

June 12, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Lay Delegate's Report-Annual Conference *by Clark Martinson*

I joined 1,200 other representatives at the 2009 Texas Annual Conference over the Memorial Day weekend. Bishop Janice Huie competently and lovingly led us. St. Mark's is in the Central South District and our District Superintendent is Rev. Lawrence Young. St. Mark's past preachers in attendance included Gail Ford-Smith, Dick White, Bill Ramsey and Don Brown. We should visit Rev. Brown in Manvel and see all the good ministries they are providing families and individuals recovering from Hurricane Ike and the current economic slump. Dick and Gail are now District Superintendents (Gail is the Dean of the DSs and Dick is the District Statistician). Bill is the pastor in LaPorte. Many Texas Conference ministries were highlighted at the conference inspiring us all.

The annual conference is our annual meeting of laity and clergy representing all churches in the Texas Conference. It was held at the Woodlands United Methodist Church - a magnificent structure within walking distance of the Woodlands Mall, Market Street restaurants and shops and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion.

I surprised myself at how introverted I began the conference, how full of myself I became after a couple days of hob-knobbing with the District Superintendents and then how humbled I felt after the bible study and worship. The sermons were as good as it gets and the bible study was the best in the world. We studied the Sermon on the Mount and the Lord's Prayer. Perfect. I attended every session in the sanctuary but have very little idea of the ancillary special events that were going on in other meeting rooms and churches. I did attend two special lunches, On Monday the Break the Silence Luncheon and on Wednesday the Laity Lunch. Both were chances for fellowship with other United Methodists and St. Mark's members. Next year, you should plan on attending a luncheon, afternoon bible study and evening worship service.

Susan Beaumont presented the Alban Institute's summary report of the Texas Annual Conference's Ministry Model Assessment. It analyzed the Conference's Ministry Model of the 5 fruitful prac-

tices. Our success in rank order is 1) Radical Hospitality, 2) Risk Taking Mission and Service, 3) Passionate Worship, 4) Extravagant Generosity and 5) Faith Forming Relationships. Bishop Huie took immediate action on the report's conclusions and the theme of the Annual Conference was "Faith, Formed, Together".

Pam Scheyer and the Celebration team prayed for us all week in the beautiful prayer room. The Holy Spirit interceded - there were no arguments during the open mike sessions discussing the 32 amendments. We spent Tuesday afternoon discussing and voting for each one. I had prepared by reading the amendments in the pre-conference package and watching many of the YouTube videos for and against the amendments. Scott Stevens video-taping and producing our own YouTube video of St. Mark's members reading Amendment One blessed me. Through the production process we were careful not to take sides and editorialize like many of the other YouTube videos. We wanted you to see and hear us read the words and make up your own mind. Many St. Mark's members shared their positions with me and I am grateful for your confidence, acceptance and love. The less publicized amendments were the most difficult to comprehend. We were only ratifying amendments that had already been approved at last year's General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

Of the 32 amendments, 25 failed. However, we are only one conference in the United Methodist Church and over the next year other conferences around the globe will be counted to see which amendments are ratified. For those of you who followed the excitement, Amendment One, the "All persons" amendment had 398 for and 704 against at the Texas Annual Conference. This was a sad disappointment for many who hoped it would pass. However, with the love of Jesus, we can still share our beliefs with one another and remain committed to our United Methodist community.

I really love the United Methodist Church and am honored to represent St. Marks. Thank you for trusting me during this milestone event in my spiritual journey.

Native American Ministries Sunday

This Sunday, June 14th we support Native American Ministries Sunday, nurturing mission with Native Americans and providing scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. We will have a special guest minister, Don White, who a member of The Texas Conference Committee on Native American Ministries [CONAM], which supports and endorses The Native American Comprehensive Plan by helping link churches and ministries in the Texas conference by:

1. developing Native American leadership
2. developing and supporting new and existing

NA ministries

3. strengthening NA spirituality within the UMC
4. enabling Native Americans to become a vital part of the UMC.

