

May 1, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Window Into St. Mark's

Texas Annual Conference 2009 *by Bishop Huie*

Texas Annual Conference 2009 will be held May 24-27, 2009 at The Woodlands UMC located at 2200 Lake Woodlands Drive.

This year's theme will be faith. forming. together. We'll be celebrating and learning together about another of the five practices which lie at the center of our identity as an annual conference. "Faithforming relationships" refers to intentional faith development in the context of community. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Edgardo Colon-Emeric, Assistant Research Professor of Theology and Hispanic Studies at Duke Divinity School. He is also Director of the Hispanic Studies program. He will be teaching a Bible study on "faith-forming relationships" through the lens of John Wesley and will lead a workshop on Hispanic ministries.

Our own Dr. Elijah Stansell will preach the Memorial Service on Sunday evening, and Reverend Christi Conway will preach the Sending Forth service on Wednesday. I will preach the ordination/commissioning service on Tuesday evening. On Monday evening, The Friends of the Groom (a national drama troupe) will present three vignettes woven into our evening worship service.

I'm confident that you will be blessed in all these services. Please note the following highlights for this year:

- Annual Conference is only three days long. We begin with worship Sunday night



and conclude Wednesday at noon.

- Registration is on-line. The pre-conference journal is available only on-line. You will need to print your own copy.

- A key part of our business will be the consideration of the proposed constitutional amendments passed by General Conference. There will be presentation and discussion of these at the District meetings

- An amended 2009 conference budget is being proposed by CFA.

I wish to thank The Woodlands UMC for their assistance and support. Our worship planning team led by Melissa Burnham. Our Conference Service Center staff and district administrative assistants who go the second mile to help make this session of the Annual Conference meaningful.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Grace and peace,

Janice Riggle Huie

(Excerpts from Bishop Janice Riggle Huie's letter to Texas Annual Conference Delegates from the Pre-conference Journal.)

Our Thoughts and Prayers:

Long-time member and husband of Mary Weatherly, W.G. Weatherly died Thursday, April 30 while in hospice care. Memorial Service details will be announced as they become available. Please keep Mary and her family in your prayers.

Missions Moment—Food Pantry Items *by Jan Terry*

The Heights Interfaith Ministries is opening a food pantry across the street from Zion Lutheran Church. The opening will be in June. Each of the supporting churches will be conducting food drives from May 1 through the 17th, 2009. St. Mark's has been asked to provide diapers, baby food, and pasta.

We ask that you bring items in standard sizes, no bulk items, no expired items, and no homemade items. We are also in need of paper grocery bags and plastic bags. The items can be left in the silver food can (it just looks like a trash can) right inside the back door. If it is more convenient, a mone-

tary donation can be made to St. Mark's UMC designating the Heights Interfaith Coalition account where all donations are going to the food pantry. A donated refrigerator or freezer will help us accept more items.

We are in need of volunteers in many different areas and a signup sheet will be available soon. A volunteer training will be held on May 21st at 5:00pm and May 23rd at 10:00am at the food pantry. This is a chance for us to extend our mission to those in need in the community.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Terry at jferry4919@yahoo.com or Loren Tobey at loren.tobey@gmail.com



From the Pastor

I was looking for a Mother's Day card for my mom last week when our daughter Samantha called to ask me a question. When I told her where I was and what I was doing, she responded, "You've already bought her one! I saw it on the table beside your chair in your family room." I checked the table when I returned home, and Sam was right. In my desire to remember my mother on Mother's Day and convey clearly how dear she is to me, I had been overzealous in my card shopping.

How do you express your thanks for one who has been a constant source of love and nurture, support and laughter for as long as you can remember? A perfect person? No. But Mom has nearly always been a source of God's love, God's grace, God's compassion and mercy in the lives of those who have known her. Not bad for one little woman who will turn 89 later this month. When I visit Mom and Dad in their apartment at the retirement center

in North Canton, Ohio, she often sits down at the organ and begins to play hymns I thought I'd forgotten, old hymns of reassurance and trust that were faith-forming for me, my brothers and my sisters.

