

Messenger

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213 210-344-8393

Things to Remember:

- † Saturday, February 13th -Boy Scouts Meet & Greet @ Scout Hut
- † Adam Hamilton's <u>For-giveness</u> Small Group Study
- † February 10th **Ash Wednesday** Services @ 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- † **Valentines Day** Sunday, February 14th
- † Monday, February 15th @ 10:00 AM (FH) - Matter of Balance
- † Monday, February 22nd @ 2:00 PM (FH) - Advanced Directives
- † Sunday, February 14 & 28 - Children's Church @ 10:45
- † Wednesdays @ 6:30 -Praise & Communion Worship Service

REPORT FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

The folks who work in the St. Mark's Food Pantry wanted to give you an update on how things are going with the church's responding to food requests from our neighbors and those passing by. You have been very generous in your giving, both with food items each week and with the "Noisy Offering" on the last Sunday of each month. Over the past six months, you have supported the hunger needs in our community in the following ways:

- † You have given 904 pounds of food
- † You have given \$695.43 in the "Noisy Offerings"
- † With your donations, we have purchased additional food at the San Antonio Food Bank and other food items from local grocery stores
- † In these past six months, we have fed 800 people

Thank you again for your generosity and for reaching out to those in need.





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SERVING THE CHURCH

Sunday School	12/20	12/27	1/3	1/10	1/17
Children	5	3	2	1	1
Youth	5	4	5	5	4
Adults	42	29	34	36	32
Total SS	52	36	41	42	37
Worship					
Sunday	92	71	69	78	71
Wednesday Service	28	N/A	31	22	22

USHERS

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



Altar Flowers - 2016

The calendar for Altar Flowers is open for 2016! If you would like to sponsor the flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or in recognition of a special memory or special occasion, please contact either Joanne Green at 210–690–5714, or call Patti in the church office 210–344–8393. Altar flowers are \$25 – simply drop your check in the offering plate with the designation for "altar flowers". Following the service, the flowers are yours to take home and enjoy!

February 14	2 openings
February 21	2 openings
February 28	2 openings
March 6	1 opening
March 13	2 openings





Fthnic Ministries

Purpose: Support ethnic ministries in the Southwest Texas area.

Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso has historically provided most of the pastors to Spanish speaking congregations in Texas.

Ethnic Local Church funds provide direct grants to local churches who are initiating ethnic ministries and to ethnic congregations who need special assistance.

We live in an area that is increasingly made up of persons whose ethnic background is Hispanic, Black and Asian. Most of the members of our churches are Anglo. But that is changing as we reach out to increasing numbers of other cultures in our communities.

There is one Christ and one table at which we all share bread and wine. Through this apportionment, we work to reach out to our neighbors and bring them to Christ and into our churches.



On Easter Sunday, March 27th, our beautiful Sanctuary will be once again adorned with Easter Lilies. Watch the bulletin for the order form or call the church office if you would like to purchase a lily in honor or memory of a loved one or event! Lilies will be \$10 each.



Lights!

Have you noticed the new lighting in the church?

The Trustees hope that you have noticed how much brighter the lights are in and around the church. We are taking advantage of a program offered by CPS Energy to remove old style light bulbs and fluorescent lighting and replacing them with more efficient LED bulbs and electronic light fixtures. By encouraging facilities like our church to use lights that don't use as much electricity CPS Energy hopes to delay the need to build new power plants. CPS Energy is paying a large portion of the cost of upgrading our lights. We were fortunate to make contact with a company called LED Electric that is supplying the new lights and installing them for us. Because we are a church, LED Electric is donating back to us the amount that CPS Energy does not pay. LED Electric's contribution is several thousand dollars. The result is that we are getting all of these new lights at no cost to the church. We are getting newer, brighter lighting and a reduced electric bill each month too.



From Our Pastor ...

Here we are in February! The month that moves us into another season of the gospel year: the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday gives us an opportunity to intentionally acknowledge our sinful nature and our desire to repent and reclaim our life in Christ. On Wednesday, Feb. 10 at noon and at our evening worship service we will have the imposition of ashes; a time honored way of acknowledging our mortality, our dependence on God's

grace and a demonstration of our desire to walk more faithfully and humbly with God and each other. This service has always been a powerful and poignant expression of our desire to deepen our discipleship and our relationship with Christ and I hope that you will be able to be a part of this moving sign and symbol of our spiritual life.

