Food Drive

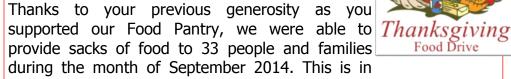


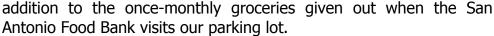
#### Things to Remember!

- Sunday, November 2nd -DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!!
- Sunday, November 2nd All Saints Day
- Saturday, November 8th -Prayer Vigil
- Sunday, November 9th -Commitment Sunday and lunch
- Sunday, November 16th -Church Conference at University UMC (5-7PM)
- Monday, November 17th -Vouchers for Food Truck
- Wednesday, November 19th - Food Truck & Tacos
- Sunday November 23rd -Harvest Sunday
- Monday, November 24th -Decorate the Church
- Sunday, November 30th F -Troop
- Tuesdays at 9:30 AM Drive Thru Prayer
- Praise and Communion Bi-Cultural Worship Service Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm (FH) preceded by a light meal at 6:30 pm

# In This Issue ...

### **FOOD DRIVE, NOVEMBER 23**





Please mark your calendar for Sunday, November 23 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. If you would like to help your neighbors in need, please bring your food to church on November 23 and place these "offerings" on the altar. We will also take up a "Noisy Offering" that day if you prefer to make a cash donation. Specific items needed at this time include box milk; individual boxes of cereal; canned meat, Spam, chicken, tuna; individual and canned fruit, applesauce; pulltop chili, stew, ravioli, chunky soup; Saltines; 12 oz drinks; macaroni & cheese; 18 oz and smaller peanut butter; 1-pound spaghetti noodles; spaghetti sauce; 1-pound rice; 1-pound pinto beans.

### Thanks for caring!

State of the Church	2	Pumpkin Patch	7
Stewardship / Poinsettia Sales	3	Tribute to Margery Green / Youth Fund Raiser	8
Note from the Pastor	4	Blessing of the Animals / Snapshots	g
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#### STATE OF THE CHURCH



Sunday School	09/28	10/05	10/12	10/23
Children	3	5	4	5
Youth	5	10	2	6
Adults	44	46	31	42
Total SS	52	61	37	53
<u>Worship</u>	84	92	77	96

### <u>USHERS</u>

- **Rob Remig**
- Joe Price
- **Stephanie Bercegeay**
- Carl Swatzell

### TAPE MINISTRY

† Daniel Wilke

### **GREETERS**

- **Cynthia Ramirez**
- **Jeannette Rodgers**

# **Finance Committee Reflections:** Sounds From the Bean Counters



running. What a great way to meet our neighbors. It's cantly greater. also exciting to see everyone working together to make it a success.

this month is potentially the lowest in many years, cer- This cannot continue indefinitely. tainly since 2012. September was \$6,100 lower than budgeted and \$7,600 less than last year. Year-to-date, For the first time this year our apportionment spending we trail the budget by \$10,900 and 2013 by \$12,100.

Operating expenses in September were \$21,200. This is \$9,900 less than last September and \$2,600 lower than As we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, it budgeted. During September, we paid less than our is very important that we keep St. Mark's in our budgeted amount towards apportionments and Council thoughts and prayers. We all need to be thankful that on Ministries and Lay Personnel Compensation spending St. Mark's has been here for us in the good times and were lower. Our year-to-date operating expenses are the bad times. Based on our current cash position, we also lower than both 2013 and the budget.

outflow of \$5,900. Our year-to-date cash outflow is St. Mark's. St. Mark's has always been here for us; now \$20,100. If our operating expenses had not been so well let's be here for our church.

It's great to see the Pumpkin Patch once again up and controlled, our cash outflow would have been signifi-

At the end of September, our operating cash balance is a negative \$9,770. This is very concerning as we are Our contributions in September were \$13,916. While we "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul". This means we are had hoped the summer lull in contributions would end, using our restricted fund to meet our monthly needs.