I think of Mom when I plant a pot of geraniums, stir a pot of soup on the stove, take up a piece of knitting or bathe and pajama our grandson Jake at night. More and more, I think of her when I look in the mirror and when I look into the faces of my brothers and sisters. She is one of God's best and dearest gifts and I give thanks this Mother's Day for my mom. Through her abiding love, I know more of God's love. Because of her outreaching love, I know that God's love is to be lived and shared, in the name of Christ.

In Easter Joy,
Marilyn

Celebration *by Sharon Sawallisch*



Celebration, an interfaith woman-to-woman ministry is sponsoring Pastor Susan Gritman who will present a message on God's Grace and healing titled "God's Surprising Invitations". She says God is always extending invitations that we may not always be able to hear and some that we may not even want to hear. We are saved by grace, but we may not be tapping into the full potential of God's power to heal and to make us whole. Come and enjoy a morning of fellowship with other women to learn how to answer God's call.

Heights Celebration Invites you to enjoy a message offered by:

Pastor Susan Gritman
"God's Surprising Invitations"

Saturday, May 16
9:30 to 11:30 am
in Fellowship Hall.

Breakfast will be served.
Childcare will be provided.
There is no charge to attend.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 3

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, May 4

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 5

1:30 pm Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Trustees

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 am Morning Prayers
10:15 am CDC Chapel
11:00 am CDC Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:30 pm Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Outreach Team
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, May 9

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, May 10—Mother's Day

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, May 11—Newsletter Deadline

4:15 pm CDC Board Meeting
6:30 pm Worship Team
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 12

9:30 am Weaving Class
11:00 am XYZ Club—lunch Spaghetti Warehouse
1:30 pm Staff Meeting
6:15 pm SPR Team

Wednesday, May 13

7:00 am Morning Prayers
10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Children's Council
6:30 pm Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Finance Team
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, May 16

9:30 am Heights Women's Celebration
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting
3:00 pm Adam Taylor's Eagle Scout Ceremony

Sunday, May 17

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Pack 30
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, May 18

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 19

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

Wednesday, May 20

7:00 am Morning Prayers
10:15 am CDC Chapel
2:00 pm CDC Graduation
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Church Council
6:30 pm Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Outreach Team
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, May 22

6:30 pm Family Game Night

St. Mark's Calendar
Online at smumc.org

Upper Room Daily Devotional
Online at upperroom.org



Church News

Family Potluck Picnic:

Great fun was had by all from little newborn Lucy Lines to the visiting Dupuy grandparents. In spite of little sprinkles and big threats of rain, close to 50 people came out for good food and fellowship! Many thanks to Scarlett Fowler, Claire Coleman and Caileigh Buchanan for providing the messy and merry activities.



Exciting Updates on Camp E.D.G.E. - our V.B.S. Expedition!

Vacation Bible School, Camp E.D.G.E. - Experience and Discover God Everywhere, takes place June 16th-19th from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Registration begins May 3rd. We encourage you to register your children early as we expect spaces for this year's adventure to fill up fast! A sign-up sheet for donations of craft supplies and funding is located in the narthex. Also, we still need a few good leaders to help in a number of areas of this fabulous outreach experience. Please contact Jennifer McClure (713) 864-7830 or jennmmcc@sbcglobal.net if you would like to help. See you on the mountain top!

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:
5/6 - Host: Worship Team
5/13 - Host: Youth Council
5/20 - Host: New Pilgrims Class
5/27 - Host: Men's Sunday School

Wednesday Morning Prayers:

Wednesday Morning prayers continue through the Easter season from 7:00 - 7:30 am in the courtyard.

Senior Moments

XYZ Club: The XYZ meeting is Tuesday, May 12. We will be having lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse.

XYZ Game Day: Senior games are Tuesday, May 26 -10:00am.



