



Messenger

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

Things to Remember:

- † ESL Classes every Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
- † Administrative Council Meeting - Tuesday, October 16 @ 7:00 PM
- † Saturday, October 21 - BBQ (for Baskin Elem.)
- † SA Food Bank - Thursday, October 26 @ 8:00 am
- † Noisy Offering - Sunday, October 29
- † F-Troop - Sunday, October 29 @ 6:00 PM
- † Wednesday Praise @ 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- † **Ephesians 5:1-2**
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God .

All Saints Sunday November 5, 2017

On Sunday, November 5, the bell will toll, a candle will be lit, and the life of these saints who have gone on before us in this past year will be remembered:

- Willie Barnes
- Myrtis Burney
- Sarah Connor
- David Duewall
- Thad Harkins
- Wally Crow
- Abner Ross
- David Cavazos
- Mel Davison
- Bob Cermin



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SERVING THE CHURCH

<u>Sunday School</u>	8/27 *	9/3	9/10	9/17
Children		1	1	1
Youth		3	3	2
Adults		14	12	18
Total SS		18	16	21
<u>Worship</u>				
Sunday	* Cancelled due to weather conditions	54	63	48
Wednesday Night		14	11	18

OCTOBER USHERS

**Daniel Wilke, Zachary Wilke,
Carl Swatzell, Mario Mercado**



Altar Flower Calendar Openings

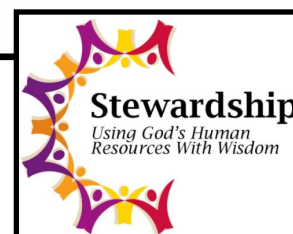
October 1	1 Opening
October 8	1 Opening
October 15	1 Opening
October 22	2 Openings
November 5	1 Opening
November 19	1 Opening

October Liturgists

October 1	Dorothy Mace
October 8	Melinda Molina
October 15	Susan Philbin
October 22	Patti Austin
October 29	Patti Gardner



Stewardship



"Celebrating the offering is a spiritual act of worship every believer can actively participate in each week. Giving becomes a celebration when the believer discovers the joy of generosity, which grows out of God's grace." — Melvin Amerson, *Celebrating the Offering*

We Give

To belong to our congregation is to be a steward. Some may say that "stewardship" is just a polite way of referring to financial giving to the church. But it's far more than that.

One character in some of Jesus' parables is the steward — the servant charged by the master to care for the master's property. It is the master, not the steward, who owns the property, but the steward is responsible for it and is accountable to the master. So it is, said Jesus, between God and us. As God's stewards we have three responsibilities:

Receiving: We receive with joyful thanksgiving the many gifts that God showers upon us —time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources, and the beauty around us.

Managing: We take good care of what we have received. We manage these resources wisely — for our own good and the good of others.

Giving: Out of our gratitude in receiving so abundantly, we want to share with others. Let's look at four kinds of gifts that we receive, manage, and share:

Our time

We did nothing to earn the hours, the days, the weeks of our lives. Time is a gift of God. How we choose to use it is a matter of stewardship. Some people lead lives of frenetic activity, always over-extending themselves to the point of exhaustion, while others sit around in apathetic boredom. Some spend all their hours serving the needs of others at the expense of their own, while others live only for themselves. As Christian stewards we try to manage time wisely and in a balanced way. And we give our time gladly to family and friends, to strangers, to the community, the church, and to ourselves.

Our abilities

Do you remember Jesus' parable of the three servants who received different amounts of money to manage while the master was away? We've each received from God distinctive gifts and talents. How we develop and use these talents is a matter of stewardship. Like two of the servants in Jesus' story, we can invest them wisely — or like the third, out of fear we can hide them (Matthew 25:14-30). As stewards, we acknowledge the gifts we have without apology. We develop them further, practicing new skills and putting our talents to work in ministry.

Our resources

We may think that our financial resources are our own. But when we recall that the time, the energy, the good health, and the opportunities for employment behind these dollars are all gifts from God, we see that the funds belong to God too. We are the stewards; God is the owner. So questions about what we earn, how we earn it, how we save, spend, and give it away, are all questions of Christian stewardship. One vital aspect of our stewardship is our giving to Christ's work in the world. We've learned that giving is most effective when we commit ourselves to give a definite proportion of our income through the church.

For many, this proportion is one-tenth, or a tithe. Whatever the amount, we have discovered the joy in giving to God the "first fruits," an amount "off the top" of our income, not what's left over at the end of the month.

— Excerpt from *The United Methodist Member's Handbook Revised and Expanded*, pgs. 20-21, George E. Koehler © 2006, Discipleship Resources.

Pastor

Maria's

Basket



Grace and peace to you:

At the Wednesday evening service September 20, I chose to read from Acts 27 where the scriptures tell the story of the apostle Paul "*Cruise through the Adriatic Sea.*" Reflecting on the hurricanes that we have seen lately and all the destruction left behind, I wanted us to take a trip with Paul through this scripture and submerge ourselves in the story. We can at least visualize what it is like to go "*against the winds not allowing us to hold our course*"; and sailing becomes dangerous because you are going in to a "*perfect storm*". Paul gives his advice: ¹⁰ "*Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.*" But the centurion is in charge and follows the advice of the pilot and the owner of the ship so they keep sailing on hoping to reach Phoenix and spend winter there.

