

July 10, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Window Into St. Mark's

## Houston Lay School of Theology



Houston Lay School of Theology with Frederick W. Schmidt  
**August 15, 2009**  
8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Registration and Gathering  
9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Class  
St. Paul's UMC  
5501 Main Street  
Houston, Texas

The Houston Lay School of Theology is sponsored by SMU's Perkins School of Theology in cooperation with the Center for Congregational Excellence of the Texas Annual Conference. The School meets each January and August, offering an opportunity for laity and others to explore issues of spirituality, theology, religion and church leadership with faculty from Perkins. The program is made possible in part by the Howard-Holbert Endowment at SMU.

### Pricing and Registration

Lunch is provided.  
Advance registration \$49  
At the door \$59  
Continuing Education Units fee (0.5 CEUs) \$20

Advance registration of \$49.00 will be accepted through August 7, 2009, by visiting <http://www.smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms/LaySchools/Houston/Aug2009/Registration.aspx>

After August 7, persons can register at the door for \$59.00. (*Registration forms available in our church office.*)

### Program Information

A Spirituality Fit for Winter:

Biblical Insights into Trying Times  
Frederick W. Schmidt, Director of Spiritual Formation and Anglican Studies, and Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality

We all struggle with one kind of suffering or another, but how can we prepare ourselves in a fashion that spiritually grounds the whole of our lives? Exploring biblical texts that touch on this challenge from Genesis to Revelation, this workshop is devoted to cultivating wisdom that can help.

A scholar of the New Testament and Christian spirituality, Fred Schmidt directs the Spiritual Formation program for Perkins students in Dallas and Houston, and teaches courses in spirituality, spiritual formation and New Testament. A popular professor and workshop leader, Dr. Schmidt is an Episcopal priest and was formerly the canon educator at Washington D.C.'s National Cathedral. He also served as dean of St. George's College of Jerusalem. Dr. Schmidt is the author of *What God Wants for Your Life and When Suffering Persists*. He earned his Ph.D. from Oxford University.

## Historical Highlights

Many German immigrants to Houston built their homes on German Street, which during WWI was renamed Canal Street. In 1875, the newly formed Southern German Conference realized the need for a Methodist Episcopal church in that area. Rev. Rudolph Brueck was appointed to organize the church in Houston. Meetings were held in homes until 1876 when they purchased the corner of Hamilton and Preston Street. Considered in 5th Ward in City records, the church, now named Emmanuel German Methodist Church eventually purchased adjoining property to complete the church, parsonage and proposed graveyard. Minutemaids Park now sits on the corner of Hamilton and Preston!

In 1890 after a shift in Houston's population and the influx of businesses established in the area, the membership decided to change locations. During the pastorship of Rev. Jacob Ott, in

1891 a new site on the corner of White Street and Lubbock was purchased from B.A. Reisner. The church was renamed Zion German Methodist Episcopal Church. During the early years of the church, especially under the pastorate of G.C. Brannies, many organizations formed including Women's League, the Epworth League and Wesley Intermediate League.



*Estella Schmidt*

Zion German Methodist Episcopal eventually became Norhill Methodist Episcopal church, which, along with Woodland Heights Methodist Episcopal Church, South merged in 1939 to form St. Mark's.

A precious link to our past is Mrs. Estella Schmidt, daughter born to the Rev. and Mrs. G.C. Brannies, who celebrates her 96th birthday on July 20th of this year and is still an active member of the church!



## From the Pastor

### Bearing Fruit

We're hearing a lot of good news about our newly opened Food Pantry at across from Zion Lutheran on Beauchamp and the people who are being served Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings each week. I was amazed at the list of volunteers in an email sent by Diana Van Duzer last week. In the coming weeks during worship we will hear stories of God feeding many hungry folks through the Heights Interfaith Coalition Food Pantry.

