



Things to Remember!

- † Saturday, October 5th
Pumpkins Arrive! 9:00 AM
- † PUMPKIN PATCH!!!
- † Saturday, October 19th—BBQ
- † Monday, October 21st
6:00 PM—Finance Committee Meeting followed by Admin Council at 6:30 PM
- † Thursday, October 24th - Food Truck
- † Praise and Communion BiCultural Worship Service Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm (FH)

The St. Mark's Youth are once again selling 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!



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STATE OF THE CHURCH

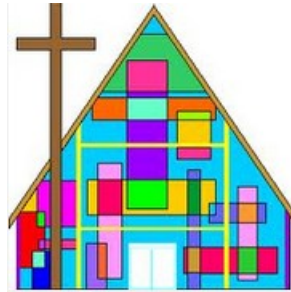


ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday School</u>	9/1	9/8	9/15	9/22
Children	5	0	4	4
Youth	6	0	9	8
Adults	40	0	41	48
Total SS	51	0	54	60
<u>Worship</u>	87	247	117	100

GREETERS

- † Louise Chaffin
- † Patsy Rolirad



USHERS

- † Daniel Wilke
- † Lynn Swatzell
- † Zachary Wilke

TAPE MINISTRY

- † Daniel Wilke



Finance Committee Reflections: Sounds From the Bean Counters

It is hard to believe that August is behind us and another year-end is close at hand. It won't be long until we are working on the 2014 budget.

Our contributions are very close to the 2012 amounts, with the August being \$180 lower, while year-to-date, we are \$663 higher. We trail the budget both for the month and year-to-date.

August operating expenses were less than both August 2012 and the budget. For the month, Trustee Expenses and Pastor Compensation were lower while the favorable spending was partially offset by higher Council on Ministries expense. Compared to the budget, all expense areas were lower, other than Council on Ministries and Lay Personnel Compensation, which were higher primarily the result of timing. Mission Giving (apportionments) was significantly favorable since no payment was made in August. Year-to-date operating expenses are slightly higher than last year, but significantly favorable to the budget.

For the month of August, we had a cash outflow of \$3,692. Year-to-date, we have a cash outflow of \$5,982. This cash outflow impacts the operating cash balance which is \$1,421 at the end of August compared to \$5,397 at the beginning of the month.

The Day Care Center closed in August. After all their expenses are paid, we should have approximately \$15,000 in cash which will be transferred to the Church account. Already in September, \$10,000 has been transferred of which \$5,000 was sent to the Conference to pay apportionments. At the end of August, our apportionment payments exceed last year and trail the budget by approximately \$6,000. At the end of September, our apportionment payments will be in a much better condition.

The St. Mark's congregation is so generous with their time, talent and treasure. The 60th Anniversary was just another example of the members stepping forward to volunteer to make things happen. We thank you all for everything you do for St. Mark's.

UMW Happenings...



The UMW Executive Committee met on Wednesday, September 4th. At the meeting, it was decided that while Circle meetings will continue to meet monthly (excluding July), the general meeting - beginning in 2014 - will only meet once annually.

This annual meeting will be in December for all ladies of the church. This reduces the President role to more of a coordinator position, relating information to and from the District or Conference to the Circles.

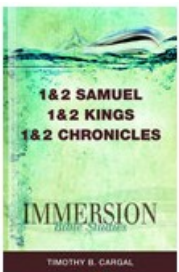
Additionally, it was voted to lower our Missions pledge to \$1500, which will be covered by our pledges.

Joanne Green gave the program for the general meeting, reviewing the District Cluster study on Poverty.

The final general meeting for 2013 will be held in December. This meeting will include a short devotional and a Bunco party.

Circles will meet at their regular times with **Esther** on **Wednesday, October 2nd** at **7:00 PM** and **Martha** at **1:00 PM** on **Tuesday, October 15th**.