But when they thought that things began to quiet down because of a gentle wind...that's when things took a turn for the worst; ¹³ *When a **gentle south wind** began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted;...* ¹⁴ *Before very long, a **wind of hurricane force**, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island.* ¹⁵ *The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.* ¹⁸ *We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day **they began to throw the cargo overboard.*** ¹⁹ *On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.* That begin to get rid of cargo, to lighten and to relieve the ship from the imminent danger of **sinking**. By verse 20, they gave up all hope of being saved after many days without sun or stars to guide them, at the mercy of the storm and not knowing the direction in which they were carried. After abstaining from food for many days the apostle encouraged them to take heart and courage, "*for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.*"

The 276 souls on board in this ship confronted adversity on their way to Rome, so do we in our life journey. The hardships in life are inevitable. And just like the apostle said to all those men traveling with him "*there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship,*" I can listen to the voice of the Lord speaking to my heart to take heart and courage, "*for there shall be difficulties or material losses, etc.. in life's journey but your life is secure in His promises.*"

Peace be with you!

Rev. Maria R. Soto

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<p>1</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11:30 AM Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)</p> <p>1:00 PM MS Yoga (FH)</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff Mtg</p> <p>7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 AM ROMEOs</p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)</p> <p>6:00 PM Kairos Torres Advisory Council (FH)</p> <p>7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00 PM Food Pantry (FH)</p> <p>6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:45 AM Bus Stop Ministry</p> <p>10:00 AM Exercise (FH)</p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion</p> <p>9:00 AM Directory Pictures</p> <p>9:00 AM ESL Classes (LL)</p>																																																																																																		
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If you missed getting your directory picture taken, do not despair! There are a couple of options to be included in our 2017 Directory.

The first option is that you can come to the church (Fellowship Hall) on **Saturday, October 7th between 9-11 AM**, and our resident camera man, Rob Remig, will take a picture of you! We will do this first come, first served so come as you are available. You won't get the free 8x10 from Lifetouch, but you WILL get your very own copy of the directory! Lifetouch is charging us \$10 for these photos to be added, so – ***what a deal*** – you pay \$10, get your picture taken, are included in the directory AND you get a copy of the directory both in print and digitally when it is available!

The second option is that ***YES WE CAN*** use your photo from the last directory. Several of you have asked me about that; however, there is a \$10 fee for this as well. If this is the option you choose, please let me (Patti Gardner – 830-431-3157) know ASAP. I need to arrange for your photo to be found in the archives and included. If you can let me know by **Saturday, October 7**, I can get that ball rolling.

For our homebound members – we will include your photo from last time at ***NO CHARGE***. If you would like to submit a newer photo, please contact me or Lillian in the church office by **Saturday, October 7**. Otherwise, I will arrange to have your photo used from the last directory. You will also receive a printed copy as well as a digital copy of the directory.

The directory will be a little smaller than we've had in the past and will only include STAFF and FAMILY pictures. However, we have the option to get a ***FREE REPRINT*** and ***DIGITAL COPY EVERY YEAR*** for those whose photos are included. When we feel there is enough change in our congregation to warrant a reprint, we will arrange another photo shoot and away we go! Only the new/changed families will have new photos so don't worry – you don't have to be re-photographed every year.

NOTES AND NOTICES

St. Mark's UMC received a donation of a big selection of toys from WalMart.

If anyone would like to shop in our "Toy Store" and leave a donation, you are invited to do so. Donations will go to our church budget. So, let's shop for a good cause.

At Christmas, St. Mark's will donate some of the toys to the Angel Tree.

Health & Wellness Center

Many thanks to everyone who donated items for the rummage sale at Wesley Health & Wellness on August 22. All the money made from the sale goes to support the programs for children and adults. Also, a big thank you to Patti Austin, Imogene Brown, Janice Rushton, and Brooke Somerville who worked at the sale, and Tom Jack who loaded and delivered St. Mark's donations to Wesley.

The next rummage sales is September 26.

Kathy Jack

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



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!

ESL CLASSES

(English as a Second Language)

Every Saturday, beginning

September 23, 2017

from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Classes will be held in
Lovely Lane Hall.

ST. MARK'S ASSISTS LOCAL CHARITY GROUP

On Saturday, September 16, the St. Mark's BBQ Ministry hosted a fundraiser for Mobility Worldwide TX-San Antonio. You may know this group by their former name, Personal Energy Transportation (PET), and by the specialty wheelchairs they build here in San Antonio and ship to disabled people, free of charge, living in developing countries. Thanks to the efforts of the St. Mark's BBQ Ministry



volunteers, including Sue Horner, Kathy Jack, Dorothy Mace, Melinda Molina, and Chef Dario Leija, joined by the BBQ "smokers," Bob Mace, Alex Ruiz, and Mario Mercado, volunteers from Mobility Worldwide, pictured below left, worked to prepare and serve food, and wash pots and pans. The outcome of the event is that enough funds were raised to fabricate two additional Mobility Carts.

