

May 29, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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United Methodist Women



The next meeting of the UMW will be held on June 14th after worship service in the fellowship hall. A light lunch will be served. Rose Brewer will present the program which will coincide with Native American Sunday. If you are a member of UMW or are interested in joining our group, please come to the luncheon. We will

also be discussing some of our mission projects for this year.

We had a great time at our last event the "Spring Tea" on April 19. Several members from Grace United Methodist and from St. Mark's UMC (Patterson) joined us for a group of 50 who met that day. We had an interesting program on the legacy and history of the United Methodist Women. *by Ruth Gilpin, secretary*

Community Garden

Our community garden is coming along nicely with many from the church participating in the planting and gardening.



Pictured are Rachel, John and David Sipes, who had planted radishes and are now reaping the harvest.

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.

Director of Music Ministries



After much consideration and many qualified candidates, we are pleased to announce the new Director of Music Ministries for St. Mark's, David J. Sloat. David will begin in a part-time capacity over the next few months while the choir takes its normal Summer hiatus, and then begin full time in August.

David is a native of Evansville, Indiana, and has been part of the Houston music scene for nearly 24 years. He received the Master of Music degree in vocal performance from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in 1988, where he studied under the late Virginia Babikian.

David taught voice, piano, academic and choral music for 19 years at San Jacinto College South, where he received the National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development Award twice. He has sung with Houston Grand Opera chorus for 11 seasons, as well as the Houston Symphony Chorus and the Occasional Opera Company. Church music positions he has held include singing positions at St. Martin's Episcopal, Bethany Christian, and Central Presbyterian (USA), and music director positions at Fairbanks United Methodist and A Community of the Servant-Savior Presbyterian (USA), where he was also an ordained elder. Additionally, he served on the Texas boards for That All May Freely Serve and More Light Presbyterians, organizations working for the full inclusion of the GLBT community in church service and leadership.

Currently David teaches applied voice at Lone Star College-Kingwood and maintains a private studio in voice and piano. When not learning or teaching music, he enjoys travel, nature photography, food, and deltiology (postcard collecting). He lives in the Lower Heights with his partner of 23 years, David Malone, who is Acting Principal Bass with the Houston Symphony.

David is very excited to begin serving the St. Mark's community and to lead the talented and dedicated partners in ministry among our choir and bell choir.



From the Pastor

Good preaching and music.

Drama - both intentional and non. Singing faithful to Wesley's instruction, "sing lustily and with good courage." Meals shared around the table. Voting on the 32 amendments passed at General Conference 2008. The Texas Annual Conference met earlier this week for its annual "family of faith reunion."

Faith. Formed. Together.

Delegates, lay and clergy, shared reports of faith forming experiences which provide after-school care for children, support for grandparents raising grandchildren, groups for people with special needs, and a monthly interfaith men's breakfast. Photos and videos revealed the immediate response of United Methodists to Hurricane Ike and its disastrous effects on many churches and parsonages in our conference. We gave ourselves and our gifts, some in \$\$ and others in sweat, as we replaced household goods and shoveled mud.

Faith. Formed. Together.

Our faith forming experiences have not been limited to ministry within the borders of the Texas Annual Conference. In Novem-



ber of 2008, 35 members of the Texas Annual Conference traveled to Cote d'Ivoire, our sister Annual Conference, to deliver 855,000 insecticide treated nets which will save 1000's of children's lives by protecting them from the mosquitoes that bring malaria, usually infecting them during the night. The work of the team visiting our Ivorian sisters and brothers included measles vaccines and distribution of vitamin A and other medications.

In our voting on the 32 constitutional amendments approved by 2008 General Conference, most failed to win approval, especially those involving structural changes to our U.M. Constitution and inclusiveness.

Clark Martinson, our lay delegate, and I have many more stories to share from the 4 days of conference. Our Texas Annual Conference is full of blessed people who are determined to share our blessings through loving and serving and witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Marilyn

Native American Ministries Sunday

Sunday, June 14th will be Native American Ministries Sunday. We will have a special offering that goes to the United Methodists Native American Ministries. Whether it is providing shelter for victims of domestic violence, filling food pantries, starting new churches or educating Native American seminary students, the special offering is one way United Methodists honor Native Americans.

On Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodists cultivate and support urban missions with Native Americans and fund scholarships for Native American seminarians. Your annual conference retains 50 percent of the offering to strengthen and

develop Native American ministries. The remaining 50 percent of the offering expands mission work with the Native American Urban Initiative and provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved schools of theology. Indeed, the Native American Ministries Sunday offering is critical - to continue the traditions and nurture the gifts of Native Americans.

Native Americans have made so many contributions to life here in the United States in the area of language, great writers, animals, food, government, health and hygiene, religion, and much more.

Upcoming Events

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

Wednesday, June 3

10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:30 pm Outreach Team
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, June 6

9:00 am All-Church Work Day
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, June 7

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

Monday, June 8—Newsletter Deadline

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

Tuesday, June 9

9:30 am Weaving Class
10:30 am XYZ Club
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:15 pm SPR Team

Wednesday, June 10

10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
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

Saturday, June 13

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, June 14

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
12:00 pm UMW Luncheon
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, June 15

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, June 16

9:30 am Weaving
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, June 17

10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Vacation Bible School
6:15 pm Church Council
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, June 18

5:30 pm Vacation Bible School

Friday, June 19

5:30 pm Vacation Bible School

Saturday, June 20

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

St. Mark's Calendar
Online at smumc.org

Upper Room Daily Devotional
Online at upperroom.org



Church News

Send Us Your Picture: Going on a vacation this summer? We would love for you to email us a picture from your vacation along with a brief sentence or two about your trip that we can share with our church community.