Dorcas Circle will meet **Wednesday, October 16th** at the **Meadows at 9:30**. The program will be **Then Sings My Soul, Part 2**. Come sing along with some of your favorite hymns and enjoy the fellowship we share. As always, if you would like to carpool, please meet at 9:00 AM in the church parking lot.



Mid-Week Bible Study - Lovely Lane Hall, Classroom #2

Next series: 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles

When: October 16 thru December 11 (skipping the week of Thanksgiving) - Wednesdays at noon.

Books are \$10 each (payable to St. Mark's)

Contact: Patti Gardner (830)431-3157 pjdgardner@aol.com



We've moved!!!! The **New Beginnings Sunday School Class** has moved to **Room 2** in **Lovely Lane Hall**. We will begin a new study starting Sunday, October 6th. We will be doing an in-depth verse by verse Bible study on the book of Matthew. If you are interested in this study, bring your Bible and if you wish, bring your favorite commentary, and come join us in Lovely Lane Hall, Room 2, Sunday mornings at 9:30. Questions? Contact Ann Brown - 830-857-5793 or annlacknessbrown@gmail.com.



Pastor's Corner

My neighborhood over on Mint Hill will never be the same; F Troop took over last Sunday evening! 20 men showed up for “faith, fellas and fajitas”, taking over the backyard and bringing a new level of spirituality to our domicile! Really and truly, it was a lot of fun! It was a very diverse group; wise elders and visionary young men, stalwart oldtimers and emerging leaders gathering together to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and cause of Christ. I felt very blessed, indeed, to have this august body of believers come together at our home; some of whom had driven fairly great distances to do so...some of whom are not members at St Mark's but who are very much a part of what it means to be St Mark's.

I remember some great advice from my friend and mentor Virgilio Vazquez-Garza, who told me that for the Hispanic peoples, it wasn't programs that brought them to church and to Christ but relationships. Those words were spoken over 30 years ago and I've never forgotten them; I've come to realize that it's not just Hispanics who value relationship, but all of us. Often, we promote one program after the other, seeking to provide valuable and meaningful ministries; some are successful, others are not. I've found that when real relationships are formed within the body of Christ, lives are changed and transformed. Out of those relationships, grass roots ministries emerge that have greater impact and meaningfulness because they have come from within the group, where the Holy Spirit encourages holy encounters and expansion of vision.

We have our informal moments of passing the peace on Sunday morning; often one of the most engaging and energizing moments in worship; all too brief and over too quickly. Out of that need to deepen the connection between so many of our men, in particular, (who sometimes need a little help with connecting) came the idea for F-Troop. If you remember the old 60's sitcom, F Troop was a rough, uh...unusual group of guys who always made me laugh and looked like the kind of group that I would want to belong to. When Mom and Dad lived in the Valley, Dad played golf with a group of guys called the F-Troop; same dynamics. So, combining the themes of food, faith, football, fellas, fall weather (we met on the Fall Equinox, gorgeous weather!) and lots of fun...well, you get the picture, F Troop was formed.

It was just what I wanted to see happen. Lots of fun and laughter, great faith sharing, a ton of food and beverages; it was a Spirit-filled evening; guys sitting out in the backyard, gathered around the bbq pit, sharing and enjoying God and each other. Keep us in your prayers as we continue to grow as the men of faith that we are called to be! We meet again, same time, same place on Sunday evening, October 27th.

Until then, God bless us every one!