With the emphasis in Lent being on repentance ("metanoia"), a literal "going in another direction or turning around", we seek ways of moving into deeper expressions of faith. One way to do this is through Bible study. Many of us do daily devotions, and there are some who do Bible study in small groups on Sunday or at other times. This season, we are offering several group studies with a focus on the theme of forgiveness, using a resource by Adam Hamilton, a noted author and theologian who can help us be challenged in our desire to grow as disciples of Jesus. Patti Gardner is hosting a group at noon on Wednesdays, Kathy Jack is offering one on Wednesday evenings and I will lead one on Sunday afternoons at 3pm. These classes will begin on Feb 17th (mine, being on Sunday, will begin on Feb 21st). You have a choice to go to either one or all three or a combination thereof! My prayer is that you will take advantage of this opportunity to study with your friends here at St. Mark's as we explore what it means to forgive and be forgiven. Hopefully, insights gained from our time together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will help us all deepen our faith and help us with this most basic concept of grace and salvation. For myself, this is an issue that I struggle with constantly and I look forward to yet another opportunity to put this important mandate of Jesus into a more meaningful practice. I hope that you will join me and others as we seek a holy and inspirational season of Lent, deepening our faith and strengthening our walk with Jesus.

God bless you,

Jay

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym)	2 6:30 AM ROMEO'S 9:00 AM Drive Thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (F H) 6:00 PM Kairos Torres Advisory Council (FH) 7:00 PM Esther Circle 7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)	3 1:00 PM YOGA (FH) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH)	10:00 AM Exercise (F H) 1:15 PM Parenting Class (LL) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (LL)	5 Office Closed	8:00 AM Saturday Moming Reunion 10:00 AM Community Garden Work Day/Meeting (Garden)
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym) Boy Scout Sunday	8 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym)	9 6:30 AM ROME O's 9:00 AM Drive Thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)	10 12:00 PMAsh Wednesday Service 1:00 PM YOGA (FH) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH) Ash Wednesday	11 10:00 AM Exercise (F H) 1:15 PM Parenting Class (LL) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (LL) 7:00 PM Trustees (FH)	12 Office Closed	8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion Boy Scouts Meet & Greet (Scout Hut & Garden Area)
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Children's Church (LL) 5:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym) Valentine's Day	15 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Matter of Balance (FH) 6:00 PM Finance Meeting (FH) 6:30 PM Admin Council (FH) 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym)	16 6:30 AM ROME O's 9:00 AM Drive Thru Prayer 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 7:00 PM NE Community Choir (FH) 7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)	17 12:00 PM Small Group Study: Forgiveness (YAMS) 1:00 PM YOGA (FH) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH) 7:00 PM Small Group Study: Forgiveness (Kathy Jack's home)	18 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 10:00 AM NL Deadline 11:00 AM Nutritional Potluck 1:15 PM Parenting Class (LL) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (LL)	19 Office Closed	20 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Small Group Study: Forgiveness (FH) 5:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym)	22 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Advanced Directives (FH) 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym)	23 6:30 AM R OMEO's 9:00 AM D rive T hru Prayer 9:00 AM F ood Bank Vouchers (HC) 10:00 AM Exercise (F H) 7:00 PM NE Community Choir (FH) 7:00 PM Order of the Arrow (SH)	24 12:00 PM Small Group Study: Forgiveness (YAMS) 1:00 PM YOGA (FH) 6:30 PM Praise Service (FH) 7:00 PM Small Group Study: Forgiveness (Kathy Jack's home)	9:00 AM NL Mailout (YAMS) 9:00 AM SA Food Bank Tiuck 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (SH) 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (LL)	26 Office Closed	27 8:00 AM Saturday Morning Reunion
28 8:30 AM Blood Drive 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Children's Church (LL) 3:00 PM Small Group Study: Forgiveness (FH) 5:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym) 6:00 PM F-Troop	29 10:00 AM Exercise (FH) 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Revive Ministries (Gym)	3 10 17	Jan 2016 M T W T F S 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 19 20 21 22 23 25 26 27 28 29 30	Mar 2016 S M T W T 1 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 1 13 14 15 16 17 1 20 21 22 23 24 2 27 28 29 30 31	4 5 1 12 8 19	

Wesley Nurse Corner

February 2016

If you are planning to attend one of the Upcoming Events, please contact the Wesley Nurse

Wesley Nurse Events:

Heart Health Educa- tion @ Granados SC	3
My Healthy Child Class @ St Marks FH	9
Heart Health Educa- tion @ SM Ex. Class	11
Matter of Balance Class @ St Marks FH	15
Advance Directives Class @ St Marks FH	22
Health Screens @ Food Voucher Regis.	23
Heart Health Educa- tion @ Mobile Food Pa	25

Resources:

For more information, please visit the websites below:

•National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

www.hearttruth.gov

•Office on Women's Health, HHS National Women's Health Information Center

www.womenshealth.gov

 WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease www.womenheart.org

Charzes Flowers, RN Wesley Nurse

210-344-8393

Heart Health

February is Heart Health Awareness month. Heart disease is the #1 killer of women in American and kills more women than all cancers combined.

