

March 27, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Holy Week *by Marilyn Meeker-Williams*

Palm/Passion Sunday – 10:50 am We begin Holy Week with joyous procession of choir, children and palms accompanied by festive music. Very soon we are confronted with Jesus' passion (suffering and death) and the music turns somber. From Palms to the Passion, this is a week when shouts of "Hosanna!" turn quickly to cries of "Crucify him!"

Maundy Thursday – 7 p.m. On this night we commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before he was crucified. Because on this night Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' example of servanthood in response to the new commandment to love one another (Maundy comes from *mandatum novum* in Latin) by asking ministry leaders to wash the feet of others. We conclude with the ancient practice of stripping the sanctuary, a dramatic way of showing the desolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethsemane and what followed.

Good Friday – 7 p.m. A Service of Tenebrae, or "Darkness," is based on a twelfth-century late night service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. With the reading of scripture, brief meditations, and music, each of the 7 candles is extinguished, the Christ candle is taken out of the sanctuary, and we depart in silence to await the coming Resurrection.

Holy Saturday – 7p.m. The Service of Light begins outside the church with the kindling of a new fire lit by the newest member. The new paschal candle is lit, signaling the triumph of the Resurrection over the darkness of death. We process in silence into the darkened sanctuary, lighting our candles from the paschal candle and thereby bringing the light of Christ back into our place of worship. Singing follows as we stand around the paschal candle, then we are seated and listen to scripture as it tells us how God has worked throughout history to bring us salvation. As the Service of Light ends, the Prayer Vigil begins and continues through the night while we await the light of Resurrection dawning.

Easter, April 12 - We gather in the darkness at 6:30 a.m. when the Prayer Vigil culminates in the first service of Easter, the Sunrise Service. Onto the front lawn we bring the new Paschal candle, a sign celebrating the passage from death to life. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb..." is read, followed by our singing "Morning Has Broken." We will baptize 2 adults and an infant, then welcome the newest 11 members into the fellowship of St. Mark's Church with bells, alleluias and breakfast. The Easter celebration continues through morning worship at 8:30 and 10:50 with choir, bells, flowered cross and lilies, and our call and response: "Christ is risen!" "Christ is risen, indeed!" Alleluia!

Bereavement/Funeral Team *by Mandy Thomas*

Funeral/Memorial Team: The Bereavement Team and the Worship Committee are joining together to enhance the services offered for St. Mark's funeral services. Ministering to families suffering a great loss is a wonderful opportunity to practice "radical hospitality".

Continued on pg. 2

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

As I write this, we are preparing for Holy Week and Easter.

We begin with Palm/Passion Sunday, on through Wednesday Morning Prayer and evening Lenten Study to Maundy Thursday worship set around tables in the fellowship hall; Good Friday calls us to experience Jesus' passion and death through word and song, and Saturday's Service of Light and night-long Prayer Vigil prepare us to proclaim Easter morning's joyful "Christ is risen!"

In our congregation, how will we know the passage from darkness to light, from death to new life this Easter? In these Great Fifty Days of Easter, how will we be raised to new life by giving ourselves to one another, then to the world, as a sign of God's love made manifest through our lives and work of ministry together?

We must see relational power – the power of relationships – to bring about change – in ourselves and in our communities.
(Ernie Cortes)

We have before us 3 major mission projects that are well underway: Food Pantry, Community Garden, Hogg Middle School. Next week we will dedicate the Habitat house built by our coalition of 5 U.M. Churches. The people of St. Mark's, along with our neighbors, are engaged in each of these ministries, giving ourselves for others

in love and in the spirit of Jesus. The more we love each other, the more love and service we have to give for Jesus' sake.

It is in community that we come to see God in the other. It is in community that we see our own emptiness filled up. It is community that calls me beyond the pinched horizons of my own life, my own country, my own race, and gives me the gifts I do not have within me.
(Joan Chittister)

We don't have to agree on everything to live brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the love of Christ that empowers us to love where we do not always agree or even like one another. It is the power of God's love – born, lived, died and raised – that gives us the heart and strength for ministry. Love beyond ourselves, directed outward in respect and kindness, brings new life in Jesus' name.

If we are following Jesus, we cannot wait for the perfect community. It was while we were yet sinners that Christ allowed his body to be broken for us... Our commitment to one another in community can be no less than his: 'This is my body broken for you.'
(F. Kefa Sempangi)

May you know the blessings of new life; may your life be one of "alleluias"!
Marilyn

Bereavement/Funeral Team *by MandyThomas*

Continued from pg. 1

Volunteers are needed to fill out the Bereavement Team in the area of cooks, servers, set up and clean up crews. Please note that you do not have to be available for the funeral in order to be a cook. Simply drop off your dish in the kitchen and the servers will handle it from there.

