees
- † Sunday, May 14th - Mother's Day
- † Monday, May 15th - Finance Committee @ 6:30 PM, Admin Council @ 7:00 PM
- † Thursday, May 25th - SA Mobile Food Pantry
- † Sunday, May 28th - Noisy Offering
- † Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day - Office Closed
- † Wednesday Praise @ 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- † **Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the lord my whole life long.**

**Refresh your driving skills with the AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE!**

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- Defensive driving techniques
- Proven safety strategies
- New traffic laws and rules of the road

Plus, there are no tests to pass. You simply sign up and learn. Upon completion you could receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance.\*

**DATE(S) & TIME(S)**      **Tuesday, May 16, 2017**  
12:30 p.m. -- 5:00 p.m.

**LOCATION**      **St. Mark's UMC**  
1902 Vance Jackson

**TO REGISTER**      **St. Mark's: 344-8393**

*(Seating limited to 30)*

**CLASSROOM COURSE:**  
\$15 for AARP members • \$20 for non-members  
For more information visit [www.aarp.org/drive](http://www.aarp.org/drive)

**TOYOTA** This program is supported by a generous grant from Toyota to AARP Foundation.

**DRIVER SAFETY**  
AARP Real Possibilities

\*Upon completion you may be eligible to receive an auto insurance discount. Other restrictions may apply. Consult your agent for details. D17174(3/14)

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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>	3/26	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23
Children	1	2	2		1
Youth	2		2	3	2
Adults	17	16	23	16	16
<b>Total SS</b>	20	18	27	19	19
<u>Worship</u>					
Sunday *Includes Sunrise	63	41	81	116*	48
Wednesday Service *Good Friday	22	29	23/*33	19	

### MAY USHERS

**Rob Remig, Joe Price, Johnny Mendoza**

#### Altar Flower Calendar Openings

May 21	1 Opening
June 4	1 Opening
June 11	1 Opening
June 18	1 Opening
July 2	1 Opening
July 9	1 Opening
July 16	1 Opening

St. Mark's will welcome a new pastor on July 2 as Jay Brown retires. Maria Rodriguez Soto comes to us from El Buen Samiritano in Harlingen, Texas where she has served since 2012. Her previous appointment was to the First Methodist Church in Elsa, Texas in 2010. Maria Soto is a native of Puerto Rico, where she still has family. She and her husband, Reynaldo, have served in the military.

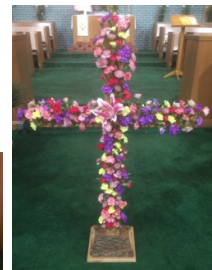
Reynaldo Rodriguez recently graduated from college and is substitute teaching as he obtains his certification. Pastor Soto will be attending Perkins School of Theology in Dallas the last two weeks of July. She is looking forward to serving St. Mark's.

If anyone has contacts as to renting a home, Pastor Soto would like to know. She will be looking for a home to rent. Please call the office with information and Patti will pass it on to the pastor.

### May Liturgists

May 7	Ann Brown
May 14	Dorothy Mace
May 21	Melinda Molina
May 28	Susan Philbin

Our beautiful sanctuary, all dressed up for Easter!



## THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR APPORTIONMENTS AS A SYSTEM OF GIVING



The role of steward in the life of God's community is both deeply rooted in our biblical history and tradition and richly filled with possibilities for understanding our ongoing life as the people of God.

Prayer and study of biblical writings and Christian tradition make apparent that connectional ministry funding patterns cannot be considered apart from a theology of stewardship that informs and undergirds all aspects of the financial life. Within the church, many of our new members are joining without the benefit of growing up in church families, bringing little or no foundational understanding of stewardship. Among our members is a marked decline in understanding regular, sacrificial giving, as many no longer center their personal/family finances within the context of their faith and religious devotion.

At the local church level, there is a great need for a renewed and expanded theology of stewardship. For many pastors and laypeople, the concept of stewardship is usually limited to money management in general and the annual budget campaign in particular. We are convinced by new conversations and resources, both in the United Methodist Church and in the wider ecumenical church, that the centrality of the biblical role of the steward must be reclaimed if the church is to fulfill its mission in this new millennium, and that patterns of funding and financial management in the church are to be seen in their proper context as practices of faith in the community of God's stewards.

From this perspective, apportionment is a mechanism of enabling our shared stewardship, of undergirding our connectional mission and ministry.

