



Things to Remember!

- † Sunday, November 3rd,
All Saints Day
- † Commitment Sunday and
Celebration Luncheon -
Sunday, November 11th
- † Sunday, November 17th -
Food Drive
- † **Holiday Schedule for
FOOD TRUCK - FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 22 &
THURSDAY, DECEMBER
26**
- † Monday, November 25,
Decorate for Christmas!
- † Thursday, November
28th—Happy Thanksgiv-
ing!
- † Praise and Communion Bi-
Cultural Worship Service
Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
(FH)

COMMITMENT SUNDAY - November 10, 2013

As we consider our commitment to St. Mark's we will conse-
crate our financial gifts during worship by bringing our Commit-
ment Cards.

After worship we will have our Celebration Luncheon in
Highsmith Center, our gym. Brisket, bread, drinks, and dessert
will be provided. You are asked to bring dishes of your choice
of salad and/or vegetable.

Reservation cards for the luncheon will be available on the two
preceding Sundays – October 27, 2013 and November 3, 2013,
or you may call the church at 210-344-8393.

Our Prayer Vigil will be Novem-
ber 9, 2013. Your faithful prayers
continue to help St. Mark's enrich
our spiritual growth.



**In
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STATE OF THE CHURCH

ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday School</u>	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27
Children	4	3	3	4
Youth	6	5	7	11
Adults	45	37	46	34
Total SS	55	45	56	49
<u>Worship</u>	112	99	126	100

GREETERS

† Diane Haag
† Susan Philbin

TAPE MINISTRY

† Daniel Wilke

USHERS

† Bob Bailly
† Jeff Brown
† Tom Jack
† Bob Mace



Finance Committee Reflections: Sounds From the Bean Counters

We are finally in the time of year where San Antonio is most pleasant. Cool mornings, occasional rain, and just enjoyable days. Add to that the beauty of the "Pumpkin Patch".

Our contributions in September were approximately \$2,000 higher than budgeted and \$3,000 greater than last year. Year-to-date, we are almost \$1,000 higher than 2012 year-to-date while trailing the budget by approximately \$2,700.

Operating expenses in September were \$10,600 higher than 2012 and \$5,700 greater than budgeted. For the month, \$8,500 of the favorable variance was the result of higher Mission Giving payments. Compared to the budget, Mission Giving expense was higher by \$6,700. While there were variances in other categories, Mission Giving accounted for the majority of the variance. Year-to-date September operating expenses were nearly \$11,000 higher than 2012. Compared to the budget, operating expenses are favorable by \$13,000, primarily the result of lower spending in the Trustee, Pastor Compensation and Lay Personnel categories. For the month, we had a cash outflow of \$7,200 and a year-to-date outflow of approximately \$13,000. This is primarily the result of apportionment payments of \$10,400 in September. Our apportionment payments are \$600 higher than the year-to-date budget.

Our operating cash balance is \$6,441. This represents an increase of \$5,000 versus the end of August. The significant apportionment payment and the cash increase were possible due to repayment of monies invested in the Day Care which were reimbursed after the closing.

In September, we celebrated our 60th anniversary. Expenses relating to the event were approximately \$1,400. Monies contributed and designated for the anniversary were almost \$1,200.

As always, we thank each of you for the financial support you provide to St. Mark's. Bless you all!

UMW Happenings...

Esther Circle will meet Wednesday, November 6th at the home of Imogene Brown.

Martha Circle will meet November 19th.

Dorcas Circle will meet Wednesday, November 20th at The Meadows at 9:30 AM, meeting at the church at 9:00 AM for those who wish to carpool. Gae Bjork (Frankie Armstrong's daughter) will provide the program, "Bumps In the Road". Come join us!

ALL LADIES OF ST. MARK'S

The United Methodist Women of St. Mark's will be hosting a Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 7, 2013 for ALL of the St. Mark's ladies. Everyone is invited for a Christmas devotional and a Games Party. We will be playing Bunco and if you do not know how to play, a number of our ladies will be glad to teach you. Put it on your calendar and plan to spend this special day together.

We will look forward to seeing you on the 7th!!

