

February 27, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Catch Me in My Scurrying

Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord,
and hold me in this Lenten season:
hold my feet to the fire of your grace
and make me attentive to my mortality
that I may begin to die now
to those things that keep me
from living with you
and with my neighbors on this earth;
to grudges and indifference,
to certainties that smother possibilities,
to my fascination with false securities...
to my arrogant insistence on how it has to be...

Catch me in my aimless scurrying, Lord,
and hold me in this Lenten season:
hold my heart to the beat of your grace
and somehow,
during this season of sacrifice,
enable me to sacrifice time
and possessions
and securities,
to do something...
something about what I see,
something to turn the water of my words
into the wine of will and risk,
into the bread of blood and blisters,
into the blessedness of deed,
of a cross picked up,
a saviour followed.

Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace*

Lent & Holy Week

Prayers During Lent

Wednesday Mornings
7:00–7:30 am
March 4 through
April 1 in the Courtyard
(if raining, the Sanctuary)

Lenten Study

Wednesday Evenings
6:30 - 7:30 pm
March 4 through
April 1 in room 210

Palm/Passion Sunday
April 5 - 8:30 & 10:50 am
Sunday Worship
with Palm Procession

Maundy Thursday
April 9 - 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall
Includes
Service of Foot Washing,
Stripping the Sanctuary

Good Friday
April 10 – 7:00 pm
Service of Tenebrae

Holy Saturday
Service of Light
April 11
7:00 pm – 8:15 pm
(meet at Front Porch)
Prayer Vigil continuing in
sanctuary until dawn.

Easter Sunday - April 12
Sunrise Service on Lawn –
6:30 am
Breakfast - 7:30 am
Worship - 8:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt - 10:00 am
Traditional Worship -
10:50 am



From the Pastor

Wednesday Evening
Lenten Study

One of the challenges of preaching each week is learning how to proclaim the gospel in a way that is relevant. If it doesn't speak to the concerns and joys of the listener's life, and if the preaching fails to address what is going on in the congregation, the community and the world, it's of questionable value. This is not to suggest that preaching ought to answer every question that is raised or resolve every sticky situation. But preaching, at its best and most faithful, will seek to bring a word from God that offers challenge, hope and comfort as needed.

The study offered 6:30 – 7:30pm on Wednesday evenings during Lent invites you to participate in the sermon preparation for the following Sunday. Each week I preach one or more of the scripture texts from the Revised Common Lectionary (99% of the time) and these are the ones we will study and discuss on the previous Wednesday in our Lenten study.

This is what I envision:

We will read the Sunday scriptures before Wednesday evening;
Read footnotes, study helps, interpretation for both passages;

Resources are available on the internet:

www.textweek.com
www.gbod.org;

Bring your bibles in the version you prefer.

(I use the NRSV Oxford Annotated Bible for study & preparation.)

Each Wednesday we will begin with a prayer for guidance;

We will briefly review Sunday's sermon.

We will read the scripture texts and discuss:

What is God trying to say to people like you and me?

I hope you will join us in this study of preaching scripture texts as we journey together through Lent on our way to Easter.

Sunday, March 8, 2009:
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, March 15, 2009:
Exodus 20:1-17
John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 22, 2009:
Numbers 21:4-9
John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 29, 2009
Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 12:20-33

Journeying with You,
Marilyn

Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, March 7

8:30 am Reconciling Ministries Training
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, March 8

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

Monday, March 9 — Newsletter Deadline

4:15 pm CDC Board Meeting
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, March 10

9:30 am Weaving Class
10:30 am XYZ Club Meeting
1:30 pm Staff Meeting
6:15 pm SPR Team

Wednesday, March 11

7:00 am Lenten Prayers
10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15 pm Children's Council
6:30 pm Finance Team
6:30 pm Lenten Study
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Saturday, March 14

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, March 15

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

Monday, March 16

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, March 17

Office Closed due to scheduled Power Outage in the Area by Centerpoint Energy
6:00 pm Heights Interfaith Coalition

Wednesday, March 18

7:00 am Lenten Prayers
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Church Council
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Lenten Study
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

St. Mark's Calendar
Online at smumc.org

Upper Room Daily Devotional
Online at upperroom.org

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 with the new Heights Interfaith Coalition Food Pantry. The food pantry will be located in the building in the parking lot at Zion Lutheran Church and will serve our entire area. We need people to exercise their skills and tal-

ents 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. Please consider being a part of this exciting and spiritually rewarding ministry.



Church News

Called to Witness: St. Mark's UMC will host a training presented by Reconciling Ministries Network for the Texas Conference on Saturday, March 7th from 10 - 3 pm, with lunch provided. Anyone at St. Mark's who is interested in learning to "tell their story" to promote inclusion in our denomination, regardless of sexual orientation, is welcome. Please contact Roger/Diana Van Duzer (713)426-3320 to sign-up.

