

February 13, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Window Into St. Mark's

## Community Garden Update *by Cindy Freeman*

St. Mark's gardening efforts are off to a strong start! At our first meeting we decided our mission is to support a local food pantry, and we filled several leadership positions. Importantly, Farmer Vance has been appointed Chair of Compost, and may be promoted to Soil as well, for those who are following his story. Shortly after the first meeting, we obtained commitments from three church groups to steward garden plots. Most recently, we hosted Urban Harvest ([www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.org)) for the first of 3 classes on how to start a community garden. (Next classes are 2/15 and 2/22). Urban Harvest was founded in Houston 15 years ago, and is widely recognized for its outstanding expertise in community gardening. For the first time the instructors hosted a class on-site, rather than at their offices- which was a huge benefit to us. About 20 people attended, including a few neighbors- a good outreach. The class started with a tour of the courtyard and garden site, then the instructors gave us guidelines on how to organize, how to build, and what to grow during each season, specifically for Houston. With their help, we will develop a diagram and stake the area by the end of February. Don't forget to look for the fruit trees, the latest addition to our original plan!



We need your involvement.

-Fund-raising- We need someone to lead our fund-raising efforts.

-Garden plots-We have several plots available for sponsorship by groups within the church. Several seasoned gardeners are available for consultation-including a neighborhood Master Gardener who has volunteered her time- and we will develop a planting schedule, so the main work will be plant-

ing, watering and weeding your plot on a regular basis. If you want to be part of a plot but aren't in a group, let Cindy know.

-Donations- all amounts are welcome. We have enough "seed money" – pun intended to get started, but we need additional funds for bed construction and soil installation. You are also invited to sponsor a fruit tree in honor or memory of a loved one. Expected cost of trees, \$60-80 each.

Questions: contact Cindy Freeman, [Lucinda.f@earthlink.net](mailto:Lucinda.f@earthlink.net), or 832.689.4437.

## Women's Celebration *by Sharon*



All women are invited to attend the Heights Women's Celebration meeting entitled on Saturday, February 28, 2009 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in the fellowship hall. Speaker, Holly Garrett will present "Getting Through the Impossible" which will address questions such as: What do you do when life as you know it stops and nothing seems to make sense anymore? What happens when the faith you always depended on is shaken to the core? How do you go on when you have no clue how to keep going?

When things are desperate and you feel alone, you're not. The truth is, what is overwhelming and impossible to us, is very possible with God. Tragedy may plunge us into darkness but God is there to pull us out. "Getting Through the Impossible" is a message of God's hope, grace, peace and restoration.

"Heights Celebration" A woman-to-woman ministry of sharing, encouraging, discipling and mentoring in the faith, invites you to hear this inspirational message and to enjoy a complimentary breakfast with us. Childcare is provided.

## Lent & Easter 2009

### Ash Wednesday Services

February 25 - 7:00 pm

### Prayers During Lent

Wednesday Mornings 7:00-7:30 a.m.

March 4 through

April 1 in the Sanctuary

### Lenten Study

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 - 7:30 pm

March 4 through

April 1 in room 208

### Palm/Passion Sunday

April 5 - 8:30 & 10:50 a.m.

Sunday Worship with Palm Procession

### Maundy Thursday

April 9 - 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Includes Service of Foot Washing

### Good Friday

April 10 - 7:00 p.m.

Service of Tenebrae

### Holy Saturday

Service of Light

April 11 - 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil - (meet at Front Porch)

Prayer Vigil continuing in

sanctuary until dawn.

### Easter Sunday - April 12

Sunrise Service on Lawn - 6:30 a.m.

Breakfast - 7:30 a.m.

Worship - 8:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt - 10:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship - 10:50 a.m.



## From the Pastor

Below you will find the emerging United Methodist vision for living John Wesley's General Rules

which have been our worship focus for the past three Sundays: **Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God** (from Rueben Job's book, Three Simple Rules). I have excerpted these paragraphs from a longer article found at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org). By following the links for Areas of Ministry Focus you may find the complete text along with additional articles.