Family Game Night: Friday, May 22 in the Fellowship Hall, Hospitality Team will provide pizza, tea and lemonade. Dominoes, Rummy, maybe a game of Charades, or bring your favorite game.

New Pilgrims News The New Pilgrims class: which meets during the Sunday School hour 9:45-10:45 on the 3rd floor, Rm 203, invites anyone interested to join for the reading and discussion of Peter Gomes' The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus: What's so Good About the Good News? The book asserts that we are meant to go beyond the Bible in order to discover the gospel. Copies of the book will be available and the class is led members. All are welcome, and this challenging study will start the 2nd week of May.

Fair Trade Coffee and Tea from Equal Exchange: Did you know that the coffee we drink at St. Mark's is Fair Trade Coffee? Why do I need to know this you may ask. "Fair trade ensures that more of the money paid for coffee actually goes to the farmers that harvest the coffee beans. In this way, farmers are better able to support their families by earning a fair share for their crop. Buying coffee and tea through UMCOR's fair trade partner Equal Exchange makes St. Mark's part of a partnership that helps farmers stay on their land, care for the environment, support their families and help send their children to school."

Attendance Record:

<i>Attendance for Sunday, April 19</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	84
8:30 Worship.....	20
10:50 Worship.....	140
Total Worship.....	160

<i>Attendance for Sunday, April 26</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	91
8:30 Worship.....	22
10:50 Worship.....	314
Total Worship.....	336

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
Johnny Brown (Anglin's grandmother) cancer
Leta Bush health and encouragement
Penny Chappell throat surgery
Lydia Chavarria home hospice care
Opal Chesser (Margie Higgins mother) brain tumor
Ruby Chumchall health and encouragement
Cooper Cody (Julie Cody's 6 year old son) tumor on femur - found to be bone cancer
Stacie Cokinos mother in hospital
Katie Coleman in St. Luke's hospital
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
Mary Gonzales health and encouragement
Cathy Harris (Glenda Owen's friend) cancer treatment
Eddie & Vivian Hubbell in Belmont Village, Vivian slipped and fell
Maye Humphrey in Village on the Park
Clinton Iden cancer
Ferne Lake health and encouragement
Justine Lines daughter Lucy born prematurely, is home and doing well
Emma Maltbie (Jennifer McClure's friend's 3 yr old daughter) brain cancer treatment
Elouise Massey surgery
Irma McGee in West Janisch Health Care Center
Claudette Milner's father health and encouragement
Linda Pollard injured ribs
Naomi Radford eye surgery
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
St. Johns UMC, Baytown requests prayers for their upcoming mission trip to the Philippines to do construction at a church site, May 15 - 25
Kathryn Weeks health and encouragement

May Birthdays

- 5/1 Jan Terry
- 5/1 Will Quarles
- 5/3 Landon Donnelly
- 5/3 Larry Green
- 5/3 Rick Kiley
- 5/4 Clare Quarles
- 5/4 Matt Rodriguez
- 5/4 Donna Traylor
- 5/5 Shelby Murchison
- 5/7 Robert Anglin
- 5/9 James Ketner
- 5/11 Jennifer Copeland
- 5/11 Rosie Lamas
- 5/11 Megan Palladino
- 5/11 Marc Murchison
- 5/12 Ferne Lake (83rd)
- 5/14 Jerry Campbell
- 5/14 Joe Gonzales (82nd)
- 5/14 John Sustatia
- 5/15 Eddie Hubbell (88th)
- 5/15 William Machemehl (86th)
- 5/18 Connor Markey
- 5/18 Bonnie Thomas
- 5/20 Elva McDermia
- 5/21 Megan O'Neal
- 5/21 Samantha Sherman
- 5/22 Leta Bush (94th)
- 5/23 Avery Perez
- 5/24 Ethan Anglin
- 5/24 David Reeves
- 5/25 Theresa Parrish
- 5/26 Jennifer Vasquez
- 5/27 Harper Alt
- 5/27 Fred Huebner (88th)
- 5/27 Robin Webb
- 5/29 Breanne Blaylock
- 5/29 Gail Newman
- 5/29 Jessica Rowe
- 5/29 Jeff Sipes
- 5/30 Virginia Thompson (83rd)
- 5/31 Brian Richardson