WNL Wednesday Night Live:

All are invited to Wednesday Night Live supper which will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 - 7:30pm:

- 3/4 - Host: Finance Team
- 3/11 - Host: Adult Choir
- 3/18 - Host: Lay Leadership Team
- 3/25 - Host: Church Council
- 4/1 - Host: Communications Team
- 4/8 - Holy Week, NO WNL

Office Closed March 17: CenterPoint Energy has notified us that the power will be off in our immediate area most of the day on Tuesday, March 17th due to work on the electrical distribution system. Therefore, the church office will be closed.

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.

Travis Elementary Centennial Celebration: Travis Elementary, is hosting a Centennial Celebration and Parade on May 2 (Changed from May 9 as previously printed). 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.

Bring a Friend to Sunday School: The first Sunday of each month is "Bring a Friend to Sunday School" for Preschool, Early Elementary (K-1) and Late Elementary (2-5). Each child, and the friend(s) they bring, will be recognized in their Sunday school class. *Leslie Ball*

Research Partner: (ONLINE health promotion program for women with disabilities) Do you know a woman 45 years and older, living in the Houston area, who has a physical limitation due to chronic illness or disability? Baylor College of Medicine is recruiting study participants to test the effectiveness of an Internet-based health promotion, self-help program, the "Garden of Wellness ". Do you have access to a high speed computer, have an e-mail address, an Internet connection 2-4 hours per week? Like surveys, games, and computerized learning? A wellness coach and peer advice is included during the brief 8-week program. "Control group" just answers 3 surveys. Compensation is provided to all participants and a compact disc of program. Contact: The Center for Research on Women with Disabilities crowd@bcm.edu or Cathy Courtney (cathyc@bcm.edu) or call 713-523-0909.

Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, February 15

Sunday School Total.....	114
8:30 Worship.....	23
10:50 Worship.....	128
Total Worship.....	151

Attendance for Sunday, February 22

Sunday School Total.....	104
8:30 Worship.....	26
10:00 Worship.....	147
Total Worship.....	173

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
Betty Barr vision and retina problems
Leta Bush health and encouragement
Charlotte Campbell recovering from back surgery
Lydia Chavarria home hospice care
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
Huey Ginn (Ashley Kellogg's neighbor) open-heart surgery
Cathy Harris (Glenda Owen's friend) recovery from breast cancer treatment
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
Justine Lines in St. Luke's on bed rest during pregnancy
Emma Maltbie (Jennifer McClure's friend's 3 yr old daughter) recovering from brain cancer treatment
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
Kathryn Weeks health and encouragement

March Birthdays

- 3/2** Vance Neathery
- 3/3** Aaron Corman
- 3/4** Angela Standridge
- 3/5** Krystle Castaneda
- 3/5** Mike Holdridge
- 3/6** Shelley Naiser
- 3/6** Alice Phillips
- 3/7** Travis Dubose
- 3/11** Rachel Donnelly
- 3/12** Robert Graham
- 3/12** Michele Russell
- 3/12** Scott Stevens
- 3/12** Mary Jane Van Dussen
- 3/13** Josephine Pflughaupt
- 3/15** Mark Easterly
- 3/15** Charles Maddux
- 3/15** Joseph Maddux
- 3/16** Lynn Pflughaupt
- 3/16** Patrick Quarles
- 3/17** Faye Miller (85th)
- 3/18** Marc Humphreys
- 3/18** Mary Iden (90th)
- 3/19** Ben Brewer
- 3/19** Patti Newby
- 3/19** John Sustaita, Jr.
- 3/19** Thelma Vincent
- 3/20** Taran "Ty" Copeland
- 3/20** Laura Houser
- 3/22** Douglas Dreher
- 3/23** Hudson Alt
- 3/23** Steve Ista
- 3/24** Donald Delany
- 3/25** Frances Graves
- 3/28** Heather McCallister
- 3/30** Natalie Birdwell
- 3/31** Mark Rowe

(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:

- March 9** — Ken & Suzanne Wales
- March 21** — Rick & Karen Reeves
- March 21** — Mark & Pamela Scheyer
- March 29** — Maurice & Esther Fore

Senior Moments

XYZ Club: The XYZ meeting is Tuesday, March 10. We will be going out for lunch at Spanish Flowers. Folks can meet us at the restaurant at 11:00 or carpool at the church at 10:45.

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

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
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Children's Dev. Ctr. 713-861-4443
www.smumc.org

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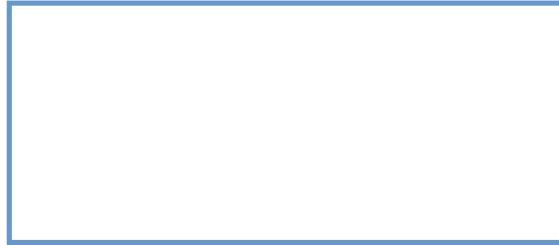
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Sunday Worship Times:

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



Easter Lily Order Form

Its time once again for the St. Mark's tradition to place Easter Lilies in the altar area in honor or in memory of loved ones. The lilies are \$10 per plant and will be in place for the Easter services. There is no limit to the amount you can order. Please fill out this form, attach your payment and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. The last day to order is April 5th.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

I wish to order _____ # of Lilies @ \$10.00 each. Amount enclosed \$: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____