Jay

October 2013

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">September</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> <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>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></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							<p style="text-align: center; color: red; margin: 0;">1</p> <p>NATIONAL NIGHT OUT</p> <p>6:30 AM Methodist</p> <p>Men@Cracker Barrel</p> <p>9:30 AM Drive-thru Prayer</p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)</p> <p>1:00 PM AdvDance? (FH)</p> <p>4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p> <p>6:00 PM Torres (FH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; margin: 0;">2</p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Study (LL - #2)</p> <p>1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH)</p> <p>4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p> <p>7:00 PM Esther Circle</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise/BiCultural Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; margin: 0;">3</p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)</p> <p>2:00 PM MHC (FH)</p> <p>4:00 PM Tx Tigers (HC)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">4</p> <p>-OFFICE CLOSED-</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; margin: 0;">5</p> <p>8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion</p> <p>9:00 AM Pumpkins Arrive??</p> <p>1:00 PM - 7:00 PM Kairos Outside (HC)</p>							
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COMMITMENT SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 10, 2013



November 10, 2013 has been designated Commitment Sunday at St. Mark's. On this day, we will be asked to commit our time, our money and our prayers for the church.

Our Prayer Vigil will be Saturday, November 9, 2013. The Celebration Luncheon will follow our worship service on Sunday, November 10. Reservation cards should be turned in the two previous Sundays, October 27th and November 2nd.



STEWARDSHIP: DISTRICT FUNDS

Perhaps no conference has more geographical diversity than in the Southwest Texas Conference. The district apportionment reflects this diversity.

Some districts have a separate amount apportioned for missions (\$30,000). Some districts support local missions endeavors that are unique to their district with additional apportioned funds (\$10,000).

The amount of the district funds are set by each district conference. The relationship of the individual district funds to the total apportionments and to the operating expenses of local churches also vary depending upon what each district decides.

Each district has an administration fund to handle the cost of administering the district office (158,000). Some districts combine district programming and missions with administration fund for one apportion-

Blessing of the Animals



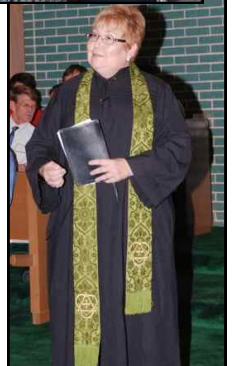
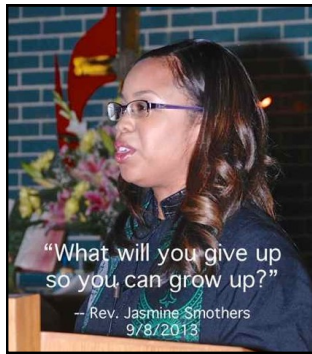
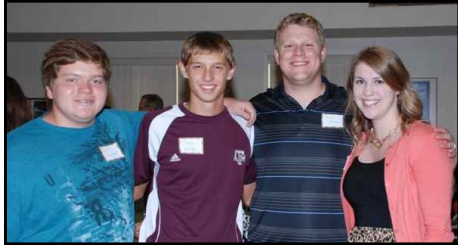
Saturday, September 21st dawned with the first chill of the season and was a gorgeous day to have our 5th annual Blessing of the Animals. Due to the recent rains the grounds were too soft to celebrate out on the lawn but Fellowship Hall was a perfect remedy. We had 26 dogs blessed which was wonderful. About half of the dogs present were from the neighborhood this year which we had never had before.



We opened the service with a poem titled "Animal" by Kori Stricker and followed with music led by Sue Vasquez. Each dog was given a kerchief and a charm necklace as a remembrance of their blessing as well as a personal blessing for each from Pastor Jay. We even blessed a special "PET" as Rob Remig rode a Personal Energy Transportation up to be blessed which sparked interest in several attendees. If you were not able to attend you missed a really fun service.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make this year's blessing a success.





Photos courtesy of Rob Remig

2013 ST. MARK'S UMC PUMPKIN PATCH

Hip Hip Hooray! By the time you read this, the pallets and hay will be set up and we'll be waiting for the pumpkins to arrive. Then, maybe it'll start looking like fall even if it doesn't feel like it.

We still need volunteers and hope all of you will consider enlisting. It really is fun and rewarding. You get to watch kids having their pictures taken by parents, filling the wagons with pumpkins and moving them to a new location, and then, you get to watch their smiling faces and laughter when they pick their very own special pumpkin. What a true gift to the community and an opportunity to bring pleasure to families. Just sign up – you might find that you actually enjoy working at the Patch.