> is less than budgeted by \$1,002. This will be rectified in October.

ask that this year at Thanksgiving and Christmas you are as generous as possible. Think about putting St. For the month of September, we experienced a cash Mark's on your "Christmas list" and give an extra gift to

## Reminder! Commitment Sunday!!



### **November 9, 2014**

Don't forget to turn in your reservations October 26th or November 2nd for our Commitment Sunday luncheon. It will be covered dish with each family bringing a meat and vegetable or salad. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Our Prayer Vigil will be Saturday, November 8, 2014.

During our worship on November 9th, we will turn in our Commitment Cards, then proceed to the gym for our lunch.

### Conference Benevolences \$2,450,000

#### PENSIONS & BENEFITS

Goal - Take care of those who care for the church

22.3 cents of every apportioned dollar goes to Pensions.

They gave their lives in ministry to the Conference Churches. Now it's times for the 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.

Poinsettias will go on sale in November!

Poinsettias will be \$10 and can be purchased in honor or memory of your loved one. There will be a form in the bulletin on Sundays November 16, 23, and 30. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia, please fill out one of the forms, or call the church office (210)344-8393.



I hope that everyone is enjoying this wonderful Fall weather! The pumpkins have arrived, come and gone, and the Pumpkin Patch has been a great success; many lives touched by the hospitality that our church has shown to our community! I'm so proud of all the loving service that has gone into this mission and ministry; lots of work....and lots of fun.

Now we are moving on to the next big things! Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> will be a very special Sunday; we have a two-fer...it will be Consecration Sunday and also Veterans Sunday. Consecration Sunday will be marked with our financial pledges to God and to the missions and ministries of St Mark's. We have been so blessed by God's abundance and gifts; what a joy and privilege to offer back to God the gifts that we have received! As a child, we used to sing an offertory hymn each Sunday which called to mind the miraculous cycle of God's generosity, and our reception of those blessings and our loving response: "All things come of thee, O Lord....and of thine own have we given thee! Amen!" Truly...Amen! Anything that we have: our lives, the beat of our hearts, the air we breathe, our homes, our health, our families, our freedom, our salvation, anything and everything....it all comes from God. What a blessing to be able to offer those blessings back to our generous and loving Heavenly Father! So, as we look forward to worship on this special day, let us all search our hearts and seek real discernment that we may offer real gifts to the One who has given all.

The second part of this special Sunday is our observance of Veterans Sunday. Talk about giving the gift that is truly a blessing! We honor those who paid so much for our freedoms; some paid the ultimate price, sacrificing their lives that we might have life and have it abundantly. Some, sadly, are still paying that price: mental issues, broken bodies, broken minds, broken relationships...sacrifices made for our freedom. How can we not remember their offerings and honor their lives? We will do that on this Sunday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and, along with special music we will have a very special speaker and sermon from one of our own veterans. You will certainly want to be here on this special day!

After the service, we'll gather for a celebratory luncheon and I pray that you will attend this also. Something happens when the people of God gather for a common meal. For one thing, Jesus is present. For another, we get to visit and fellowship with one another and strangers often become friends, friends become family. A church congregation is not made up of just one person...it takes us all to embody and reflect the tangible witness of Christ. So, bring your gifts, your gratitude and your appetite on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and let us celebrate God's blessing of America, our church home and family, and our personal lives! You'll be glad you did...and so will our Heavenly Father! See you Sunday,

