

May 15, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Window Into St. Mark's

## Annual Conference 2009



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* and we will learn 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 will be teaching a Bible study on "faith-forming relationships" through the lens of John Wesley and will lead a workshop on Hispanic ministries. Dr. Elijah Stansell will preach the Memorial Service on Sunday evening, and Reverend Christi Conway will preach the Sending Forth service on Wednesday. Bishop Huie will preach the ordination/commissioning service on Tuesday evening.

## New CDC Director



Amy Dorman with CDC student Kyle.

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mark's. I have been given the extraordinary opportunity to become the new director of St. Mark's CDC. I know this is difficult for a lot of you because of the amount of respect and love that you have for Carla Gwinn. I know she has been a much loved

member of this team and as she retires, she leaves some tough shoes to fill.

My name is Amy Dorman, but as of my wedding on June 13th, I will be Amy Francis. I am a graduate of Stephen F. Austin with a Bachelor of Science and a Masters in Education. My Masters program was in Early childhood with an emphasis in Early Intervention. I have functioned as an Early Intervention Specialist, I have also worked as a life skills teacher as well as summers in Pre-K classrooms. The last five years I have worked with Neighborhood Centers Inc. - Choices in Education as an Education Mentor, a Child Development Specialist, Early childhood training specialist and an Instructional Coordinator. These positions required me to head large projects, Mentor teachers, and train large groups of people. These varied experiences I believe, will help me in the transition to this new challenge.

Yours Sincerely,

Amy S. Dorman M.Ed.

## High School Grads Honored



**William Allen**, son of Quincy and Janet Allen, graduates from Lamar High School and plans to attend the University of Mississippi, "Ole Miss," in the fall. Ole Miss has granted him an Academic Excellence Scholarship

and an Eagle scholarship, in addition he will receive a Baylor College of Medicine Faculty Children's Scholarship. Will's school interests have been advanced visual arts, government and political science. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in St. Mark's Troop 30 and, in addition to working at the neighborhood hangout "Texadelphia," coaches an intramural basketball team and enjoys golf and fishing in his spare time. He will spend his summer as a camp counselor for the City of Bellaire Department of Parks and Recreation.



**Anna Grace Martinson**, daughter of Clark and Lisa Martinson, is graduating as salutatorian of Memorial High School. She will enter the University of Texas at Austin school of Natural Science in the fall of 2009. She

was a Memorial High School choir member for 3 years (president her senior year), a four year member of the girls soccer team, performed in the MHS production of "Beauty and the Beast", National Honor Society member and a 12 year member of Girl Scouts (completing her Silver Award). Anna Grace is happiest when surrounded by her lifelong friends of St. Mark's Youth serving others at UM Army!

**Sarah Hartzell**, daughter of Matt and Allison Hartzell, is graduating from Lamar High School. She will be attending St. John's University in Annapolis, Maryland where she will be majoring in Philosophy. Sarah has volunteered for Beacon Homeless Shelter and enjoys participating in theater.

**Tommy Gray**, son of Larry Gray is graduating from Lamar High School also. And, although we did not get further information for him at time of publication, we do honor him along with all of the graduates.

Congratulations High School Graduates!! We hope that all of our high school graduates have much success in all of their endeavors.



## From the Pastor

Early morning sunshine sifts through the spring leaves of trees, highlights the potted green plants on the window sill and splashes onto the piano in the living area of Mom and Dad's apartment. It's morning in northeastern Ohio where they have traded the quiet rolling hills and winding roads of Amish country for small city traffic and a tree-framed row of red brick garages out the window of their third floor apartment.

Transition.

From screened-in porch, lush with baskets of ferns, pots of geraniums, petunias and impatiens; from morning coffee, white whicker and sunrise bearing beautiful hope of a fresh morning to a laced double window revealing a portion of sky, the change has been drastic and necessary. Restricted from driving, newly challenged with loss of mobility and memory, our parents have been adjusting to their new home which is closer to adult children, doctors, hospitals and church. In returning to the small city they left, when they moved to Walnut Creek five years ago, Mom and Dad's life changes means this formerly familiar city is a changed place, as well. It's not the place they left because they are not the people who left it. Additionally the city has new businesses with increased traffic, and some of their friends have moved away to be near family. The once familiar city feels less familiar.

Transitions at any age are challenging.

St. Mark's is not the place it was a few years ago. Our main building has been renovated and is now fully accessible. In a phone call last Friday before W.G. Weatherly's memorial service, a woman asked about the accessibility of our building and we were grateful to be able to assure her full

access to our sanctuary. She and her husband, a former railroad man with W.G., drove many miles to attend the service.