*United Methodists are at a critical juncture. Research reveals a deep yearning across the church for a common focus on mission and ministry — a powerful, noble vision to which we as a people can commit our energy and in which we can live out our faith. We hear the widespread belief that we are missing the essential energy of "movement," the collective claiming of what it means to live as Christians rooted in the Wesleyan tradition...*

### The four focus areas:

*Everyone choosing to participate in this conversation has come to believe we are doing nothing short of answering the questions for our time: What is the United Methodist vision for living Wesley's principles — **doing no harm, doing good and loving God**? And how does that vision enable us to fulfill the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? The growing belief is that these areas of focus provide that answer. They are:*

1. **Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.** *The church must recruit young people for ministry and provide them with the skills necessary to be effective in this new time of opportunity. That includes women and people of color the world over. Similarly, we must offer leadership training for lay people who are in ministry in countless ways.*

2. **Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.** *If we are to remain faithful to our commitment to transform the world, we will reach out with genuine hospitality to people wherever they are. We will make them feel welcome as we start new faith communities,*

*seek to renew existing ones and inspire faithful discipleship.*

3. **Engaging in ministry with the poor.** *As an expression of our discipleship, United Methodists seek to alleviate conditions that undermine quality of life and limit the opportunity to flourish as we believe God intends for all. As with John Wesley, we seek to change conditions that are unjust, alienating and disempowering. We engage in ministry with the poor, and in this, we especially want to reach out to and protect children.*

4. **Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.** *Conditions of poverty cause illness and death. The lack of access to doctors, nurses, medications and appropriate facilities is deadly, especially among those who live in conditions of poverty. But the diseases of poverty are not inevitable. We believe the people of The United Methodist Church can play a significant role in educating others about diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, and treating and preventing their devastating effects.*

*United Methodists also understand how important it is to stand with those who do not have access to affordable health care — the uninsured in the United States as well as millions of people in the developing world — and to work toward the day when everyone has an opportunity to live a healthy, productive life.*

*There certainly are obstacles. We will only succeed if we operate in an uncommon spirit of collaboration, break our inertia and transcend our disagreements. We as a people must open ourselves to a new way of thinking about how we embody our faith. It's no small task, but if we are successful, we will have on our hands a great unifying movement of United Methodist people, a movement the world needs at the dawn of the 21st century. vision a reality.*

May this vision inform our personal Lenten observance as well as our work of ministry and mission. And may it all be centered in our commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Your Partner in Ministry, Marilyn

## Mission Moment... by Dave Humphreys

When can I help with the Food Pantry ?

I've been hearing that question a lot lately. Now's the time for you to sign up as a volunteer to help in any way you can. We need people to exercise their skills and talents like painting, promotions, membership and food drives, prepare operational procedures, buying equipment, picking up food, stocking,

and of course, leaders in these areas. Be looking for a Food Pantry Volunteer Help List circulating in your church group soon. By the way, you are welcome to come hear what's happening at the Food Pantry Executive Planning Team meeting at St. Mark's this Tuesday February 17 at 6 p.m. Please consider being a part of this exciting and spiritually rewarding ministry.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, February 15

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:40 am Sunday School  
9:40 am New Member Class  
10:50 am Worship Service  
3:00 pm Urban Harvest Gardening Class  
4:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal  
5:00 pm UMYF

### Monday, February 16

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, February 17

9:30 am Weaving Class  
1:30 pm Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm Heights Interfaith Coalition

### Wednesday, February 18

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
6:15 pm Church Council  
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
7:00 pm AA Meeting  
7:00 pm Yoga Class  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Friday, February 20

6:30 pm Family Game Night

### Saturday, February 21

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

### Sunday, February 22

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:40 am Sunday School  
9:40 am New Member Class  
10:50 am Worship Service  
3:00 pm Urban Harvest Gardening Class  
4:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal  
5:00 pm UMYF