Jay

# November 2014

Month ly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tues day	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						8:00 AM Sat. Morning Reunion 9:00 AM ESL - LL
2 All Saints Day Daylight Saving s Time Ends 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)		6:30 PM Light Supper	6 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 6:00 PM Kairos (FH) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)		8 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM Praye Vigil 8:00 AM Sat. Morning Reunion 9:00 AM ESL - LL
& Potluck Luncheon	10 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Conversational Spanish (LL)	@Cracker Barrel	(FH)	73 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 10:00 AM NL Deadine 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Trustee Mtg (FH) 7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)	1.4 -OFFICE CLOSED- 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)	1.5 8:00 AM Sat. Morning Reunion 9:00 AM ESL - IL
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Church Conference (University UMC)	Vouchers 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting	6:30 AM ROMEO's @Cracker Barrel 9:00 AM Drive-thru Praye 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM NE Community Choir Practice		20 9:00 AM NL Mailout (YAMS) 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 11:00 AM Nut'l Pot Luck (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Boy Souts (SH)	-OF FICE CL OSED- 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)	22 8:00 AM Sat. Morning Reunion 9:00 AM ESL - LL
Harvest Sun day 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	Decorate Church 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM Conversational Spanish (LL) 7:00 PM SPRC Mtg (LL)	25 6:30 AM ROMEO's @Cracker Barrel 9:00 AM Drive-thru Praye 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM NE Community Choir Practice (FH)	26 1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH) 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC) 6:30 PM Light Supper (FH)	-OF FICE CL OSED-	28 -OF FICE CL OSED- 4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)	8:00 AM Sat. Morning Reunion 9:00 AM ESL - LL
30 1st Sunday in Advent 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:30 PM F-Troop		October  S M T W T  1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30	10 11 17 18 24 25	S M 1 7 8 14 15 21 22	December  T W T F S  2 3 4 5 6  9 10 11 12 13  16 17 18 19 20  23 24 25 26 27  30 31	JI.

### **Wesley Nurse News - November 2014**

The Wesley Nurse programs for the month of November will include: "Be Active" – a physical activity class that meets three times a week, "Healthy Eating" – a nutrition class, which a nutritionist from the San Antonio Food Bank comes to discuss different topics on how to eat healthy, and an educational program on "Ebola". These programs are designed to promote a healthier and safer lifestyle. Please see my monthly calendar of events located on the Wesley Nurse board outside of my office in the Fellowship Hall for specific dates and times for the monthly programs. As a Wesley Nurse, I provide health screens, health education, and community referrals. If you would like to discuss your specific health needs, please call me at 210-344-8393, Ext 103 to schedule an appointment.

### **Ebola Virus Disease**

Ebola virus disease was formerly known as Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever (EVD). The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa. The highest number of cases of the Ebola virus is seen in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. There have been two confirmed cases of the Ebola virus in the United States.

**Transmission:** Ebola virus is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes in, for example, the eyes, noses, or mouth) with blood or bodily fluids (urine, sweat, saliva, feces, vomit, breast milk and semen) of a person who is showing symptoms of Ebola; Objects (like needles or syringes) that has been contaminated with the virus; infected animals. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Ebola is not spread through the air or by water, or in general, by food.

**Symptoms:** Symptoms of Ebola includes fever (101.5F), severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising).

**Prevention:** There is no FDA-approved vaccine available for Ebola. Practice careful hygiene. Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and avoid contact with blood and body fluids. Do not handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids (such as clothes, bedding, needles, and medical equipment).

For more information on the above topic, please see my monthly calendar for dates and times of the educational program or go to the CDC website: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/">http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/</a> or the World Health Organization (WHO) website: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/">www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/</a>

Your Wesley Nurse, Charzes Flowers, RN



### THE PUMPKIN PATCH – A HAPPENING PLACE!

There are a whole lot of pumpkins going out of the Pumpkin Patch and that's a good thing. This year sales have been amazing! If things keep up, it will be our best year ever!! And, we thank God for the sales, but most importantly, for the folks coming to the Patch and the opportunities for community outreach.

Story Time has been going great and the kids are having a lot of fun. Mrs. Carolyn, the good witch, had to walk to Story Time because her broom malfunctioned, but she got there on time. Farmers Dorothy Mace, Lucille Armitage and Jeannette Rodgers have been busy reading stories and explaining how the pumpkins grow, who grows them and how they get here to St. Mark's. Occasionally, there is a pumpkin toss going on with the little ones. Mr. Rob is there to take pictures of each school or day care group that comes. Often, it gets a little chaotic trying to get those kids lined up for their pictures. Thanks also to Lois Gordon and Kathy Jack for helping Joyce with the sales of pumpkins and distribution of treat bags during the large groups of kids. A special thanks to Dorothy who keeps Story Time operating smoothly.