Family Game Night: Friday, June 26 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, Hospitality Team will provide pizza, tea and lemonade. Dominoes, Rummy, Charades, or bring your favorite game. Games are available for kids too.



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.

Memorials and Honorariums: We have received the following memorials and honorariums recently.

In Memory of W.G. Weatherly

Given by:

- Patti Newby
- Leonard Mahaffey
- Willie Marie & Clinton Iden
- James & Penny Chappell
- Ken & Suzanne Wales
- Christine McWherter

Eva Copeland left a donation to St Mark's budget in her will.

Fun Facts of Finance: We are running a tad behind schedule at the end of April, we are behind about fifteen grand on the giving income and five grand on the net. Everyone has been frugal on the expense side. We have enough cash in the bank to cover payroll and utilities in May, but not enough to pay the apportionments. But we always come through and we are in a very exclusive club because we have paid our apportionments in full every year since about 1995 or 1996. There are not many Methodist churches that can make that statement. I have faith that we will come through again.

Yours in a financial fog,

Vance

Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, May 17

Sunday School Total.....	79
8:30 Worship.....	18
10:50 Worship.....	102
Total Worship.....	120

Attendance for Sunday, May 24

Sunday School Total.....	74
8:30 Worship.....	26
10:50 Worship.....	108
Total Worship.....	134

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 son) bone cancer treatment
Stacie Cokinos mother in hospital
Katie Coleman in St. Luke's hospital
Carol Curlee (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart
Carl Dorman (Amy Dorman's father) heart attack
Ruth Easterly (Mark Easterly's grandmother) health
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 recovering from surgery
Raymond & Martha McCallister (Heather Easterly's parents) health and encouragement
Irma McGee in West Janisch Health Care Center
Linda Pollard injured ribs
Naomi Radford eye surgery
Estella Schmidt health and encouragement
Peter Seefeldt (Carol Munn's nephew) Marine bombed-Iraq
Ruth Shuman lung cancer
Mary Weatherly encouragement
Kathryn Weeks health and encouragement

June Birthdays

- 6/4 Mark Suhler
- 6/6 Camden Graham
- 6/7 Abigail Harrison
- 6/8 Jane Ista
- 6/8 Rachel Zwiebel
- 6/9 Scarlett Fowler
- 6/11 James Ownbey
- 6/12 Marilyn Meeker-Williams
- 6/14 Ance Nunn
- 6/14 George Russell
- 6/15 Hayes Batterson
- 6/15 John Casey
- 6/15 Steve Trahan
- 6/16 Jimmie Louise Decker (85th)
- 6/16 Olivia Youngdahl
- 6/19 Patrick Humphreys
- 6/20 Christina Hattenbach
- 6/20 Sean Hattenbach
- 6/22 Katie Coleman
- 6/22 John Thomas
- 6/24 Vivian Hubbell (88th)
- 6/24 Caine Taylor
- 6/24 Sid Traylor
- 6/26 Patria Burks
- 6/28 Robert Morris
- 6/28 Naomi Radford
- 6/30 Clare Coleman

(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:

- June 01 — Jim & Dorothy Moffatt
- June 07 — Bob & Betty Gaustad (68th)
- June 12 — Thane & Nicole Wyman
- June 15 — Pat & Margie Higgins
- June 22 — Malcolm & Jennifer Davis
- June 22 — Robert & Amy Morris
- June 22 — Roger & Diana Van Duzer
- June 24 — John & Patricia Dupuy
- June 26 — Kevin Dubose & Glenda Owen

Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

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

XYZ Game Day: Senior games are Tuesday, June 23 -10:00am.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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Office Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 am–4:00 pm

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Fax: 713-861-2948

Children's Dev. Ctr. 713-861-4443

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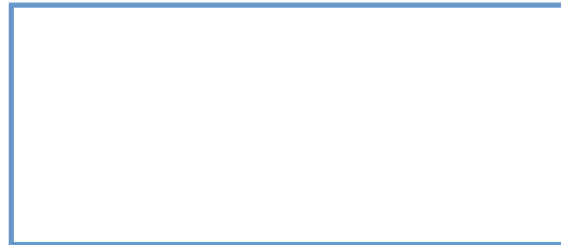
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Sunday Worship Times:

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 the achievements of **Joe and Mary Gonzales' grandchildren:**

Sara Lorraine Gonzales graduated from Lutheran High North Summa Cum Laude as Salutatorian. Sara received the President's Award for Educational Excellence, was a National Hispanic Scholar, English Department Award, Spanish Award, Honor Roll, National Honor Society and many other awards for band and art. She was accepted to and has received scholarships to over 10 universities and plans to attend University of Tulsa for a degree in Energy Management.

Joseph Peter Gonzales graduated from Stephen F. Austin University with a degree in Criminal Justice in 2008 and recently received his badge as an officer with the TABC, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and just got married last weekend.

New CDC Director



I have been given the extraordinary opportunity to become the new director of St. Mark's CDC. As Carla Gwinn 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 this new challenge.

Yours Sincerely,
Amy S. Dorman M.Ed.

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.sajo.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.