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.



From the Pastor

This June brings some changes for the Meeker-Williams family.

This past week my husband David completed three years of pastoral leadership at Ashford UMC on Dairy Ashford Rd near Westheimer and began a new appointment serving Mission Bend UMC, located 3 1/2 miles farther west on Highway 6 north of Westpark. Lindsay and I joined David for the Ashford farewell dinner following worship last Sunday, June 7, and we'll attend Mission Bend this Sunday, June 14, to worship and be introduced as David's family. David's appointment has changed but our home remains the parsonage at 702 Pecore in Woodland Heights.

We begin our 4th year of ministry with families, friends and neighbors through Vacation Bible School which kicks off next Tuesday, June 16. Everyone is invited to the family dinner served 5:30 – 6:00 before children and leaders gather in the sanctuary for Camp E.D.G.E. (see article, p.3) with worship and singing, drama, and storytelling. More than 90 children were registered a few days ago when I talked with Jennifer McClure and we expect over 100 by Tuesday evening. VBS is our gift of love and service as we prepare and plan, then give ourselves completely in welcoming children and families from our congregation and neighborhood. Witnessing to the Good

News of God's love is our mission, and it takes a whole church.

Faith...formed...together

It's summer time! Members of our Church Council encourage you to remain constant in your worship attendance and giving this summer. As schedules change and we enjoy time away for relaxation, Sabbath rest and travel, keep in mind that the numbers for weekly attendance, giving, and professions of faith reported by Melody to the Texas Annual Conference each Monday morning represent signs of our faithfulness and fruitfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ at St Mark's. We continue to welcome first time guests every Sunday and they often report a sense of coming home after worshipping with us. Our neighborhood is a rich mission field, and many do not know the redeeming love of Christ or are visiting churches in search of Christian community. Let's be present to welcome them into the family, God's family, and connect them with St. Mark's ministries of sharing Christ's love.

May you know the joy of new growth in this green, growing season after Pentecost.

With Joy in You and Your Christ-like Witness,
Marilyn

Upcoming Events

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
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

Sunday, June 21—Father's Day

Youth off to Lakeview
8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service

Monday, June 22—Newsletter Deadline

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, June 23

9:30 am Weaving Class
10:00 am XYZ Senior Games
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Care Team
6:30 pm Missions Team

Wednesday, June 24

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

Friday, June 26

6:30 pm Family Game Night

Saturday, June 27

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting
2:00 pm Clayton Nalley Eagle Scout

Sunday, June 28

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

Monday, June 29

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, June 30

9:30 am Weaving
2:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, July 1

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

Friday, July 3

Office Closed for Observance of Independence Day



Community Garden Update

Message from the King of Kompost,

With help from **Andy Ista**, I finally got the first community garden composting container set up. We used some discarded shipping pallets that Troop 30 donated to the cause. The container is tucked away on the far west side of the property between the two garages. You can't miss it. It is the only group of shipping pallets standing in a sort of square. If you feel called, you are welcome to add to the pile. Grass clippings are good, they have lots of nitrogen. Leaves are good. If they are big, tough ones like magnolia leaves, just leaf the bag by the container. We need to run those through the shredder before they go into the pile. Coffee grounds are welcome as are any vegetable

scraps. I cruise the neighborhood and pick up bags off the curb where neighbors are throwing their yard fertilizer away. My neighbors are such nice people. They buy fertilizer and spread it on the lawn. Then when they cut the grass they bag up that fertilizer and donate it to St. Mark's. Before you pour those bags in the bin, check them. My neighbors also put beer cans, wine bottles, and copies of the Leader in those bags. The Leader will compost, or is compost depending on your point of view. But wine bottles don't compost very well. It takes a long, long time. Once this pile gets full, we will build another container.

Yours in a compost fog,

Vance



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.