### Monday, February 23— Newsletter Deadline

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, February 24

9:30 am Weaving Class  
10:00 am Senior Games Day  
1:30 pm Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Care Team  
6:30 pm Missions Team

### Wednesday, February 25 - Ash Wednesday

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Communications Team  
7:00 pm AA Meeting  
7:00 pm Yoga Class  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

### Saturday, February 28

9:30 am Heights Women's Celebration  
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting  
5:00 pm McCallister/Easterly Wedding

### Sunday, March 1

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:40 am Sunday School  
9:40 am New Member Class  
10:50 am Worship Service  
4:00 pm Youth Council  
4:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal  
5:00 pm UMYF

### Monday, March 2

6:30 pm Adult Ministry Team  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, March 3

9:30 am Weaving Class  
1:30 pm Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Trustees

### Wednesday, March 4

7:00 am Lenten Prayers  
10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
6:15 pm Worship Team  
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Outreach Team  
6:30 pm Lenten Study  
7:00 pm Yoga Class  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

St. Mark's Calendar  
Online at [smumc.org](http://smumc.org)

Upper Room Daily Devotional  
Online at [upperroom.org](http://upperroom.org)



# Church News

**New Member Classes:** If you are interested in joining the church, we invite you to attend the New Member Classes which are designed to nurture your commitment to Christ and the church. The six-class series will be held at 9:40 am on Sundays, February 15 – March 29 in the parlor. We will welcome new members Easter morning at the 6:30 Sunrise Service on the front lawn. To register call the office at 713-861-3104.

**Travis Elementary Centennial Celebration:** Travis Elementary, is hosting a Centennial Celebration and Parade on May 9, 2009. The Centennial Committee is in search of former alumni to participate in this day of honoring a wonderful institution located in the historic Woodland Heights. To submit alumni information, please contact Lana Bishop, Travis Elementary PTA President, at 713.302.1232 or lbishop@tributedirect.com.



## Wednesday Night Live:

The next Wednesday Night Live supper will be from 5:30 - 7:30pm Wed., February 18 hosted by the Church Council and Wed., February 25 hosted by the Mission Team. Also, the upcoming schedule for the next month is as follows:

- 3/4 - Host: Finance Team
- 3/11 - Host: Adult Choir
- 3/18 - Host: Lay Leadership Team
- 3/25 - Host: Children's Council

## Children's Development Center

**Enrollment:** The CDC is preparing for registration for the 09-10 school year. Church members have priority after currently enrolled children. Registration for Church members will be from March 9-19. During the regular school year, we are open from 9am -3pm Monday through Thursday. For children over the age of 18 months, we do offer early bird care starting at 8am. We offer 2, 3, and 4 day programs for children from the age of 12 months through Pre-K. If you are interested in learning more about the CDC, please call Carla at 713-861-4443.



**Family Game Night:** Friday, February 20 in the Fellowship Hall, Hospitality Team will provide pizza, tea and lemonade.

Dominoes, Rummy, maybe a game of Charades, or bring your favorite game.



## VBS Planning Coming

**Soon:** by Jennifer McClure, '09 VBS Coordinator

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School, June 9th-12th from 5:30pm - 8:30pm! You won't want to miss the adventure! For St. Mark's, VBS has become a whole church endeavor and an incredible outreach tool to our community. Over the last few years, VBS has touched close to 120 children and their families each summer. For many of these children, it is the only experience they have with God in a church setting during the year. 2009 has an exciting program ahead and I can't wait to share it when the time comes! In the meantime, I have a request: Please consider taking the time each week to pray for our VBS program - perhaps, pick a day once a week to pray for St. Mark's and include VBS in that prayer. Pray that VBS will reveal God's love to the children who attend; pray that it will all go well; pray for the leaders in their planning; pray that God would open your heart - and your schedule - to be willing to help lead and participate in our VBS effort; pray that VBS be a blessing to all who take part and help join those of our church in bringing the joy of God's love to our children and the children who live among and around us.