Joanne and Imogene



FOOD DRIVE, NOVEMBER 17

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, November 17 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. However, we can now purchase 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. If you would like to help your neighbors in need, please bring your food and cash donations to church on November 17 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!



Anyone interested in an Adult Bible Study Class and Fellowship is invited to the YAMS (Young Adult Marrieds & Singles) Sunday School Class. We meet in the side room of the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday and welcome you to share our study, faith and witness. We will be serving the Pot Luck Dinner for the entire congregation on Sunday, November 10th ----
--Come join us and get acquainted as we share Christ's love with each other.

Blessings,
Imogene



From The Pastor's Desk

I hope that everyone is enjoying these cool and (sometimes) crisp Fall mornings! We have had good rains, and cooler temps and enjoyed the festive atmosphere of the Pumpkin Patch and all its orange glory. Fall is the season associated with harvest and abundance; we certainly are experiencing this at St Mark's! Our apportionments are up to date, budget strong, bills being paid, and strong worship attendance with visitors, diversity and joyful praise; thank you, Jesus!

This abundance is being experienced in other ways also. One way is that we are starting another Sunday school class on November 3rd, the first Sunday in November. We are calling it "Companeros de Cristo" (Companions in Christ) and it is being started for those who are not currently connected to another Sunday School class. Already, several have approached me with an interest in joining; all ages from young adult to my age (ancient) and with different levels of discipleship; little or no background in Bible study or formal class participation are being invited. With this in mind, I'm going to use a brief devotional study as our text; probably The Upper Room devotional for the day. This would involve a brief reading of the topic and then discussion of the text. The group will meet in one of the rooms over in the former Learning Center, which is named Lovely Lane. The name, "Companeros de Cristo" is not intended to suggest that the class will be Spanish speaking; it is intended for everyone. It is so named to invoke the reality of our desire to reach out into our neighborhood, which is bicultural and bilingual, as we seek to make disciples for Christ and the transformation of the world into His image.

So, if you have any interest in trying a new class; if it's been awhile since you've been in Sunday school or if you've never been involved in a formal class or Bible Study . . . why not give us a try? It's gonna be very user friendly, casual, informal . . . and very spirit-filled and meaningful. I'm teaching it and I look forward to our newest addition to the already existing and excellent classes we already offer. If you have any questions, give me a call and let's continue on our spiritual journey together! I praise God for allowing me to be your Pastor and friend; until we meet again, Dios le bendiga, may God bless you!

Jay



Angel Tree names will be available the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Gifts must be returned to the tree no later than December 15th.

November 2013

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;">October</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></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>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">December</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</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	31			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	31					<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p>-OFFICE CLOSED- 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p>All Saints Day 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM Kairos Outside (FH)</p>
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**STEWARDSHIP:
250 Retired Pastors
153 Surviving Spouses**

They gave their lives in ministry to the churches of the Southwest Texas Conference. Now it is time for the Southwest Texas 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 dollars each year to fund

their basic pension benefit. Much of that comes from gifts to the pension crusade, but there is still an unmet gap. The gap is paid through the pension apportionment.

It will be the middle of this century before this responsibility ends.

The apportionment also goes to subsidize current health benefits for pastors. The pension apportionment pays 1/2 of the cost of the coverage for each full time pastor appointed to one of our churches. The remainder of the cost is paid by the church and 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 which 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. Business manager Rick Dyke from First Church San Angelo recently said that the restructuring was a major benefit to First UMC and to its lay employees. It provided better benefits than they were able to secure on the marketplace at a lower cost.

The Pension Apportionment takes care of those who care for the church!

