

March 13, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Window Into St. Mark's

Visit smumc.org! by John Thomas

The Communications team invites everyone to visit your newly revised website. There you will find colorful, up-to-date and informative pages that will fill you in on just about everything going on at St. Mark's. We have many more changes and updates planned, but our goal is to get you to make your church website your "first source" for church information. There is tons of information about almost everything that's happening: classes, group and committee meetings, special events, XYZ, Wednesday Night Live, church camp and Vacation Bible School – the list goes on and on. More is being added almost every day. In fact, if there is anything that you would like to see added to the website, we would love to hear about it – we have lots of room. Send your suggestions to communications@smumc.org or just send them to the church office.

Did you know that many of the commonly used web pages on our web site can be reached by adding a simple, easy-to-remember word to our address? For example, to go to the event calendar, type in <http://www.smumc.org/calendar>. Or, for information about Lent and Easter events, you can go to <http://www.smumc.org/Easter>. Want to check the Wednesday Night Live menu? Try <http://www.smumc.org/WNL>. Of course, you can get to all of these web pages and much more by navigating from our home page, www.smumc.org. You can even read the current church newsletter, or read archived copies of older newsletters. A comprehensive list of shortcuts to web pages will appear in the next newsletter. In the meantime, keep up with what is happening at St. Mark's by visiting YOUR church web site.

African Palms by Jamie Block



Using the Cross of Christ to Help People Help Themselves:

St. Mark's United Methodist Church will participate in a worldwide mission and worship project on Palm/Passion Sunday. To participate in this project you don't have to bake a cake, fix a light bulb, or spend any extra time at church volunteering. What...? Mission and worship made easy...? Okay! This is the story: On April 5, 2009 for the Palm/Passion Sunday worship service we will each be given an African Palm that has been woven into a cross by a Tanzanian family. In 1965, Father Alan Talbot, an Anglican priest, encouraged poverty stricken villagers to make crosses for Palm Sunday.

In 1976 the Women of St. John's Church initiated the project in the United States. Each year large shipping containers destined for St John's church, Olney Maryland are shipped from 9 villages near Masasi, Tanzania. The entire parish then packages the crosses according to orders placed. This year 6 million crosses will be shipped worldwide... 1.8 million in the U.S. alone! The net proceeds and all donations are returned to Africa in the form of non-denominational self-help grants to meet basic human needs. So on Palm/Passion Sunday come prepared to proudly wear the symbol of the love of Jesus Christ and support a worldwide mission project.



Lent & Holy Week

Morning 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

In the early morning light we gather in the courtyard around the paschal candle for Wednesday Morning Prayers during Lent. We begin with a morning prayer, then sit in silent prayer for a time before singing “*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.*” We sit a while longer in silent prayer, then close with the Prayer of Jesus, followed by the passing of the peace.

“Morning has broken, like the first morning...”

Wednesday evening Lenten Study begins with a short review of the sermon from the previous Sunday followed by reading aloud the Old Testament scripture for the coming Sunday. During the reading we listen for clues concerning the context, then discuss how God may be speaking to us through the New Testament scriptures for the coming Sunday. The questions always before us is, “how does this text form us in life giving ways during this Lenten season? How does it move us from death to new life?”

Sunday morning in New Member Class we share stories of our faith journeys thus far. “What has been our past experience with the church?” “Have we been baptized?” “If so, what do we know about the experience through our remembering or from photos and family stories?”

One last question we ask of each one around the circle: “Why are you here at St. Mark’s, and why are you in this new member class?” Many times the answer

involves knowing someone or being invited by a current member. Other times people say they first come because of the welcoming exterior of St. Mark’s. They stay because it feels like “home.”

They want to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, loving and serving God and others through this community of faith. We discuss our desire to be involved in hands on mission, to make a difference in the lives of others; to do no harm, to do good, to stay in love with God.

Morning prayer. Evening bible study. Weekly exploration of the Christian faith and our responses of doing good. Each of these faith-forming small groups encourages us to grow in understanding and practice of our faith response to God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ. Our Lenten disciplines encourage our growth. They deepen our commitments to live the way of Christ by examining our daily lives and how they may more clearly reflect the love of God.

We travel together through this Lenten season. Sometimes we travel in small groups.

On the Journey with You,

Marilyn

Beyond Our Walls... by Leslie Ball

The Kindergarten-1st grade Sunday School class is collecting money for Heifer International. Heifer International is an organization where you can purchase animals to be sent to people in need to help them with their livelihood. Our Heifer Project will be to collect money to send rabbits to a family in need. Rabbits provide protein, can easily and inexpensively be fed, and



due to rapid reproduction, can be passed on to other families in need in that community. The last Sunday to collect will be May 31, 2009. If you do not have a child in K-1 Sunday School and would like to participate, please see or contact Leslie Ball lballrdh@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

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 AA Meeting
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, March 21

12:00 pm Women’s AA Meeting

Sunday, March 22

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 23 — Newsletter Deadline

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

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

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

Friday, March 27

6:30 pm Family Game Night

Saturday, March 28

12:00 pm Women’s AA Meeting

Sunday, March 29

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 30

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, March 31

9:30 am Weaving
1:30 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 1

7:00 am Lenten Prayers
10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Lenten Study
6:30 pm Outreach Team
7:00 pm AA Meeting
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



