



Messenger

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

Things to Remember:

- † Trustees Meeting (FH) -
Thursday, November 9 @
7:00 pm
- † BBQ (benefits JFON) -
Saturday, November 11
- † SA Food Bank - Monday,
November 20 @ 8:00 am
- † Finance Meeting, Monday,
November 20 @ 6:30 pm
- † Admin Council, Monday,
November 20 @ 7:00 pm
- † Noisy Offering - Sunday,
November 26
- † F-Troop - Sunday, Novem-
ber 26 @ 6:00 pm
- † Wednesday Praise @ 6:30
pm in the Fellowship Hall
- † **Psalm 106:1 Praise the
Lord! O give thanks to the
Lord, for he is good; for
his steadfast love endures
forever.**

Commitment Sunday November 12, 2017

Commitment Cards will be turned in during
the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

A celebration luncheon will follow.
Chicken will be provided by the YAMS Class.
Please bring your favorite side dish to share.

A Prayer Vigil will be held Saturday,
November 11, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary.

For more information
contact Lucille Armitage or Melinda Molina



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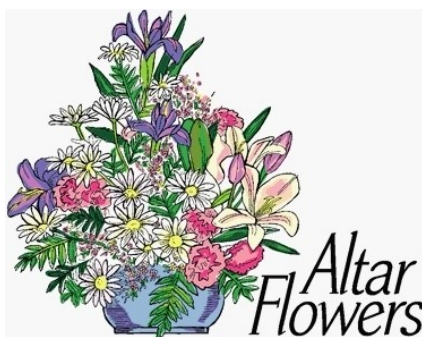
Follow us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marks-United-Methodist-Church/217072428313881?ref=hl>

SERVING THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	9/24	10/01	10/08	10/15	10/22
Children	-	2	1	3	2
Youth	3	2	2	1	4
Adults	17	17	16	16	12
Total SS	20	21	19	20	18
<u>Worship</u>					
Sunday	55	52	49	55	55
Wednesday Night	16	14	18	12	

NOVEMBER USHERS

Tom Jack, Bob Bailly, Bob Mace, Braden Somerville



Altar Flower Calendar Openings

November 5 1 Opening
November 19 1 Opening

Order forms for Christmas
Poinsettias will be available soon!

November Liturgists

November 5	John Williams
November 12	Cynthia Ramirez
November 19	Melinda Molina
November 26	Dorothy Mace





Saints Alive! Living Generously

—1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (NRSV)

Generosity is a matter of action, intentions, and heart. One way to describe it is the grateful outpouring of gifts to others, out of our love for God. *Outpouring* is a terrific description, since the priceless treasure of the gospel (and all the gifts of covenant, relationship, and life that go with it) comes from God and is meant to be poured out, through our living, upon others. Paul states this directly in 2 Corinthians 4:5-7, when he says, "We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

Whether for fancy purposes or everyday usage, the "unadorned pots of our daily lives" (as *The Message* puts it) highlight the fact that **all of who we are and what we have comes from God** and is to be used for God's purposes. God can use our uniqueness, even our limitations, weaknesses and eccentricities, to communicate God's powerful presence and love.

Generous living is not just about giving money, or even just about giving. It has to do with **the whole of who we are and how we care for our neighbors** (see Mark 12:28-31). Each of us brings our heart, mind, soul, and strength. The Old Testament word for "heart" is literally the leaning or thrust of our lives. We might call it our lifestyle or nonverbal witness. In other words, it is how we steward 100 percent of our lives, not just the "religious" sector or the percentage we give away.

So how do we lead stewardship in our local church? By nurturing generous living in our personal lives and in our life together as part of our congregation and Christ's interconnected, connectational church.

Nurturing generous living in every aspect of our life together before God -- now that's great stewardship!