Please see Ken, a high school student in Kenya, below right, who uses a Cart to get around. Thanks to all who worked to support this project and to all church members who came out to enjoy the best BBQ in town!

BBQ!!
Saturday, October 21
 Benefits Baskin Elementary
 School
 Plates are \$8.00



PUERTO RICO RISES DONATION STATIONS

Looking for a way to help victims affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico? A local group called [Puerto Rico Rises SA](#) is now accepting the following donations to airlift to the devastated island. Please keep everyone affected in your thoughts and prayers.

Main Donation Station:
 14886 Tradesman
 San Antonio, TX 78249

Emergency Items:
 Bottled water
 Baby wipes
 Hand sanitizers
 Diapers for adults & babies
 Feminine products
 Canned Food

Baby formula
 Pillows
 Bedding sheets
 Deodorant
 Soap (all kind)
 Toothbrush
 Tooth paste
 Baby cribs
 Mosquito repellent
 Candles
 Pet food
 Batteries (al kind)

Toilet paper
 Battery lamps
 Battery fans
 Battery radios
 Can openers
 Paper plates and cups
 Detergents (all kind)
 First aid kit
 Alcohol
 Gloves
 Medications



Thanks to all the August Food Truck volunteers. I know it was very hot. I appreciate all of you and thank you for doing God's work. It is a

blessing to help others. We fed 155 families.

Thanks again,

Patti Austin



The youth are still selling calendars and cards. Wall calendars are \$7 each and pocket calendars are \$6 each.

Christmas cards and Greeting cards are \$5 a pack of 12 and notepads are \$1.50 each. There will be a table set up in the Narthex each Sunday so just let one of them know what your needs are and they will be glad to help you.



WALL CALENDAR



CHRISTMAS CARD SET

GAME NIGHT

Don't forget Game Night on Friday, September 29th. We will be serving hot dogs and dessert. Come socialize with your friends and play cards or dominos or your favorite game. We will start at 6 PM and you can stay as long as you like. I, myself, am looking forward to a game of Mexican Train (woo woo).

SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

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

Operating Cash balance at 7/30/2017		(4,984)
Non-Designated Contributions - August		14,779
Operating Expenses:		
Council on Ministries	1835	
Special Mission Giving	0	
Mission Giving	405	
Administration		
Expense	255	
Trustees	8,227	
Pastor's		
Compensation	5,057	
Lay Personnel Compensation	5,790	
		<u>20,569</u>
Other Income/(Expense)		<u>64,100</u>
Operating Cash balance at 8/31/2017		<u><u>49,326</u></u>

Comments:

August contributions were \$3,400 less than budgeted and \$1,673 less than August 2016. Other income was \$68,004 higher than budgeted and \$67,077 higher than 2016. The other income was higher as the result of St. Mark's being named the beneficiary of Abner Ross's life insurance policies.

Operating expenses were \$1,290 favorable to the budget and \$2,761 unfavorable to 2016. Versus the budget Operating expenses were favorable primarily due to lower Lay Personnel compensation and Mission Giving being partially offset by higher Trustee expenses. Compared to 2016, Trustee expenses caused the unfavorableness.

August had a cash outflow of \$58,487. Our operating cash balance improved to a positive \$49,326 as a result of the life insurance proceeds.

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	Alice Logan	Herman Breed
Jill Anderson	Michael Mendoza	Ross Pe'Vey
Kennedee Bailey	Eric Milette	Nancy E. Sutton
Connor Benjamin	Gerald Morriss	Everyone affected
Patty Braselton	Steve Reyes, Sr.	by the hurricanes
Kylee Brown	Will Schuetze	All the people in
Megan Brown	Lisa Travieso	the storms
Bucky Coley	Kirk Tomerlin	First Responders
Carol Crenwelge	Kathryn Wilson	All those affected
Esdras Cuervo	Violet (Vi) Hinton	by the earth-
Sylvia Gonzales	Jeanette Montague	quakes

Happy Birthday

10/06 Patrick Schmidt	10/18 Susan Philbin	10/27 Neale Freeto
10/10 Helen Setterfield	10/25 Irma Swatzell	10/28 Sarah Fass Jim Horner
10/16 Malcolm Austin Kim Durick		10/29 Dolores Dobbins

CONSECRATION / COMMITMENT SUNDAY
November 12, 2017

It is that time of year when we think about and plan our financial commitment to God's work at St. Mark's. Our time and talent are needed as well to accomplish God's plans. You will be receiving a Commitment Card that we will turn in during worship that Sunday.

Our Prayer Vigil will be November 11.
 The Celebration Luncheon will follow worship Sunday, November 12.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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 PERMIT NO. 1632

Current Resident Or:

 |
 |

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

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

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

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

Website: www.stmarksumcsa.com
Email: stmarksumc@grandecom.net
stmarkspastor@grandecom.net