In a turbulent economic climate the age-old question out of Israel's experience of Babylonian

exile is still our own: "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" As we face the strange land of our own financial future, there is a note of fear in such a question, a fear that our singing might be overcome by our anxieties and uncertainties, our problems and our crises. The prophets of the exile understood that to sing the Lord's song in the crises of any age requires a rootedness in the memory of the faith community, on the one hand, and the courage of vision in confidence that the future is God's future, on the other.

To remember the biblical and historical traditions of what God has done in the experience of those who went before us, and to dare to dream dreams and see visions of the possibilities that God is opening before us, frees us from the tyranny and paralysis of present crises. The role of steward in the life of God's community is both deeply rooted in our biblical history and tradition and richly filled with possibilities for understanding our ongoing life as the people of God.

For Christians to claim the role of steward is to be reminded that all that we are and all that we have come into our care as the gift of God. In John Wesley's sermon "Free Grace," he said that a steward is a person given the responsibility for the care, management and use of something that belongs to another, a role that implies trust and partnership on the part of the owner toward the steward. To be a steward is to be entrusted through God's grace, a role that seems especially appropriate for a church descended from John Wesley's preaching of the centrality of grace. The various arenas in which we exercise the role of steward are interrelated and are to be understood as arenas where we receive, reflect and proclaim the grace of God. To be a steward is to be called to a vocation of God's grace.

Source: [UMCGIVING.ORG](http://UMCGIVING.ORG)



## *From Our Pastor. . .*

As I am writing this, it is Maundy Thursday afternoon. It's quiet...Patti has gone for the day; Johnny has gone and so has Charzes (today is her last day!). I have been watching over a big roaster of soup for tonight's service at Gethsemane Lutheran; it's got some hamburger (5 lbs) and tomatoes, veggies and a ton of spices...and, if I say so myself, it is tasty! Other than stirring the pot periodically till tonight, as I perform my duty vigilantly, I find that my own thoughts are being stirred!

Pastor Maria Soto is on her way to St. Mark's by way of El Buen Samaritano in Harlingen. I am so excited by her appointment! I don't know much about her, but I know that she comes highly recommended by her own District Superintendent in the Valley and she surely will be familiar with the needs and ministries and missions that our community are experiencing. I have no doubt that she is exactly what we need to move our congregation deeper into discipleship for the cause of Christ! One reason that I believe this is because we have been praying for God's help and assistance in discerning His will and our call. When we ask of the Lord, He is faithful and just and will answer. Another reason that I believe this is because I know that our Bishop and his cabinet of District Superintendents want for St. Mark's to thrive and become all that we are capable of being as a community church. They know the potential we have to make a difference in our neighborhood and in our world and they want to send us the best person available to help us grow and develop. And one other reason that I believe that Pastor Maria is the right one is because God is in the business of always doing a new thing! Isaiah 43:19..."See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?" For the first time in the history of St. Mark's, the Sr. Pastor will be a Hispanic, bilingual, bicultural woman. What a prophetic witness this congregation will make to the homes of our neighborhood! Her very presence will send a message to the community that we are serious about engaging in outreach and relationship! I am truly delighted in this appointment and I thank God for such discernment.

I sent Pastor Maria a brief note of welcome this past week, assuring her that I am praying for her transition (and my own) as the days move forward. I know that she would love to hear from you as well, offering encouragement and welcome. Should you wish to do so, you can send cards to her at her church's address which is El Buen Samaritano UMC, 806 W. Grant Ave, Harlingen, Texas 78550. And, of course, we will all continue to lift her name to the Lord in our prayers as this transition continues to move forward.

So, tonight is Maundy Thursday; then tomorrow is Good Friday; we'll have our Saturday Easter Prayer Vigil and on Sunday morning we will celebrate Christ's resurrection...and ours! We truly are an Easter people! Thanks be to God for such incredible and everlasting grace!

God bless you,

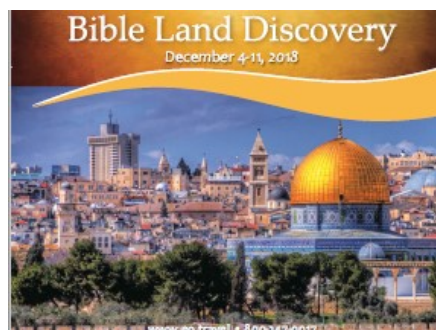
*Jay*

# May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Mtg 6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)	<b>2</b> 6:30 AM ROMEO's 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 6:00 PM Kairos Torres Advisory Council (FH) 6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym) 7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH) 6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym)	<b>5</b> 6:00 PM SA Choppers BB (Gym) <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion 9:00 AM ESL (LL) Diane Williams (FH) - SA Needlepoint Guild Luncheon																																																																																																									
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<b>28</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Children's Church (LL) 11:30 AM Choir Practice 6:00 PM F-Troop Blessing of the Garden Noisy Offering	<b>29</b> 6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym) <b>Memorial Day - Office Closed</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 AM ROMEO's 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym) 7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)	<b>31</b> 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH) 6:30 PM Texas Tigers (Gym) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Apr 2017</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center;">F</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Jun 2017</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center;">F</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</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							Jun 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
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Is a trip to Israel on your bucket list?