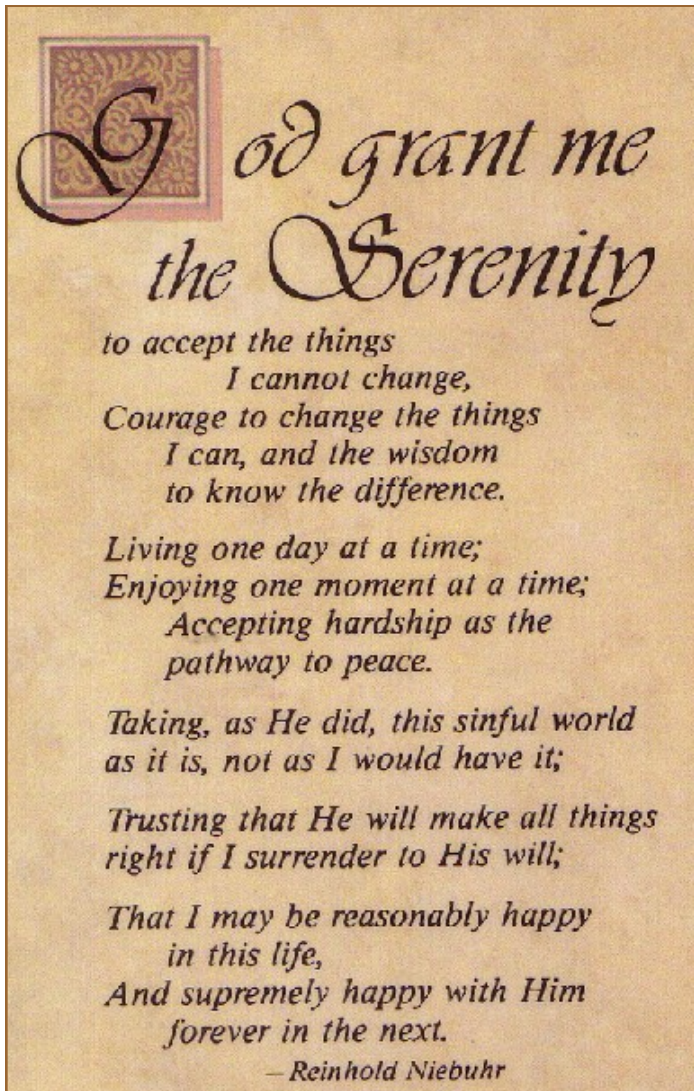


The St. Mark's Youth continue to sell beautiful wall calendars, pocket calendars and Christmas Cards! These calendars make lovely small Christmas gifts for friends and family. Please support our youth and consider a calendar for your home or office or as a gift to remind you and your friends of God's beautiful creation.

All items are \$6. Check with any of the youth or Susan Philbin for details.

Thank you for your support!





In our Wednesday lunch time Bible Study, we were recently discussing the fact that the Serenity Prayer had more words than many of us were aware! So, for those of you who are interested, here is the Serenity Prayer in its entirety.

Our Wednesday Night Praise and Bi-Cultural Communion Service is celebrating our first year anniversary on Wednesday, November 6th! This is an informal worship service where we sing praises, pray together, hear the Word and share in Holy Communion.

Praise, Pray, Worship

Share!



ADIOS PUMPKIN PATCH



We enjoyed the Pumpkin Patch for 25 days. It was fun watching the kids and visiting with church and neighborhood friends. And, of course, by Thanksgiving, the Patch will once again be a distant memory.

All of you contributed in so many different ways. It really doesn't matter if you repaired the lights, set up the canopy and lights, donated pallets, unloaded pallets, hay and pump-



kins, organized the unloading, decorated the Patch, prepared food for all the folks unloading pumpkins, scheduled the workers, washed little pumpkins for story time kids, stuffed the goody bags for the kids, scheduled schools for story time, read stories, delivered prayer requests served as prayer warriors, worked in the patch, dried pumpkins, rolled pumpkins, hauled off rotting pumpkins, covered and uncovered the hay, donated candy, took pictures of kids in the Patch, counted money each day, helped remove hay and pallets and assisted in taking everything down. Also, many thanks to the anonymous donor who made it possible for children at story time to receive a pumpkin. Each job was appreciated and we could not have made it all work if it had not been for the help of each of you. And, you did it all with smiles. St. Mark's is truly blessed to have each of you. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!



A very special thank you to Lynda Swatzell for taking over as Finance Chairman and Susan Philbin, aka Penelope Pumpkin, for taking over for Fran McMahon, aka Priscilla Pumpkin. And, last but not least, a loud shout out to Mary Parramore and Johnny Mendoza for their endless assistance each and every day. Y'all are the greatest!