We like to give a shout out to Bob Mace for working tirelessly to get the lights working again after they were vandalized last year. Also, thanks to Bob Bailly for ramrodding the unloading of the pallets and hay and, of course, Jeff Brown for getting the pallets for us as well as the trailer for hauling the hay. No way, can we forget Patti Austin who lines up the volunteers for the different shifts.

Story Time for the schools will begin in the mornings will begin on October 14th. If you have time, stop by in the morning to watch the children. You might also see Dorothy Mace dressed as a little old lady with white hair or Carolyn in her witch costume. Jeannette Rodgers will probably show up as a farmer and I don't know what the other readers have in store for us. They're so cute!

The pumpkins will arrive at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 5th and we're hoping for good weather and lots of help. Be sure and bring your gloves and a wheelbarrow if you can. If you are not able to unload, come on out and cheer for the workers and share in the eats. It'll be fun, you'll see!

So, come on out and let's make this the best Pumpkin Patch ever. Remember, Penelope is 'gonna' be watching for you and she's taking names, too!

THANK YOU!

A huge THANK YOU! to the 60th Anniversary Committee

Virginia Barlow
Patti Gardner
Jeanette Rodgers

Imogene Brown
Carolyn Hahn
June Swatzell

Pastor Jay Brown
Sue Horner
Lynda Swatzell

Our Secretary - Mary Parramore

And all who helped to serve and assist! Thank you all! It would not have been possible without your support!



From the Wesley Nurse



Our weather looks promising to decrease the hot, hot days of summer. Please do not hold your breath because Texas Weather changes so quickly.

Cool front will be here. We almost want to say "yeah right". Our weather throughout the year has not been like usual.

The point is that it does not matter if it is cool, hot, humid, or freezing. We must remain hydrated.

This past week we had a Food Bank Nutritionist come to the Exercise class members. She spoke about how much water we need. One needs $\frac{1}{2}$ our body weight in ounces of water. For example: if you weigh 200 #s you need 100 Ounces of water a day. If we take 100 divide it by 8 (ounces.) We will have to drink 12 $-\frac{1}{2}$ 8 ounce glasses each a day. Perhaps you have heard this before. The question is have we done this? Probably not, there's no time, or I have to run to the bathroom. Good excuses, huh?

Then we don't drink water but we drink sugar free sodas, juices, or carbonated drink. It seems that artificial sugar does not work as well. Our Pancreas spills out Insulin to bind with the sugar cells and give us energy. If we do not put sugar in our systems then the Insulin does not do its job and the contents can turn into fat and depleting us of energy.

The next time you find yourself facing some questionable drinking water, look for some cilantro.

At least that is what a team of U.S. and Mexican researchers made up of undergraduate students suggested. The research team, led by Douglas Schauer of Ivy Tech Community College in Lafayette, Indiana, along with colleagues from the Universidad Politecnica de Francisco I. Madero in Hildago, Mexico, have been studying the region of Tule Valley near Mexico City to identify cheaper ways to filter water. Mexico City has long dumped its waste in the valley, and the contaminated water is then used by regional farmers to irrigate crops. Once in the edible foods, heavy metals such as lead and nickel can make their way to consum-

ers, where they can contribute to neurological and other health problems.

"The organic toxins we can take care of pretty easily with a number of different methods, but the only way to really get rid of those heavy metals is to treat them with filtering agents like active charcoal (like what is found in Brita filter), but those types of materials are kind of expensive," says Schauer. "They are a little expensive for us to use, but they are very expensive to the people living in that region".

After testing various kind of plants from cacti to flowers, they determined that cilantro is the most prevalent and powerful so-called bioabsorbant material in the area. Bioabsortion is the scientific term for using organic materials often found in plants, that when dried, could replace the charcoal currently used in filters.