Plan now for a trip in 2018!



There are brochures in the office and in the Foyer - Please feel free to take as many as you'd like. Here's an abbreviated agenda for the trip:

**December 4, 2018:** Depart the USA

**December 5:** Arrive and Transfer to Bethlehem. Have dinner and spend the night in your Bethlehem hotel.

**December 6:** Visit the Herodion, the fortified palace and final resting place of Herod the Great. In Bethlehem, gaze out over Shepherds' Field and visit the church of the Nativity.

**December 7:** Visit Kasr el Yehud, the traditional site of the baptism of Jesus. Stop in Jericho, the oldest known inhabited city in the world. Visit Qumran, site of the Dead Sea Scroll discovery. Make a stop at the Shores of the Dead Sea for a quick dip in the salt and mineral-laden waters. Spend the night in Bethlehem.

**December 8:** Jesus' Ministry in Galilee - Explore the Church of the Fish and the Loaves at Tabgha, traditional site of the feeding of the 5,000. Visit the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, and visit the synagogue built on the site where Jesus taught. Cross the Sea of Galilee on a special boat ride, complete with an onboard worship service. Spend the night in Jerusalem.

**December 9:** Visit Mt. Zion and stand in the Upper Room. Walk through the ancient rooms of Caiaphas the High Priests' house beneath the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu. Visit the Temple Mount and pray at the Western Wall. Sit on the Teaching Steps where Jesus Taught.

**December 10:** Stand atop the Mount of Olives as Jesus did and enjoy a remarkable view of the "Golden City" of Jerusalem. Pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. View the Pool of Bethesda. Sing in the Church of St. Anne (known for its amazing acoustics). Visit Herod's Antonia Fortress, Walk the Via Dolorosa and stand in reverence at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Visit the Garden Tomb.

**December 11:** Return Home with a new understanding of the Bible, the land and the life of Jesus!

The price from San Antonio is \$2646 and includes your airfare, entry fees, first class hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, transportation, tour guides, and more... Contact Patti in the church office if you are interested, or pick up a brochure and sign up online!

# NOTES AND NOTICES

Magdalena House is a shelter for women and children in San Antonio. Their mission is the transformation of women and children fleeing abuse and violence. On May 4th, you can support Magdalena House through The Big Give SA - the San Antonio city-wide on-line giving day, either by making a gift at <https://www.thebiggivesa.org> or by **spreading the word** about Magdalena House. If you would like to honor a woman who has been a mother to you, you can make a gift by May 4th and Magdalena House will send her a Mother's Day card in honor of your gift.

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet you sent for my birthday. It made me enjoy my day even more!

Ella Reyes



Special thanks to  
Tom Jack  
for digging the holes and  
fixing our plumbing issues!!

Do you like to barbecue? Call Sue!  
She's looking for volunteers to help  
the BBQ committee!!  
210-342-6662

## 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!**

Dear St. Mark's,

Ron and I would like to say thanks to each of you for your prayers, cards, calls and visits during Ron's recent surgery. He is doing well and we feel blessed to call each of you our friends. Your love, care and concern are deeply appreciated and I know they have healing power. Again our thanks to each of you.

Imogene Brown

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



Oh, you should have been at the Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>. We had 39 children participate in crafts, singing, dancing, storytelling and oh yeah... hunting for eggs. Thanks to all our volunteers every craft table had at least one person helping the children and they seem to really take their time this year making each item. We had lots of Boy Scouts helping this year also. Oh, did I mention that we had so many cookies it was a smorgasbord! Sue Vasquez from Colonial Hills led the kids in interactive songs and dance and Pastor Jay had them mesmerized with telling the story of Easter. On a side note the caterpillars that had been lunching on the garden had turned to chrysalis and then that day hatched into Monarch butterflies - totally awesome. Thanks again to everyone who helped and especially to Kathy Jack and Sue Horner. Without their untiring help none of this would happen.