Changes in worship have brought new energy and life along with liturgy that is not familiar to all of us. We sing hymns familiar to many of us along with new hymns which encourage us to sing to God a new song. Long-time leaders are initiating new ministries of outreach through Wacky Wednesday at Hogg Middle School, community gardening, and the nearly-open, long-awaited food pantry.

New members and first-time guests enrich our worship and ministries with their ideas and experience as they challenge us with the need for expanding our children's ministry to meet the needs of new Heights' residence — individuals and families — searching for Christian connections and community.

Transitions. Sometimes joyful, sometimes uncomfortable; always necessary in growth and transformation.

Neither new hymns nor new staff members, nor new outreach nor theological diversity, nor justice concerns, nor peace-making initiatives, nor illness nor death nor people we don't recognize, neither rumors nor truth telling, nor anything in this world or the world to come shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8)

By the way, Mom and Dad are in line for a first-floor apartment with French doors opening to a small patio surrounded by grassy area. Changes sometimes need to be adapted. Rejoicing with you in all that God is working in and through us in the name of Christ Jesus,

Marilyn

## Upcoming Events

### 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  
2:00 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  
7:00 pm AA Meeting  
7:00 pm Yoga Class  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, May 21

5:00 pm Food Pantry Volunteer Orientation

### Friday, May 22

6:30 pm Family Game Night

### Saturday, May 23

10:00 am Food Pantry Volunteer Orientation  
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

### Sunday, May 24

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:40 am Sunday School  
10:50 am Worship Service  
Texas Annual Conference Begins  
4:45 pm UMYF attend Opening Worship at TAC

### Monday, May 25

**Memorial Day — Office Closed**  
Texas Annual Conference  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, May 26 — Newsletter Deadline

Texas Annual Conference  
9:30 am Weaving Class  
10:00 am XYZ Senior Games Day  
6:30 pm Missions Team

### Wednesday, May 27

Texas Annual Conference  
7:00 am Morning Prayers  
9:00 am Travis Elementary Grad. Rehearsal  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
6:30 pm Communications Team  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class  
7:00 pm AA Meeting  
7:00 pm Hospitality Team  
7:00 pm Yoga Class  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, May 28

9:00 am Travis Elem. 5th Grade Graduation

### Friday, May 29

7:00 pm Pack 30 Meeting

### Saturday, May 30

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

### Sunday, May 31 — Pentecost

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:40 am Sunday School  
9:40 am 5th Sunday Brunch  
10:50 am Worship Service  
12:30 pm Food Pantry Dedication  
5:00 pm UMYF

### Monday, June 1

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

### Tuesday, June 2

9:30 am Weaving  
2:00 pm Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Trustees



## Food Pantry Dedication and Training *by Diana VanDuzer*

Volunteer training for the Heights Interfaith Ministries food pantry will be held on Thursday May 21st at 5:00pm and Saturday May 23rd at 10:00am at the food pantry across the street from Zion Lutheran Church, at 3523 Beauchamp. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Van Duzer at [dvanduzer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dvanduzer@sbcglobal.net), or phone (713)426-3320. Service will begin in June on these same days and times.

The food drive for the Heights Interfaith

Ministries food pantry will continue through the end of May with the need for diapers (all sizes), baby food, and standard size pasta.

A dedication will be held on May 31st at 1:00pm at the food pantry at 3523 Beauchamp with the religious leaders from Zion Lutheran, St. Mark's United Methodist, and Christ the King Catholic Churches presiding. You are invited to join our other two member churches as we celebrate the beginning of this new ministry to our greater Heights community.



# Church News

## 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.



## Updates on Camp E.D.G.E. -

**VBS 2009:** We're on the count down to something really exciting! A couple of things to keep in mind as we head for the Mountaintop June 16th-19th, 5:30 - 8:30pm:

- Registration is open and spaces may be limited, so sign up soon!
- It takes lots of willing hands and hearts for an expedition like VBS. Contact Jennifer McClure (713) 864-7830 to volunteer, even one evening or a couple of hours can help.
- Supplies, "gear and goods", are needed to support our team. A sign up sheet is in the narthex for donations - bring in goldfish crackers or glue; provide funds for 50 hotdogs or dogtags with scripture verses. We would like to have donations received by May 31st.

## 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:  
5/20 - Host: New Pilgrims Class  
5/27 - Host: Men's Sunday School  
6/3 - Host: New Tradition's Class

## Senior Moments

*(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)*

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

**XYZ Club:** The XYZ meeting is Tuesday, June 9 at 10:30 am at the church. Charlise Neathery and Betty Green are hosting.

**5th Sunday Brunch:** Join us for some food and fellowship at the 5th Sunday Pot Luck Brunch on Sunday, May 31 between the first and second services in Fellowship Hall. (If you don't want to miss your Sunday School Class, just take a plate to go.) Bring enough of something to share (yogurt, fruit, egg dishes). Hospitality Team will provide coffee, tea and lemonade.