Experience and Discover God Everywhere at Camp E.D.G.E.: Let's Go! We're heading on journey to with God as our ultimate guide: Vacation Bible School - June 16th-19th from 6:00 - 8:30pm, with a family dinner at 5:30pm. There are still spaces left. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for all the fun as we learn, "The Lord is my strength and my might." (Psalm 118:14a) Our campers with also be collecting new and gently used backpacks for homeless children and adults served by Crossroad in southwest Houston. If you have a backpack to donate, please drop it off in one of the marked boxes in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall.



Summer Youth Intern: Youth Ministries director Scarlet Lewis Fowler is pleased to announce that Anna Grace Martinson is our youth intern for the summer! She began work June 10th and will assist in leading youth ministries through mid-August. Anna graduated recently from Memorial High School and is attending the University of Texas this fall. A lifetime member of St. Mark's, Anna now assumes this new role of leading in the Spirit of Christ through district camp, Big House, UM ARMY, Youth Week and weekly missions. Welcome, Anna.

July Is Favorite Hymn Month: The Worship Ministry team led by Joellen Snow is asking for your favorite hymns. Please submit them on the hymn request form you'll find in your Sunday worship bulletins during the month of June and we will sing them ALL during Sunday worship services in July. You may drop your form in the offering plate or bring it by the church office.

New Paschal Candle Stand: The Worship Ministry team has purchased a new brass candle stand dedicated to the glory of God and given in honor and memory of members of the Friendship Class who gave the original oak candle stand some years ago. A sturdier stand was needed to securely hold the large paschal candle which is lighted during the Easter season, for services of death and resurrection and on All Saints Day.

Financial Report for May 09
Received in May \$44,160 (113.22%)
Monthly Budget \$39,002
Accum. Rcvd. to Date \$185,920 (95.34%)
Accumulated Budget to Date \$195,012
Designated Funds Received in May \$3,679
Designated Funds Received YTD \$20,632


Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, May 31

Sunday School Total.....	74
8:30 Worship.....	26
10:50 Worship.....	156
Total Worship.....	182

Attendance for Sunday, June 7

Sunday School Total.....	81
8:30 Worship.....	24
10:50 Worship.....	78
Total Worship.....	102

 **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.

Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

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

XYZ Club: The XYZ meeting is Tuesday, July 14. We will be eating at Barbecue Inn at the corner of Yale and Crosstimbers. Those interested in car-pooling will leave the church at 10:45 sharp. We must be at the restaurant by 11:00.

Prayer Needs

Our president, leaders, and servicemen and women
Dawn Avery health and encouragement
Betty Barr vision and retina problems
Johnny Brown (Anglin's grandmother) cancer
Leta Bush recovering from broken hip and surgery
Penny Chappell recovering from 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 health and encouragement
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 at Heights Specialty Select hospital
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 in 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 (88th)
- June 12 — Thane & Nicole Wyman
- June 21 — 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

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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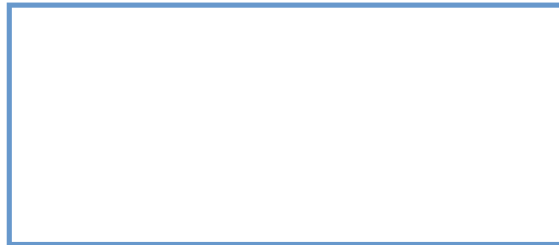
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Sunday Worship Times:

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 the 60th birthday of Marilyn Meeker-Williams on June 12.

We celebrate the joy of the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry: our facility being approved by the Houston Food Bank, and we shall be open to serve our community starting June 25th.

New 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 Babiikian.

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.

A Poem For Children by Irma McGee

Tomorrow, tomorrow you may have a good day.
But, you'll never know 'til you try.
Today, you may be just a brown, fuzzy worm
But tomorrow, a Bright Butterfly!

Mrs. Irma McGee taught St. Mark's Children for many years. She wrote songs and poems to touch the hearts of children of all ages. She is still, at 90 years of age, expressing her love for children in verse. And, she loves you.