Church News

How to Send Announcement on the Yahoo Group:

If you are a member of the Yahoo E-Mail group and want to make an announcement for your class, group, WNL Menu or anything like that, it is as easy as sending an email. All you have to do is type your announcement and email it to: stmarksumchouston@yahoo.com. It's that simple. The announcements don't need to be emailed to the church office for the office to send for you. It saves a step if you just email it directly yourself. Anyone that receives emails from the yahoo group can also send them. If you are NOT a member of the Yahoo E-Mail Group and want to join, here are the instructions:

Join Yahoo E-Mail group:

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

Wednesday Night Live:

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

- 3/18 - Host: Lay Leadership Team
- 3/25 - Host: Children's Council
- 4/1 - Host: Communications Team
- 4/8 - *Holy Week, NO WNL*
- 4/15 - Host: Outreach Team
- 4/22 - Host: SPR Team



Family Game Night: Friday, March 27 in the Fellowship Hall, Hospitality Team will provide pizza, tea and lemonade. Dominoes, Rummy, maybe a game of Charades, or bring your favorite game.

Senior Moments

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

XYZ Club: The XYZ meeting is Tuesday, April 14 at 10:30 am.

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*

Our Thoughts and Prayers: are with the family and friends of Eva Copeland who died Wednesday, March 4th. Her services were at the church on Saturday, March 5th at 1:00pm. Eva was a beloved member for 65 years and an integral part of the history of St. Mark's. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the family and friends of former member Mary Alliene Norton who died February 27. Services were held in Longview with graveside in Houston at Brookside on Thursday, March 5 with Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams presiding. Also our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Mamie Ray, whose family recently informed us that she died on February 4th. Her service was in Phelps, Texas on February 7.

Recent Memorials:

In memory of Mamie Ray given by:
Edward & Shirley Lagrone & Children

In memory of Alliene Norton given by:
Phyllis Waters

In memory of Eva Copeland given by:
Phyllis Waters
Mary Iden
Triple M/Friendship Class
Douglas & Betty Reo

VBS Date Change: The dates for Vacation bible School have been changed to June 16th - 20th. Please mark your calendars! There was a conflict with the boy scouts who usually participate in VBS. Thanks, Jennifer McClure.

Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, March 1

Sunday School Total.....	86
8:30 Worship.....	26
10:50 Worship.....	117
Total Worship.....	143

Attendance for Sunday, March 8

Sunday School Total.....	83
8:30 Worship.....	19
10:00 Worship.....	121
Total Worship.....	140

Prayer Needs

- Our president, leaders, and servicemen and women**
Betty Barr vision and retina problems
Johnny Brown (Anglin's grandmother) cancer returned
Leta Bush health and encouragement
Charlotte Campbell recovering from back surgery
Lydia Chavarria home hospice care
Opal Chesser (Margie & Pat Higgins mother) brain tumor
Ruby Chumchall health and encouragement
Carol Curlee (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart surgery
Carolyn Fulbright (Pam Scheyer's mother) heart
Dorothea Furstenfeld health and encouragement
Irene Geenshor (Linda Pollard's mother) health
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 baby daughter born prematurely
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
Myrtle Revill (Hilary Cobb's aunt) hospital 94 yrs old
Estella Schmidt health and encouragement
Peter Seefeldt (Carol Munn's nephew) Marine bombed-Iraq
Ruth Shuman lung cancer
Thelma Vincent health and encouragement
Mary Weatherly recovering from 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

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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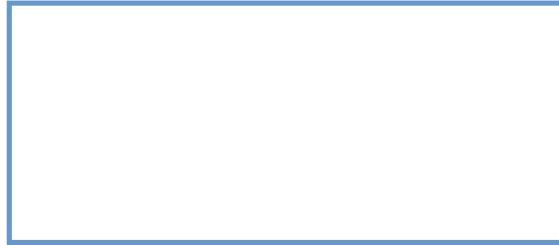
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Sunday Worship Times:

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



Youth News by Scarlett Fowler

The youth are looking forward to fun filled Spring and Summer! **Confirmation Classes** start soon! If you have a youth that is interested in Confirmation please talk Scarlett Fowler, or Janet Allen our Youth Council Chair. We are planning a big youth retreat to Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in April and it will be divided by age groups and who is in confirmation. The dates for the retreat have yet been set so please look the dates in the next newsletter and emails! **Acolyte Classes** are starting soon! The youth are soon to be taking classes to learn how to be an acolyte. If you know of a youth that would be interested please let Scarlett Fowler know! Also we are looking for opportunities to volunteer in our surrounding community. If you know of any please feel free to call Scarlett Fowler at the church. Thanks so much for your continued support for the youth of St. Mark's United Methodist Church! Here are a few dates of our activities:

Church Camp - Ages: 4th grade - 12th grade
June 22nd - 26th, Cost: \$225.00
Money and form due date: April 21st

Big House - Ages: 6th grade - 8th grade
July 23rd - 26th, Cost \$95.00
Money and forms due: March 13th

UM ARMY - Ages: 9th grade - 12th grade
July 26th - August 1st, Cost: \$199.00
Money and forms due: May 12th



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: _____