(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:

- May 16 - John & Seeley Casey
- May 16 - James & Jayna Ketner
- May 28 - David & Susan Patterson

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

Pastor
Reverend Marilyn Meeker-Williams
pastor@smumc.org

Organist
William C. West

Administrative Assistant
K. Melody Olivares
office@smumc.org

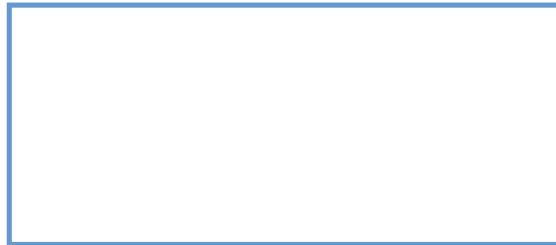
Financial Secretary
Betty Green
financial@smumc.org

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries
Scarlett Fowler
youth@smumc.org

Director of Children's Development Center
Carla Gwinn
stmarkscdc@smumc.org

Child Care Supervisor
Dolores Cruz

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 91
Houston, TX



Sunday Worship Times:

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



Joys & Blessings

Help us celebrate God's blessings by emailing them to office@smumc.org.

◇ We welcome these babies born to St. Mark's in the past year:

Joshua Neal

son of Scott and Laura Neal

Charlie Sipes

son of Jeff and Meredith Sipes

Madeleine Thomas

daughter of Ian and Mandy Thomas

Tess & Anna Montgomery

twin daughters of Joel and Teresa Montgomery

Lucy Lines

daughter of Larry and Justine Lines

Penelope Clark

daughter of Kevin and Alycia Clark

Aaron Greenspan

son of Marcus & Heather Greenspan

◇ Don Murchison returned home, and is not being sent to Iraq.

◇ Patti Kiley received her Masters of Education recently.

We will be honoring other graduates in the next issue of the newsletter.

All That We Are & All That We Have Is Gift From God:

Fun Facts of Finance

Fun facts of finance March edition,

We can claim that we are a non-profit organization, but only by a little bit. We have spent about \$4K more than we have taken in through the end of March. Considering that the budget is \$117K for that period, that isn't bad. Interestingly, the folks that filled out estimate of giving cards for this year are \$4.5K ahead on their giving as a group. (We only get grouped up numbers from **Betty Green**, hereinafter referred to as FFS, Fantastic Financial Secretary.) FFS reported that the income side is behind by \$13K, and expenses are below budget by \$9K, hence the \$4K gap figure mentioned above. It would be nice to close the gap and even over shoot it in the next couple of months heading into the summer doldrums.

Yours in a financial fog,

Vance

Reimbursements by V. Neath-

The finance team recently discussed 'What if the IRS shows up at your church?'. We went through some of the issues and feel like we are in pretty good shape. One area that we need to tighten up is checks that reimburse members and staff for expenses.

We do have a reimbursement request form and most people do use it. However, we frequently do not have the required approval signatures. The person who is the head of the particular ministry who's budget is being spent should approve any reimbursement requests. Someone from the Board of Trustees should approve expenses for the building, ideally the chair of BoT would sign off. If a trustee is being reimbursed, we should have a second person's acknowledgment signature. The same holds true for other work areas like missions, adult ministries, or youth ministries.

The main point is there should be two signatures and at least one of them should be a member of that work area team. So if you need an expense reimbursement, fill out the form and get the proper approval signature. Forms are located in a yellow folder on the shelf in the church office and online at smumc.org.

Yours in an IRS fog, *Vance*