## Attendance Record:

<i>Attendance for Sunday, February 1</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	109
8:30 Worship.....	36
10:50 Worship.....	130
Total Worship.....	166
<i>Attendance for Sunday, February 8</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	109
8:30 Worship.....	36
10:00 Worship.....	160
Total Worship.....	196



## Join Yahoo E-Mail group:

To add your e-mail address go to: groups.yahoo.com/group/stmarksumchouston/

# Prayer Needs

- Our president, leaders, and servicemen and women**  
**Ethan Anglin** prayers of encouragement  
**Betty Barr** vision and retina problems  
**Leta Bush** health and encouragement  
**Charlotte Campbell** recovering from back surgery  
**Lydia Chavarria** inoperable cancer  
**Ruby Chumchall** health and encouragement  
**Eva Copeland** health and encouragement  
**Carol Curlee** (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart surgery  
**Carolyn Fulbright** (Pam Scheyer's mother) heart  
**Dorothea Furstenfeld** health and encouragement  
**Cathy Harris** (Glenda Owen's friend) breast cancer  
**Eddie & Vivian Hubbell** now in Belmont Village  
**Maye Humphrey** now in Village on the Park  
**Clinton Iden** cancer  
**Ferne Lake** health and encouragement  
**Martin Larsen** health and encouragement  
**Emma Maltbie** (Jennifer McClure's friend's 3 yr old daughter) brain cancer  
**Mac McClure** health and encouragement  
**Irma McGee** in West Janisch Health Care Center  
**Claudette Milner's father** health and encouragement  
**Jim Moffatt** recovering from fall, dislocated elbow  
**Maxine Musgrave** (Rose Brewer's mother) thyroid biopsy  
**Estella Schmidt** health and encouragement  
**Peter Seefeldt** (Carol Munn's nephew) Marine bombed-Iraq  
**Ruth Shuman** lung cancer  
**Mike and Jan Terry** health and encouragement  
**Thelma Vincent** health and encouragement  
**Mary Weatherly** recovering from bladder surgery  
**W. G. Weatherly** now at The Hampton with Mary  
**Kathryn Weeks** health and encouragement

# February Birthdays

- 2/1 Allison Reeves
- 2/1 Janet Theck
- 2/2 Joel Montgomery
- 2/4 Jim Hubbell
- 2/4 Phillip Richardson
- 2/7 Michael Brewer
- 2/8 Judith Engelhardt
- 2/9 Gladys Coleman (89th)
- 2/9 Sam Rodriguez
- 2/10 Erin Traylor
- 2/10 Jordan Traylor
- 2/10 Drew Weaver
- 2/11 Lydia Mollhagen
- 2/11 Teresa Montgomery
- 2/16 Joellen Snow
- 2/17 Justin McDevitt
- 2/19 Jamie Block
- 2/19 Kelley Slack
- 2/19 Earl Taake (86th)
- 2/20 Glenda Owen
- 2/21 Mable Emshoff (89th)
- 2/21 Stacy Newton
- 2/22 Barbara Humphreys
- 2/22 Lisa Martinson
- 2/22 Kathryn Richard
- 2/23 Al Baker
- 2/23 Ben McClure
- 2/23 Abigail Naiser
- 2/23 Isabelle Naiser
- 2/23 Linda Pollard
- 2/24 Amy Morris
- 2/24 Natasha Perez-Krause
- 2/25 Trace Cannon, III
- 2/26 Charlsie Neathery
- 2/27 Alyssa Holub
- 2/28 Frances Paggeot
- 2/28 Amy Trahan
- 2/29 Audrey Murdock
- 2/29 Hayden Murdock

(We want to make sure we include everyone's birthday... if for some reason your birthday is not here, please call the church office.)