In addition to providing the traditional meal for the family, St. Mark's is looking to build a Funeral Usher Team to serve as greeters/ushers. The ushers will take a lead role in this but we want to build a list of approximately 10-20 'back-ups' to assist mourners in parking, locating restrooms, getting to the Fellowship Hall, etc.

This ministry is extremely rewarding and is one of the many things that makes St. Mark's feel like home. The mourning families and

friends are so appreciative and many of them are "coming home" to St. Mark's after a long time away.

Let's ensure that we welcome them with loving arms. Sign up for an area that suits you. Funerals happen at understandably short notice, so adding your name does not guarantee you will be available to serve at every funeral.

To volunteer for the Bereavement Team (meal related work), please contact Melissa Taylor at 713-682-1960, mfordt@earthlink.net. To volunteer for the Funeral Usher Team, please contact Mandy Thomas at 281-413-5937, met1975@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

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 Confirmation Class
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

Saturday, April 4

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, April 5 - Palm/Passion Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
9:40 am New Member Class
10:50 am Worship Service
2:30 pm Habit Home Dedication
4:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, April 6

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

Tuesday, April 7

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

Wednesday, April 8

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

Thursday, April 9 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday

7:00 pm Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 11 - Holy Saturday

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting
7:00 pm Service of Light followed by Prayer Vigil

Sunday, April 12 - Easter

6:30 am Sunrise Service
7:30 am Breakfast
8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
10:50 am Worship Service

Monday, April 13 - Office Closed

Tuesday, April 14

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

Wednesday, April 15

10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15 pm Church Council
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

Caring with a Cat: Have you ever thought about the older members of our congregation and wanted to do something for those who could no longer attend church? Our care team makes a long term relationship with these precious members. We have a member or our congregation who will be 100 years old the first of April. Irene Johnson (I've asked permission to use her name) has not been able to attend church in a long time and needs a care team partner. However, the current members of the care team are swamped. What we need is someone who can visit her and will bring a well mannered cat!!! to brighten up her day. If you have a sweet kitty and would like to be this angel, call Rose Brewer @ 713-880-3845. You will be blessed even more than Irene. *Rose Brewer*



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:
3/25 - 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 and April 24 in the Fellowship Hall, Hospitality Team will provide pizza, tea and lemonade. Dominoes, Rummy, maybe a game of Chardades, or bring your favorite game.

VBS Date Change: The dates for Vacation bible School have been changed to June 16th - 20th. Please mark your calendars! Thanks, *Jennifer McClure*.

Senior Moments

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

XYZ Game Day: Senior game day is Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 am.

Habitat Home Dedication: All at St. Mark's are welcome to a ceremony to bless the home that the UMC Coalition in coordination with Habitat for Humanity built for the Rubalcalva family at 6138 Bobby Burns Dr. at 2:30 pm, Sunday, April 5. The Rubalcalva family is excited and they have completed most of their sweat equity hours and are also working on other requirements to close on the home. This single mother of one young daughter and her widowed mother of 82 will be blessed with this home because of your efforts.



United Methodist Women's Tea (smoothies too!):

Come and hear the legacy and history of the United Methodist Women as presented by our own Jamie Block and Frances Dunlap of St. Mark's UMC (Patterson). This event will take place on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 12:30 pm here on our church lawn, weather permitting. United Methodist Women and friends are invited and men are also welcome! UMW groups participating are from St. Mark's UMC (Pecore), St. Mark's UMC (Patterson), Bering Memorial UMC and Grace UMC. Hats are optional!

Potluck Picnic: Come and join the Children's Ministry for an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship Saturday, April 25th from 4:30 - 7:30 pm! All families are invited to come! You can bring your choice of food to share. The youth will be providing fun water games for all the children. So be sure to bring clothes the kids can get wet in.

Recent Memorials:

In memory of Thad & Jean Brown by:
David & Gail Newman - trees for garden
In memory of Eva Copeland given by:
Bill & Norma McCombs
Leonard Mahaffey
Jim & Dorothy Moffatt

Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, March 15

Sunday School Total.....	100
8:30 Worship.....	27
10:50 Worship.....	143
Total Worship.....	164

Attendance for Sunday, March 22

Sunday School Total.....	92
8:30 Worship.....	27
10:00 Worship.....	122
Total Worship.....	149

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
Penny Chappell recovering from cataract surgery
Lydia Chavarria home hospice care
Opal Chesser (Margie & Pat Higgins mother) brain tumor
Ruby Chumchall health and encouragement
Cathy Courtney and her mother both fell
Carol Curlee (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart
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 Lucy born prematurely - in NICU at Texas Children's Hospital
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
Don Murchison going back to Iraq, Cheryl pregnant
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 in Memorial City Hospital
Kathryn Weeks health and encouragement