What is heart disease? A condition where too much plaque builds up in the arteries, limiting blood flow to the heart muscle.

Why are women at a higher risk for heart disease? Estrogen is thought to help the inner wall of the arteries be flexible, which allows the arteries to relax and expand to aid in blood flow.

What are the risk factors? Smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol/triglycerides, overweight/ obesity, family history, age, diabetes.

What is a heart attack? A heart attack occurs when blood flow is blocked or is decreased to the heart muscle

Heart Attack Symptoms:

- Chest pain and/or discomfort
- Shortness of Breath
- Light Headedness
- Indigestion
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Cold Sweat
- Pain that radiates down left arm
- Back, shoulder, or neck pain

If you have any of the

above signs or symptoms, call 911. It is a matter of life and death.

How to prevent heart disease?

- Become more physically active
- · If you smoke, quit
- Eat a heart healthy diet (eat more fruits and vegetables)
- Keep a health weight
- Maintain a health weight
- Manage blood pressure
- Control cholesterol

Upcoming Events:

Monday February 15, 2016 from 2:00 PM—4:00

Matter of Balance Class will be held in the Fellowship Hall Monday February 22, 2016 from 2:00 PM—4:00 PM:

Advance Directives
Class will be held in
the Fellowship Hall

Sunday February 28, 2016 from 8:30 AM—11:00 AM:

Blood Drive!!! South
Texas Blood & Tissue
Center mobile van will be
at St. Mark's UMC. 15
donors are needed for the
event to occur.

NOTES AND NOTICES

To my dear friends at St. Mark's,

How wonderful of you to remember me after all these years. The flowers are still beautiful, and the cards and visits lifted my spirits.

There are not enough words to express my gratitude for your love and kindness. I miss all of you so much, but I am blessed to be part of your fellowship.

With love,

Bea Kunkel

Don't forget our Food Pantry!

1st Sunday - Can of Vegetables 2nd Sunday - Rice or Beans 3rd Sunday - Canned Meat 4th Sunday - Spaghetti Sauce 5th Sunday - Your Choice!



Noisy Offering - the last Sunday of every month!

Help Wanted

Hi everyone,

I am looking for interested volunteers to serve on our church's Health Committee. The committee is focused on serving the health needs of the community and we would love to have additional interested members. Please contact me at 349-1997, if you are interested.

Patti Austin

Need a Good Handyman? **Johnny Mendoza**210-765-1869



I am very happy to announce that with the Lord's guidance we will soon be preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School. I am also very excited to have my daughter, Kim (Durick), join me as co-chair. Through this ministry, we look forward to bringing the love of Jesus to as many as the Lord sends us.... together as the Body of Christ.

A tentative date of June 27 thru July 1 has been set.

Hope you'll join our team!

In His service, Melinda



MORE NOTES AND NOTICES

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you SO much for your loving generosity this Christmas! Your gift is very much appreciated. I'm so lucky to be working in such a loving, caring environment and every day I am thankful to be here.

With many thanks! Patti Dear St. Mark's,

Love - That's what it's all about! The love and generosity that come from this congregation are very much appreciated! Thank you for your lovely Christmas gift.

Love and many thanks! Carolyn

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you for the love from all my brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Mark's and the blessed gift of Christmas!

Thank you,

Johnny Mendoza

To the congregation of St. Mark's,

Thank you for the generous gift that you have presented to myself and my fellow staff members. You folks always continue to "blow my mind" every year with your generosity, love and support. Even when times are tough, and the financial ministers are telling you to dig deeper in your wallets, you always seem to have the means to take care of your staff members year after year. Personally I did not expect any check realizing the seriousness of the financial situation, but when Mary Jo Price gave me the check I was quite surprised. I actually responded to her, "Are you kidding me?", and she very simply said, "It's just what we do here"....WOW! To me that speaks volumes about the character of the people at St. Mark's and why it is such a special place for many. In my music career, I have served many parishes over the years, but none in which a true sense of mission and ministry is played out every day, and the word of the Gospel is truly practiced and not just spoken about. Indeed I have found a musical home here, and certainly look forward to "Making a Joyful Noise" with each and every one of you every Sunday morning for years to come.

Very sincerely, Joseph Scutti Organist

Thanks!!!

Thanks to all the Food Truck volunteers who helped at the December delivery. We served 255 people. Volunteers ate tacos and candy and we had a wonderful time. Many of the recipients told me how much they appreciated St Mark's and all of the volunteers. It is a blessing to serve others. I forget this sometimes and am always reminded and renewed on Food Truck Day.

If you haven't volunteered yet, give it a try at our next delivery date on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 8:30 AM. We would love to have you.

God bless Patti Austin

Lenten Small Group Studies

Are you interested in participating in a small group study during Lent? We are forming small groups to study Adam Hamilton's <u>Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go</u>.