## Anniversaries:

- February 2** — Herbert & Willie Marie Iden (63rd)
- February 9** — Pete & Katie Coleman
- February 14** — Ben & Rose Brewer
- February 14** — Sylvia Juarez & Melissa Moore
- February 18** — Bill & Ginny Derby
- February 19** — Jeff & Jennifer Copeland
- February 26** — Stan & Joellen Snow O'Neal
- February 27** — Orell & Judy Graves Fitzsimmons

# Senior Moments

**XYZ Game Day:** Senior game day is Tuesday, February 24 at 10:00 am.

**XYZ Club:** The XYZ meeting is Tuesday, March 10. We will be meeting at a restaurant to be determined.

# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

600 Pecore  
Houston, Texas 77009  
Office Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 am–4:00 pm

Phone: 713-861-3104  
Fax: 713-861-2948  
Children's Dev. Ctr. 713-861-4443  
www.smumc.org

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**Organist**  
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**Administrative Assistant**  
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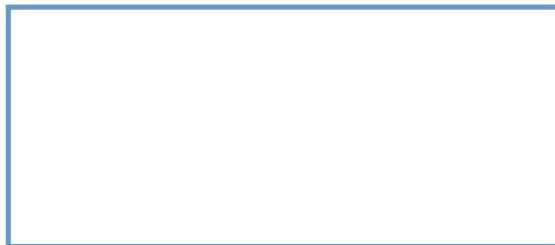
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## Sunday Worship Times:

8:30 am — Worship Service  
9:30 am — Sunday School  
10:50 am — Traditional Worship Service



## Men's Class Name Change *by Vance Neathery*

**M<sup>2</sup> News:** The Sunday school class formerly known as the 'Manly Men class', or the 'Men's Bible Study class', or 'the class formerly known as Prince', or other references that are not appropriate for a church newsletter have decided to adopt a new name for the new year. We gathered up in the clubhouse that **Jeff Sipes** built and came up with the new name, a new president, and set our goals and plan for 2009. **Joel Montgomery** is our new president.

We voted to do lots of good stuff in 2009. We are committed to support the community garden effort with muscle to help build it. And we will adopt a patch and grow something. We are committed to support VBS by cooking dinner one night, supplying manly adults as leaders, and underwriting some of the cost of that very fine ministry.

We are waiting to help with the construction of the new food pantry facility when that help is appropriate. We are also planning to adopt a family from the Wesley Center

later in the year. We are going to do another Father's day prayer vigil on June 19/20. We are planning to send a contingency to the spring UMM retreat at Lakeview, and have our own class retreat in the fall.

Add all that up with the fact that almost every person in the class is on or chairs at least one St. Mark's ministry team committee and it is shaping up to be a full year for our little ol' class.

Yours in a manly manly fog,

Vance

## Altar Flowers for 2009:

Make reservations now for Sundays in 2009 to give altar flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones, birthdays, or anniversaries.

Call the church office to reserve the dates you want. Prices are \$70 for both sides and \$35 for one side.



## Dinner for 8 *by Vicki Schutter*



On Sunday, forms will be available for you to sign up for this year's Dinner for Eight groups. As most of you know, Dinner for Eight is a small group social program that will meet once a month beginning in March through October and November. Each group will consist of eight people who take turns "hosting" dinner (or whatever meal the group chooses) once a month. When it is your turn, you can cook, order out, or choose a restaurant for the group to meet at. This program is open to everyone who wants to be a part of it, regardless of age, marital status, or church status. You can sign-up by yourself, or with your spouse, partner or friend. After you sign up, we will draw groups of 8 persons and contact you, and you will then begin to meet your new dinner group! I hope all of you will choose to participate in this fun, interesting, and helpful program. If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you want me to go ahead and sign you up in advance, you can call me at 713-885-0404 or email me at [vicki@rice.edu](mailto:vicki@rice.edu) or [vickijbs@yahoo.com](mailto:vickijbs@yahoo.com).