April Birthdays

- 4/1 John Burks
- 4/1 Bertha Irene Johnson (100th)
- 4/1 John Thomas, Jr.
- 4/3 Mary Morris
- 4/5 Cailleigh Buchanan
- 4/6 David Hunter
- 4/7 Rose Gonzales
- 4/10 Hallie Shepherd
- 4/12 Maryellen Quarles
- 4/14 Mary Nalley
- 4/14 Kitty Newton
- 4/15 Jacque Corman
- 4/16 Chuck Davis
- 4/17 Jeff Copeland
- 4/18 James Newman
- 4/20 Mike Palladino
- 4/20 Adam Taylor
- 4/21 Debbie Markey
- 4/23 Becka Cannon
- 4/24 Jonathan Fowler
- 4/24 Aidan Mollhagen
- 4/28 June Davis
- 4/28 Laura Neal
- 4/30 Jamie Hubbell

(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:

- April 03 — Scott & Amy Stevens
- April 07 — Joel & Teresa Montgomery
- April 10 — Steve & Tana Tamez
- April 13 — Joe & Mary Gonzales (61st)
- April 14 — Mark & Kay Rowe
- April 20 — Al Baker & Monica McHenry
- April 20 — Tod & Kim Harrison
- April 21 — Raymond & Margaret Blackstone
- April 24 — Eddie & Vivian Hubbell (63rd)
- April 24 — Dave & Barbara Humphreys
- April 24 — Ben & Jennifer McClure
- April 25 — Dan & Kyna Batterson
- April 28 — Ray & Naomi Radford
- April 29 — Rodger & Angela Standridge
- April 30 — Clay & Shelley Naiser

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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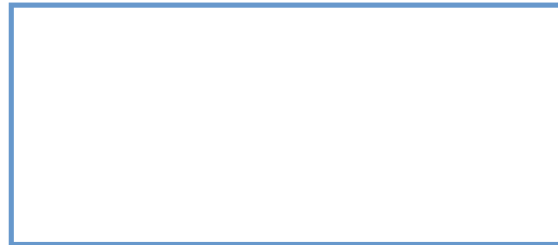
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Child Care Supervisor
Dolores Cruz

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Sunday Worship Times:

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



Website News by John Thomas

The Communications team invites everyone to visit our newly revised website smumc.org to get up-to-date information about everything going on at St. Mark's. Make your church website your "first source" for church information. Here are some shortcuts that work on the web site. For example, to do directly to the history site you would type smumc.org/history and so forth:

Our History	history
Worship	worship
Adult Ministries	adult
United Methodist Men	SMUMM
Wednesday Night Live!	WNL
Church Camp - Summer 2009	churchcamp
Youth Forms	Youth/forms
UMYF	myf
Children's Development Center	cdc
Angel Food Ministries	angelfood
Food Pantry	foodpantry
Heifer International	heifer
Music Ministries	music
Astros Baseball Night	astros
Children's Ministry	children
Christmas Events	Christmas
Christmas Pageant	pageant
Church Council Minutes	churchcouncil
Dinner for Eight	dinner48
Lent & Easter Events	Easter
Map	map
Family Movie Night	movienight
NEW! Content	content
Newsletter	newsletter
Resources	resources
Vacation Bible School	vbs

Called to Witness by Diana Van Duzer

Saturday, March 7th, St. Mark's UMC was privileged to host a trainer, Audrey Krumbach, from Reconciling Ministries Network. She provided a workshop for the Texas Conference about ratifying a proposed constitutional amendment in the United Methodist Book of Discipline. Twelve St. Mark's congregants, members of St. Paul's, St. John's, Memorial Drive, Roseville (Tomball), Wesley (Huntsville), Bering, and Kingwood UMCs worked together to find ways we can help others in our churches and conference to understand the importance of the proposed amendment.

We learned that the amendment to Paragraph 4, Article IV of the Constitution involves the passage which promotes inclusion regardless of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition. Not mentioned are potential members' sexual orientation, and ethnicities among other "categories." The Called to Witness Campaign emphasizes that discrimination is happening in some churches across the nation. The Campaign wants Methodists to embrace a policy that eliminates designating any "categories," resulting in a policy of true

inclusiveness. In other words, we welcome ALL, and All truly means All!

What can we do? At the General Conference last year, the amendment was approved, but now needs to be ratified by a 2/3 vote at Annual Conference in May. The more support we can demonstrate in our local churches will influence other Methodists, with the hope this will be passed and United Methodists can be secure that our denomination is following God's will for our church. The Church is Christ's Body on earth (Colossians 1:24) and we are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30.) Full inclusion is about Hospitality, Unity and Ministry. This will allow all who are followers of our Lord to participate fully. Talk to any lay delegates and pastors whom you know regarding this vote. You can also emphasize "standing up" for 'All means All' by signing a Declaration in your Sunday School class, choir, or group that says you support the Constitutional Amendment to Paragraph Four, Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution that includes all people in the life, leadership and rites of the church. Contact me or other members of our Team if you want more information.