Many of you have been busy working in the Patch or doing things behind the scenes and we thank you very much for your hard work. We especially appreciate Bob Mace and Bob Bailly for coming in the morning, Monday-Friday, to clear out the rotten pumpkins and helping Dorothy and Joyce get set up for the children. And, of course, Kathy Jack is busy counting the money and sending in the daily reports to the Patch. She also makes sure that the cash boxes are ready each day and we appreciate her diligence. Also, we want to give a shout out to Patti Gardner for keeping us supplied with brochures and fielding phone calls about the Patch. It's always nice to have any of you stop by the Patch to chat so we have a chance to catch up which we don't often have the opportunity to do. Please keep stopping by.

We've seen kids tossing pumpkins, kissing pumpkins, struggling trying to lift the big pumpkins, climbing on the hay, measuring pumpkins with their tape measures, looking for the littlest pumpkin as well as the biggest, posing for pictures and laughing and having a great time. They load the wagons and then unload them. Some kids enjoy coasting down the ramp in the wagons.

It is a treat to watch. The record for picture taking was witnessed by Jay and Ann. Can you imagine someone taking 941 pictures in the Patch? Most of us did not take that many pictures of our kids in their lifetime. And, of course, we have the pets that come with their owners to get their pictures taken in the Patch. Many of the dogs are there in their costumes. (I'm not sure the dogs are very happy about being in costume, but it makes their master happy.) One was there dressed as a bumblebee.

As you can see, there is a lot going on every day in the Patch. We invite you to stop by and watch what's happening and visit a while. SEE YOU AT THE PATCH!

(see some pictures from the Patch on page 9)

Margery Green went to be with the Lord on October 7th, 2014. As many of you know, Margery was the secretary here at St. Mark's for the first 30 years of this church's existence. On her 25th anniversary, Rev. Merle Waters dedicated this poem to her.

#### Dedicated to Margery Green August 19, 1984

# From Rev. Merle Waters St Mark's Pastor from 1959 – 1967

A worthy Church Secretary who can find? for her value is far above rubies.

The heart of the Pastor doth safely trust in her, so that he shall never be fearful of what she might say or do.

She will do him good and not evil with her attitude, words and deeds.

She greeteth all who visit the Church with understanding and personal interest.

Her telephone manner is positive, reassuring and knowledgeable.

She is always personable and punctual, working overtime willingly as needed.

She keeps accurate membership records and gives a personal touch to the newsletter and the bulletin.



She knows the membership well and has a sixth sense about the heart needs of people within the congregation.

She stretcheth out her hand to the heavy laden; yea, she has compassion for the suffering and the needy.

She is not afraid to defend her Pastor's

failings; she covers for him when he is not in reach.

Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom and

patience; in her tongue is the law of love.

She looketh well to the ways of her church,

which she loves and is proud to show to visitors.

All of the members rise up and call

her blessed, in her twenty-fifth year of service and always.

Give her of the fruit of her heart, and let her own works praise her in the blessed fellowship which is the Church. Today and forever.



The Youth will once again be selling calendars, pocket calendars, and Christmas cards this year! These items come from Youth Group Promotions, the same company we have used for the past several years. All items will sell for \$7 each. Look for the youth to be selling before and after church.







Our annual Blessing of the Animals service was held on Saturday, October 11th. The rain was appreciated, but probably kept some animals at home. The ones who came received lovely blessings, and several that were blessed in absentia! A large thanks to all who helped and all who participated!!









### A few snapshots from the Patch...









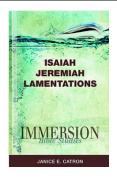








Wednesday Bible Study meets in Lovely Lane Hall from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. We will be starting a new study on Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations on Wednesday, October 29th. We will meet each Wednesday through November 19th (the Isaiah chapters) and then break until January 7th and start back with Chapter 5 (Jeremiah). If you'd like to join us, we'd love to have you! Contact Patti in the church office - (210)344-8393.