They say that the outer wall structures of the tiny cells that make up the plants are ideal for capturing metals. Other plants, like dandelions and parsley may also provide similar bioabsorbant capabilities.

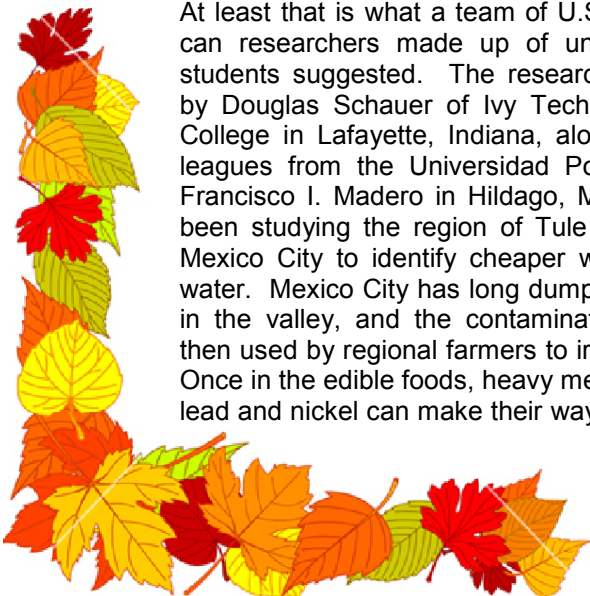
Schauer also states that ground-up cilantro can be inserted into a tube into which water is passed through. The cilantro allows the water to trickle out but absorbs metals, leaving cleaner drinking water. Dried cilantro can also be placed into tea bags that are placed in a pitcher of water for a few minutes to suck out the heavy metals.

"It's something they already have down there, it takes minimal processing, and it's just a matter of them taking the plants and drying them out on a rock in the sun for a couple of days." Says Schauer

Because cilantro isn't an essential crop, using it as purifier won't take away from people's food needs in the region, and the relative ease with which the plant grows also makes it a realistic option for cleansing water.

I believe this article was originally published on TIME.com

Linda



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
 Asher Jones
 Nicholas Erickson
 Carol Felkner
 Charles Smith
 Family of Clark Davis

Jill & Kylee Brown
 Norm Jackson
 Ida B.
 Billy Chacon
 Mike Carrizales
 Eliot Edwards
 Tony Muños
 Ruth Owens
 Miguel Gonzalez
 Annette Avina
 Wayne Adams
 Ida Bejaran
 All those touched by the
 violence in Nairobi



PRAYER REQUESTS

Dr. Marla Stone



10/06
 Patrick Schmidt

10/10
 Mary Parramore
 Helen Setterfield

10/11
 Bob Cermin

10/16
 Malcom Austin
 Kim Durick
 Steven Garcia

10/18
 Pauline Denham
 Susan Philbin

10/22
 Barbara Tucker

10/23
 Johnny Gardner

10/25
 Irma Swatzell

10/27
 Neale Freeto

10/28
 Jim Horner



Directory Correction:

Barbara Tucker's correct street address is 1815 Enclave Parkway in Houston.

Welcome to our Newest
 Members!



Jennifer and Daniel Reynolds and family

Dominik, Santos and Austin were baptized as Jennifer and Daniel renewed their baptisms and joined their family together with our congregation on Wednesday, August 21st.

In Sympathy

Prayers and Sincere Sympathy
 to the family of Clark Davis,
 who passed away on
 September 7th

By the way... If you or your group have borrowed any of the communion cloths, please return them to the kitchen at your earliest convenience.

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 Farramore
 WESLEY NURSE.....Linda Jimenez
 CHOIR DIRECTOR.....Carolyn Hahn
 ORGANIST EMERITUS.....Ruth Foerster
 ORGANIST.....Joseph Scutti
 CUSTODIAN.....Johnny Mendoza

OFFICE HOURS.....9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday
CLOSED on Friday
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