St Mark's is looking good!! It is our hope that with some TLC, we can make our play area a brighter, safer, and more inviting place for children to enjoy. In the weeks ahead, volunteers will be focusing on repairing and painting the different pieces of play ground equipment in the yard . There are several other tasks that would welcome your time, your hands (talents??), and your donations. Prayers are always needed. If you can help, contact Melinda (210-724-5442) or Patti in the church office (210-344-8393).

St. Mark's joining in prayer together... A heartfelt thank you to all of you who participated in our prayer vigil last month. Our six sets of angels greeted those who came to spend some quiet, purposeful time with the Lord. Prayer is always a great comfort to those praying and those being prayed for. It is a wonderful gift to us from our Lord Jesus Christ.

A replacement seat has been ordered for the bench. It will have the exact same words and design as the original. We will re-use the 2 legs. The total cost is \$185. It should be here in about 4 to 6 weeks. If there are any who would like to contribute to the cost in Ruth's memory, you can make contributions to the church, notating the money is to be used for the bench.



FYI: We are making plans for our next directory!!  
The pictures will be taken September 7-9. Expect a call in the next  
couple of months to schedule your sitting!



St Mark's outreach.....our Thursday mornings with the students from Whittier Middle school have continued to be a joy for both Lillian and myself. At our spring break activity in the gym, the students began a mosaic school house, which has been completed and mounted near the area they wait for the bus.

We are so humbled to have been led by the Lord to reach out and show His love to a special group of young people this school year.



St Mark's is looking to the summer.....our talented VBS team will be meeting in May to plan for our 2017 VBS program planned for June 26 thru June 30. Through this ministry, we plant the seeds that the Lord will water and nourish and sustain in the years to come. Updates to follow.

## SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

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

Operating Cash balance at 2/28/2017	557
Non-Designated Contributions - March	13,830
Operating Expenses:	
Council on Ministries	917
Special Mission Giving	0
Mission Giving	405
Administration	
Expense	323
Trustees	3,154
Pastor's Compensation	7,272
Lay Personnel Compensation	6,999
	<hr/>
	19,070
Other Income/(Expense)	<hr/>
	556
Operating Cash balance at 3/31/2017	<hr/>
	(4,127)

### Comments:

March contributions were \$67 higher than budgeted and \$3,269 lower than March 2016. Other income was \$952 lower than budgeted and \$1,564 less than 2016.

Operating expenses were \$6,495 favorable to the budget and \$6,546 favorable to 2016. Expenses were favorable primarily due to lower Trustee Expenses (lower Electricity and

Insurance timing), Mission Giving as we did not make a payment in March, and Lay Personnel Compensation (no Choir Director Salary).

March had a cash outflow of \$4,993. Our operating cash balance decreased to a negative \$4,127.

The Finance Committee thanks your continued support during 2017. Please keep the Finance Committee in your prayers as decisions impacting the finances of the church are made.

God Bless you all.


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



Bob Ailerson  
 Jill Anderson  
 Connor Benjamin  
 Kylee Brown  
 Megan Brown  
 David Cavazos  
 Bucky Coley  
 Carl Crenwelge  
 Esdras Cuervo  
 Sylvia Gonzales  
 Alice Logan  
 Kerri Luker  
 Michael Mendoza

Eric Milette  
 Gerald Morriss  
 Steve Reyes, Sr.  
 Will Shuetze  
 Kirk Tomerlin  
 Kathryn Wilson  
 Nora Ramirez  
 Rudy Ramirez  
 Richard Villanueva  
 First Baptist Church of New  
 Braunfels  
 Jack Young  
 Roland Dullnig

Karin Garcia  
 Ashley Hill  
 Max Harvey  
 Patty Braselton  
 Family of EG Gage



<p>5/2 Louise Chaffin Leticia Mercado</p> <p>5/4 Laurie Sprowl</p> <p>5/7 Lynda Hubbard</p>	<p>5/9 Edythe McKeown Wayne Adams</p> <p>5/12 Fran McMahon</p> <p>5/13 Sue Horner</p> <p>5/21 Mel Davison</p> <p>5/24 Brandi Horner</p> <p>5/25 Misty Adams Jessica Black</p> <p>5/27 Virginia Barlow Dennis Wilson</p>	<p>5/28 Jay Brown</p> <p>5/30 Jazzmyn Lopez Melinda Molina</p> <p>5/31 Bridey Anderson</p>
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Joe & Claire Cobb  
 May 5

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, 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



**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