# NOTES

Dear Loving Service,

Thank you all so much for the lovely and delicious lunch that you provided following my Mom's service on October 10th. I would like to thank the ladies from Loving Service Groups 1 and II and thanks to Imogene Brown, Sue Horner, Kathy Jack and Dorothy Mace for serving the lunch. This service meant so much to me.

God Bless You All!

Joanne Green

Many of you will remember Shirley Chalker who is a former member of St. Mark's UMC. She recently moved her membership and Imogene wrote to her. Imogene thought you might be interested in this note from her:

Dear Imogene,

Thank you so much for your note. I appreciate being thought of. I have many fond memories of you and St. Mark's.

I've been attending Alamo UMC with Cindy and her husband. I love the congregation. It's very small but very dynamic. I've been able to attend regularly now that I'm retired. God bless you and yours as well.

With Love,

Shirley

Friends in Christ,

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, called to find out how Mother was doing, and visited her during the nearly month that she was in the hospital and in rehab. Special thanks to Pastor Jay, Imogene & Ron Brown, Louise Chaffin, Dorothy Mace, and Ralph & Patsy Perryman for their visits. Thanks to Pastor Jay for the special funeral service that he did for my Precious Mom on October 10th and the support he and Imogene have given me in my time of grief. Thanks to everyone for their visits, calls, cards, memorials, kindness, and support for me. There have been so many wonderful friends.

God Bless Everyone!

Joanne Green



### Community Garden Update

We have many fall plants growing in the garden as well as lots of herbs. The herbs are for the use of anyone in the congregation if you so choose. There is still a need for people to take charge of a garden plot for your own, you plant, you cultivate, you receive the produce. Visit the garden from time to time, you will be surprised at what has happened to a vacant lot with very poor soil. Our God is so good to give our earth the ability to grow and produce fruits and vegetables for our livelihood.

# 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 Gladys Johnson Bea Kunkel Clay Laster Alice & Ben Logan Michael Mendoza Mendoza Family Charles Mixon Ann Payette Gloria Reedy

Steve Reyes Sr. Ella Reyes Mike Ross John Parramore Will Schuetze Kirk Tomerlin Abraham Wamah Carol Felkner Mates Family Ross Pe'Vey Diana Russo Jack Lloyd Minnie Alemann Paul Price **David Mullins** Mari

Catherine Salamoné Family Margery Green Family Clifton Dabney Family Connor Benjamin Mike Hales Jeanette L.M.



HAPPY

11/2 Megan Brown

11/6 Aaron Russo

11/8 Joyce Codd 11/11 Joe Price

11/12 Lamar King

11/18 Vee Davison

11/24 Charles Allen

11/29 Lois Gordon

11/30 Kathy Wilson





Correction! Please make a note that Bob Cermin's telephone number was incorrect in the last issue - his number is 210-731-8182

-In Sympathy-

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the families of
Clifton Dabney
Margery Green
Catherine Salamoné

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U.S. POSTAGE

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

- PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH HIS TO HELP ALL PERSONS DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN A
- THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP, WOR-
- CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL TO LIVE IN THE WORLD AS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

1902 Vance Jackson - San Antonio, Texas 78213-4455

(210) 344-8393

stmarksumc@grandecom.net



CLOSED on Friday

Johnny Mendoza

Joseph Scutti

Carolyn Hahn

Charzes Flowers

9:00 am-4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

stmarkspastor@grandecom.net stmarksumc@grandecom.net Email:

www.stmarksumcsa.com

:9tisd9W

**OFFICE HOURS** 

CHOIR DIRECTOR

**MESLEY NURSE** 

CUSTODIAN

ORGANIST

PHONE (210)344-8393 FAX (210)344-8397

YOUTS AND , IHS

TO STRIVE TO IDENTIFY AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF

TO NURTURE THEM IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SON, JESUS CHRIST

Patti Gardner **SECRETARY** Rev. Jay Brown **AOTSA9**