**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. Games are available for kids too.

**All-Church Work-Day:** The Trustees committee will sponsor its annual all-church workday at the church and parsonage from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday June 6th. The workday is open to all volunteers who want to help. The Trustees will have the various projects for the day organized beforehand and we will match our volunteer workers with appropriate tasks of maintenance, repair, painting and other light work. Lunch will be provided. This is a great opportunity to experience fellowship with other church members and act as stewards of our church facilities. We hope to see everyone at the workday helping maintain our beautiful church and parsonage. If you have any questions about the workday, please contact Mark Easterly or another member of the Trustees committee.

**Memorials and Honorariums:** We have received the following memorials and honorariums recently. (More will be posted in the next issue.)

### In Memory of W.G. Weatherly

*Given by:* Mary Iden  
William Machemehl  
Elouise Massey  
Pam Massey  
Triple M Class

### In Memory of Eva Copeland

*Given by:* Mr. & Mrs. R.P. Bell  
Gary & Melva Copeland  
Wayne & Sandra Schroeder

### In Memory of BC & Dorothy Beaman

*Given by:* Randall Beaman

### In Honor of David Hunter

*Given by:* Ferne Lake

## 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  
**Maye Humphrey** in Village on the Park  
**Clinton Iden** cancer  
**Ferne Lake** health and encouragement  
**Emma Maltbie** (Jennifer McClure's friend's 3 yr old daughter) brain cancer treatment  
**Elouise Massey** surgery  
**Raymond & Martha McCallister** (Heather Easterly's parents) health and encouragement  
**Irma McGee** in West Janisch Health Care Center  
**Bobby Newby** (Patti Newby's father) critical condition  
**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  
**Mary Weatherly** encouragement  
**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

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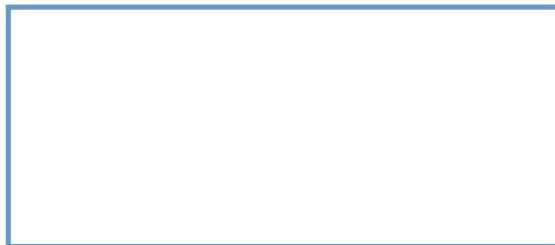
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## Sunday Worship Times:

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



## Joys & Blessings

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

We celebrate the blessing of these college graduates:



**Michael Brewer**, son of Ben and Rose Brewer, is graduating from the University of Houston with a B. S. degree, cum laude, in Applied Mathematics with a minor in Statistics from the University of Houston - Downtown. He is also a member of the Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society and is working toward entering graduate school in Mechanical Engineering at UH in the fall.



**Austin Thomas**, daughter of Neil and Kris Thomas, is graduating from Rice University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and will attend law school in 2010.

## Peace with Justice

*Dear friends at St. Mark's, Your generous contribution to the Peace With Justice fund of our conference made in June, November and December is greatly appreciated. Thank you! This fund brings hope to so many.*  
Brenda Hardt

### 2009 Peace with Justice Grants (PwJ)

The PwJ work area approved 28 grants totaling \$52,805, which are funded by The United Methodist Church's PwJ Special Sunday offering. Recipients comprise diverse ministries, such as to empower women, immigrant legal services in Iowa, justice and peace work in Jerusalem, training election observers in Mozambique, conflict management and mediation, and a water justice project.

### Texas Conference PwJ Grants

PwJ Grants awarded in May'08 totaled \$3,403 and went to three grantees. Grace UMC in Palestine will be doing an anger management training project. Angleton UMC is advocating for grandparents raising grandchildren. Also, Texas Conference churches will be offered Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition's awareness-raising art exhibit on modern day slavery.

## Hungry for Justice Study



Please join us for a new study June 7th, Sundays in 109 at 9:40. "Hungry for Justice" is a six-week guide for praying daily, building community, and changing the world. By the Editors of Sojourners magazine. Based on Jim Wallis' 1981 classic, The

Call to Conversion, this six-week justice devotional provides the reader a daily excerpt from The Call to Conversion, a scripture on the same theme, a provocative question, and a prayer. Every seventh day is arranged for use with a small group, including a story-based group organizing model, worship suggestion, stimulating discussion questions, and action suggestions. Every Christian conversion comes with a conversion to Jesus' passion for justice. With this six-week study, you'll never view conversion the same way again.

[http://store.sojo.net/product\\_p/sg\\_hfj.htm](http://store.sojo.net/product_p/sg_hfj.htm)

We use this booklet which features a daily bible study with a weekly discussion. All are welcome to join us as we embark on this new study. If you have questions call Lisa at 713.686.5162 or email [lisam@euclidstudio.com](mailto:lisam@euclidstudio.com).