There is nothing more crippling than holding on to anger. Anger, more than any other emotion, has the power to consume all aspects of our lives, distort our sense of purpose, and destroy our relationship with God. In the passionate and life-changing book, Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings the same insight that he applied in the bestseller "Why?" to the challenge of forgiveness. Hamilton argues that revelation comes when we realize that forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves rather than to someone else. He also contends that only when we learn to forgive others and ourselves can we truly receive forgiveness from God.

If you are interested in participating in one of these small groups or would like more information, please call Patti in the church office - 210-344-8393, as soon as possible. Groups will run beginning the week of February 14 for four weeks. Participant booklets are \$11.

FORGIVENESS
Finding Peace

SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

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

Operating Cash balance at 11/30/15		(5,405)
Non-Designated Contributions - December		27,474
Operating Expenses:		
Council on Ministries	1,194	
Special Mission Giving	260	
Mission Giving	17,090	
Administration Expense	887	
Trustees	3,741	
Pastor's Compensation	6,303	
Lay Personnel Compensation	7,121	
		36,596
Other Income/(Expense)	_	23,240
Operating Cash balance at 12/31/2015	_	8,713

Comments:

December contributions were \$9,400 higher than budgeted while being \$600 less than 2015. The Christmas offering contributed \$3,347 towards the month.

Operating expenses were \$12,338 greater than budgeted and \$16,090 higher than last December. In December we paid \$17,090 towards our apportionments. We also made

a payment to Special Mission Giving. These payments resulted in meeting our apportionment commitment as well as achieving 5 Star classification. Trustee spending was lower in December as a result of lower repairs and maintenance, insurance, and utilities.

We would like to congratulate and thank each of you for your financial support in 2015 which helped us meet our apportionment commitment. Special thanks to the Pumpkin Patch committee who gave \$5,000 of their surplus to fund church operations, as well as \$4,000 to the Highsmith floor fund.

However, we must also point out that in 2015 we transferred \$37,400 from our TMF Operating reserve account. This represents a concern going forward. While the Pastor and the bookkeeper have taken salary reductions totaling \$15,600, this is less than half of what we had to transfer from savings. Your continued support is so important to St. Mark's so that the good programs being done can continue.

Our ending operating cash balance was \$8,713. This balance allows us to start 2016 with a slight cushion.

We are certainly grateful for what everyone contributes to St. Mark's with their time, talent, and treasure. We wish you all a Happy New Year.

ST. MARK'S BUZZIN'S . . .



Jill Anderson Willie Barnes Connor Benjamin Kylee Brown Megan Brown Margaret Broxton Bucky Coley Esdras Cuervo Landry Dollahite Bea Kunkel Alice & Ben Logan Robert Flores Lopez Michael Mendoza Ann Payette Cindy Payette Gloria Reedy

Steve Reyes, Sr. Mike Ross Will Schuetze Kirk Tomerlin Abraham Wamah Jean Newman Nolan Martin Ruby Zepeta James Weers Beth Newby Easterling Family Family of Dorothy Olson Natalie Franke Nelson Jamal Taylor The Lybarger Family Family of Betty Howe

Erica Hodge Brian Bochman Pinzon Family Mike West John Ockenfels Angie Erickson Gary Johnson Kathryn Wilson



2/9 Greg Moss

2/13 Mary Bailly Xavier King

2/18 Zachary Wilke

2/22 Sarah Tencate

2/26 Jeff Brown

2/26 Patricia Barnes











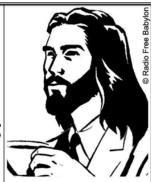
I think America's best days are still ahead, Jesus. And so I'm going to vote for the candidate who has a clear vision of what it will take to get us there.



And what does this better place look like, Carl, this country you hope your vote will bring about?



Ultimately, Jesus? No crime, everyone getting along, no homelessness, everyone with a job. Plenty of food. I could go on.



That's a clear vision of heaven, Carl. Unless your candidate is me, you might wanna set your sights a little lower.

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

Current Resident Or:

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES

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AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL TO LIVE IN THE WORLD AS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY

TO STRIVE TO IDENTIFY AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF YOUTS ONA , 91HS

THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP, WOR-

TO NURTURE THEM IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SON, JESUS CHRIST

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH HIS TO HELP ALL PERSONS DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN A

MISSION STATEMENT

stmarksumc@grandecom.net :lism3

:9tisd9W

OFFICE HOURS

MESLEY NURSE

www.stmarksumcsa.com

<u>stmarkspastor@grandecom.net</u>

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

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

Charzes Flowers

Johnny Mendoza **CUSTODIAN**

Joseph Scutti ORGANIST

Carolyn Hahn CHOIR DIRECTOR

Patti Gardner **SECRETARY**

Rev. Jay Brown **AOTZA9**