Source: www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources

Pastor Soto's Basket



Grace and peace to you:

*This month we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. A day of giving thanks to God for the blessing of the harvest, and for every blessing we have had during this year. As I meditate on Psalm 27 for the Wednesday Praise Service, the psalmist begins with words of great confidence in the Lord; **The Lord is my light and my salvation:** whom shall I fear? **The Lord is the stronghold of my life:** of whom shall I be afraid? I don't know what circumstances David had already gone through that help him progress to such a faith, that he was certain he will continue to see (experience) the goodness of the Lord (God's excellence and superiority) in the land of the living (while he is alive).*

We, as people of God, try to express our gratitude to God for all we have received from Him. There is a lot to thank God for. Whom or what shall I be afraid of? The Lord has been the stronghold of our lives, we have seen (experienced) God's goodness (excellence) through our lives. Let us echo David's words in our hearts as he wrote the last verse of this Psalm: "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" Wait to continue to experience the excellence of our God and let us be thankful every day that He is willing to share with us His goodness.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you! May peace, love and joy warm your homes during this season and always.

Rev. Maria R. Soto

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Oct 2017</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 style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Dec 2017</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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </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="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>1</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">1:00 PM Food Pantry (FH)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>2</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">7:45 AM Bus Stop Ministry</p> <p style="margin: 0;">10:00 AM Exercise (FH)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>3</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">Office Closed</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>4</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion</p> <p style="margin: 0;">9:00 AM ESL Classes (LL)</p>		
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"Puerto Rico Rises" Update

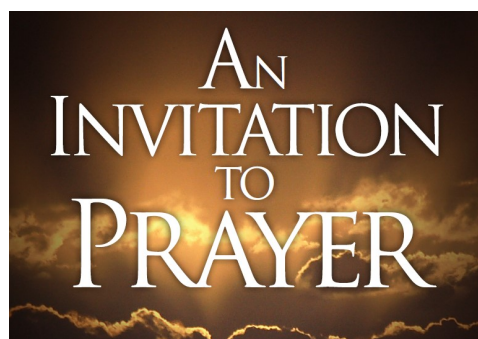
With a heart aching for her native Puerto Rico following the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, Pastor Maria Soto informed the St. Mark's congregation she was going to take a carload of essential supplies to a central collection point on September 29 to help the citizens with their survival and rebuilding efforts.

"Puerto Rico Rises" is a grassroots organization, coordinating their relief efforts with the U.S. Air Force and FEMA in getting these materials to the people of Puerto Rico as quickly as possible. Joining Pastor Soto were (pictured below) Dorothy Mace, Letty Mercado, Patti and Malcolm Austin. Not pictured were Kathy and Tom Jack, Rob Remig, Melinda and Hubert Molina.



Pastor Soto invites you to spend time in prayer every **Tuesday** morning during the month of November. The sanctuary will be open for prayer from **10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

What do we pray for? Pray for our church, our church leaders, our church finances, our community, for healing, God's guidance, peace, justice, mercy, reconciliation, those who have lost loved ones, victims of hurricanes, churches throughout the world, the hungry, the lost, those without hope, the nation, first responders. Let us pray for each other.



NOTES AND NOTICES



On Wednesday, November 22, we will gather for a church family Thanksgiving Dinner and time for fellowship. It will start at 6:30 p.m. Stay tuned for more information and details.

Mark your calendar. EVERYONE is invited!

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

Health & Wellness Center

Congratulations to Sandra Montes, our awesome Wesley Nurse, for completing her training Wednesday, October 25. Great job, Sandra!

She will be ready soon to work with St. Mark's and the surrounding community to get programs up and running.

Please keep her in your prayers as she gets ready to do good things with all that training and knowledge she has received.

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
- ♥ Cooking Oil

Don't forget our Noisy Offering the last Sunday of every month!

BBQ!

Saturday, November 11, 2017

Benefits JFON

Plates are \$8.00

Looking for a Handyman?

Johnny Mendoza

210-765-1869





Thanks to all who helped at the Food Truck distribution last month. We served **180 families**. Please come join us in doing God's work. We have a lot of fun. It is a great feeling to help others.

Thanks again, Patti Austin

November 5, 2017 Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 5, 2017, **2:00 a.m.**
clocks are turned **backward** 1 hour.



Remember to move
your clocks
back one
hour.



THE ANGELS ARE COMING

Look for the Angel Tree to be ready
the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Hola church!

I hope everyone is looking forward to the fall weather. This is such a beautiful time of year, admittedly my favorite season of all.