FOOD DRIVE NOVEMBER 17th



Please mark your calendar for Sunday, November 17 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. However, we can now purchase 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. If you would like to help your neighbors in need, please bring your food and cash donations to church on November 17 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!

From the Wesley Nurse



What is a superfood?

Superfoods are foods that have a lot of nutritional value and contain *vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and phytonutrients*. These help boost your immune system and keep your body strong. Antioxidants, or cancer-fighters, help to protect your cells from cancer and other diseases. Phytonutrients can help build a strong immune system, which helps fight diseases.

When superfoods are in season, they have great flavor, texture and nutritional content.

Here is a list of autumn's superfoods:

Apples: High in fiber, especially the skin. High in vitamin A, which keeps vision healthy and protects skin. High in vitamin C, which helps boost the immune system.

Red Bell Peppers: High in vitamin C. High in potassium, which helps boost energy and strength. High in vitamin A.

Pears: High in fiber, especially in the skin. High in vitamin C. Loaded with water.

Grapefruit: Half a fruit = 75% daily intake of vitamin C. Can help boost metabolism.

Blueberries: High in antioxidants. Help keep brains smart and memories sharp.

Pumpkin: High in fiber. High in vitamin A.

Persimmon: High in vitamin C. Good source of manganese, potassium and calcium.

Pomegranates: High in antioxidants. High in fiber, potassium and vitamin C. Helps keep hearts healthy and helps fight against heart disease.

Beets: High in folate, which helps red blood cell growth.

Brussel Sprouts: High in fiber, folate and vitamin C.

Sweet Potato: High in antioxidants. High in potassium, vitamin C and fiber.

Cranberries: High in antioxidants, and phytonutrients. High in content of fiber and water, which helps digestive health. High in vitamin C.

Spinach: High in vitamin C, folate and magnesium. High in vitamin B2, which helps the immune system. The zinc in spinach helps prevent cancer and infection.

Linda

A Story of God's Grace

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak....

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister.

They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10.00?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the

bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you.. You don't want those people!!"

"How much? He asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.



ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .

Jill Anderson
 Kylee Brown
 Megan Brown
 Margaret Broxton
 Bill & Isabel Centeno
 Bucky Coley
 Esdras Cuervo
 Gladys Johnson
 Mary Krwawicz
 Bee Kunkel
 Clay Laster
 Alice & Ben Logan
 Michael Mendoza
 Charles Mixon

Gloria Reedy
 Cheryl Owens
 Steve Reyes, Sr.
 Mike Ross
 Ed & Helen Setterfield
 Will Schuetze
 Kirk Tomerlin
 Abraham Wamah
 Steve Woods
 Steve Reyes
 Pat Downey
 Doris Sinclair
 Sharon McLaughin
 The Mendoza Family

Eliot Edwards
 Ida Bejaran
 Joyce Smith
 Ann Payette
 Marleigh Linnartz
 Jeffrey Shane
 Gene Pitman
 Veronica Furlough
 Melissa Garza
 Roger Moore
 Carolyn Hahn
 Connie Wills
 Diana Russo & family
 Chris Baird



PRAYER REQUESTS

Lee Rux
 The Northcut family
 Lynn Mullican and family
 Margery Green

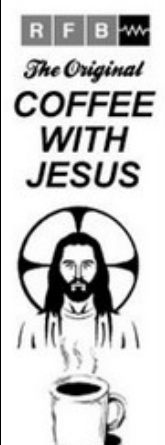



11/01	Linda Jimenez
11/02	Megan Brown
11/06	Aaron Russo
11/08	Joyce Codd
11/11	Joe Price
11/18	Vee Davison
11/24	Charles Allen
11/29	Lois Gordon
11/30	Kathy Wilson

As many of you know, the Mixon's are in the process of re-locating to Grand Prairie, TX. We wish them all the best and will miss them greatly! Their new address is:


Charles & Veleta Mixon
 7219 Tolosa
 Grand Prairie, TX 75054
 (682)222-7414









Sometimes when I get to the "thanks" part of my prayers, I just start reciting stuff I know I'm *supposed* to be thankful for, Jesus.



Perhaps you're taking those things for granted, Lisa.



How do I not do that?



Imagine losing them.

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- 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

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