In just a few short weeks we will celebrate Commitment Sunday. Before the celebration takes place, you are all invited to a prayer vigil Saturday, November 11, from 8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. It will be a time to prayerfully consider what our contribution to St. Mark's will be in 2018.

This coming year you will see something new. Along with the donation of your monetary giving, you will be asked to consider the gifting of your time and talents. To those of you that have already been serving in a multitude of ways (for a multitude of years!) THANK YOU. You are welcome to share any thoughts or ideas you may have. For those of you that have not found your niche yet, let's move toward opportunities to tap into your passions and skills. Pastor Soto and I will help find something just for you that will be a blessing to our church and to the Lord and His people.

Let's worship together and serve together and give back to this honorable and steadfast church we call home.

In His service,
Melinda Molina

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

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

Operating Cash balance at 8/31/2017	49,326
Non-Designated Contributions - September	10,035
Operating Expenses:	
Council on Ministries	-72
Special Mission Giving	5,179
Mission Giving	15,405
Administration Expense	115
Trustees	6,867
Pastor's Compensation	7,055
Lay Personnel Compensation	6,742
	<hr/>
	41,291
Other Income/(Expense)	<hr/>
	15,944
Operating Cash balance at 9/30/2017	<hr/>
	2,126

Comments:

September contributions were \$4,144 less than budgeted and \$3,393 less than September 2016. Other income was \$4,280 higher than budgeted and \$5,242 higher than 2016. The other income was higher as the result of paying Special Missions from Specific Reserves.

Operating expenses were \$15,676 higher than budgeted and \$14,263 higher than 2016. Versus the budget Operating expenses were unfavorable primarily due to paying \$15,000 towards our apportionments and \$5,179 for Special Mission Giving related to Hurricane relief. Compared to 2016, Apportionment and Special Mission Giving accounted for the higher spending, partially offset by favorable Trustee expense.

September had a cash outflow of \$25,778. Our operating cash balance decreased to a positive \$2,126.

While we have been able to keep our heads above water as a result of the Abner Ross insurance proceeds, we need to be concerned with our ability to pay our operating expenses with our monthly contributions. The September contributions were not sufficient to pay our payroll expenses, let alone the cost to keep the physical plant operating.

The Finance Committee asks you to review your level of support to St. Mark's, especially as we approach Commitment Sunday. Your support is necessary to sustain the church. Please keep St. Mark's in your prayers.

God Bless you all.

ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .



Bob Ailerson	Sylvia Gonzales	Maggie Dominguez
Jill Anderson	Alice Logan	Family of Charzes
Kennedee Bailey	Michael Mendoza	Flowers
Connor Benjamin	Eric Miletti	Sonia Lopez
Patty Braselton	Gerald Morriss	George Vogel
Kylee Brown	Steve Reyes, Sr.	Pastor Maria Soto
Megan Brown	Will Schuetze	Ricardo Deleon
Bucky Coley	Lisa Travieso	Puerto Rico
Carol Crenwelge	Kirk Tomerlin	Churches damaged
Esdras Cuervo	Kathryn Wilson	by storms and
		hurricanes

Nov 2 Rosalinda Ramirez	Nov 18 Vee Davison Pastor Maria Soto	
Nov 6 Aaron Russo	Nov 24 Charles Allen Michael McMillian	
Nov 8 Joyce Codd	Nov 29 Lois Gordon	
Nov 11 Joe Price	Nov 30 Kathy Wilson	
Nov 12 Lamar King		


Sincere Sympathy to the families of :

Josh Black

Marilyn Snook

Ron Pevey

You remain in our thoughts and prayers.



St. Mark's United Methodist Church
 1902 Vance Jackson – San Antonio, Texas 78213-4455
 (210) 344-8393
 stmarksumc@grandecom.net


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 PERMIT NO. 1632

Current Resident Or:

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

OFFICE HOURS
 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday—Thursday
 CLOSED on Friday

PASTOR	Rev. Maria Soto
SECRETARY	Lillian Herrera
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Carolyn Hahn
ORGANIST	Joseph Scutti
WESLEY NURSE	Sandra Montes
CUSTODIAN	Johnny Mendoza