It's no accident that our Community Garden continues to bear fruit in our extremely hot and dry conditions. Early in the morning and late in the evening you can see faithful ones watering and tending the garden which produces vegetables for the Food Pantry. At those times you may also see workers carrying in bags and buckets of food contributions from the churches committed to feeding hungry persons and families. Our large container just inside the door near the ramp continues to fill up and be emptied regularly so the food remains fresh for those who receive it. Refrigerators that keep produce fresh are running especially hard in these very hot days of June and July. Your monetary gifts will help pay the utility bills.

In the July 19th lectionary reading from Mark, we read that the apostles gathered around Jesus to tell him all that they had done and taught after being sent out by him. Not only had they worked hard, they were learning that compassion is a central compo-

nent in sharing the good news of Jesus. Pheme Perkins summarizes it this way in *Mark* (The New Interpreter's Bible):

*There is no Christianity without proclaiming the gospel. Teaching and learning the Word of God are as essential to faith as are prayer and belonging to a Christian community. A community that has the same compassion for the suffering that Jesus exhibited cannot be content with only preaching the gospel to the already converted. Christians must also attempt to meet the pressing social and material needs of others, even if few of those who receive such services ever become members of the church. [p. 602]*

Bearing the fruit of the garden is matched with our bearing the fruit of compassion. God's grace has called the Heights Interfaith Coalition to this ministry of Community Garden and Food Pantry, and each Sunday we come back to our churches like the apostles gathering around Jesus, telling him all we have done and seen. (Mark 6:30-34) It's an exciting time to be part of what God is doing in Jesus' name through the faithful, fruitful disciples at St. Mark's and throughout the Heights.

Marilyn

## Heights—Women's Celebration



Heights Celebration—A woman-to-woman ministry of sharing, encouraging, discipling and mentoring in

the faith — invites you to enjoy an inspirational message offered by:

Connie Wood

"How to Maintain Peace in Troubled Times"

Saturday, August 22, 2009

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Bring a friend and enjoy Breakfast with us. Childcare is provided.

God's peace is the gift that keeps on giving. John 14:27 says: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Connie Wood (and her pastor-husband, Bruce) serve Aldersgate UMC in College Station. Also a middle-school teacher, Connie communicates with passion, great energy, humor, warmth, grace, and love. A love for the Word of God permeates Connie's life. Her passion is to see women rise to their potential in Christ.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, July 12

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:40 am Sunday School  
10:50 am Worship Service  
4:00 pm Youth Council  
5:00 pm UMYF  
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal

### Monday, July 13

6:00 pm Women's Celebration Prayer Meeting  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, July 14

9:30 am Weaving  
11:00 am XYZ Club

### Wednesday, July 15

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
3:15 pm CDC Board Meeting  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
7:00 pm AA Meeting

### Thursday, July 16

9:00 am Bridge Group

### Saturday, July 18

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

### Sunday, July 19

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, July 20

6:00 pm Women's Celebration Prayer Meeting  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, July 21

9:30 am Weaving Class  
6:00 pm Heights Interfaith Coalition

### Wednesday, July 22

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
6:15 pm Children's Council  
6:30 pm Communications Team  
7:00 pm AA Meeting

### Thursday, July 23

9:00 am Bridge Group  
Youth—Big House

### Friday, July 24

Youth—Big House  
6:30 pm Family Game Night

### Saturday, July 25

Youth—Big House  
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

### Sunday, July 26

Youth—Big House—returning  
Youth—UMARMY Leaving  
8:30 am Worship Service  
9:40 am Sunday School  
10:50 am Worship Service  
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal

### Monday, July 27—Newsletter Deadline

6:00 pm Women's Celebration Prayer Meeting  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, July 28

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

### Wednesday, July 29

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
7:00 pm AA Meeting

### Thursday, July 30

9:00 am Bridge Group

### Saturday, August 1

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

St. Mark's Calendar  
Online at [smumc.org](http://smumc.org)

Upper Room Daily Devotional  
Online at [upperroom.org](http://upperroom.org)



# Church News

## Community Garden Update:

A few Saturdays ago we delivered our first load of fresh produce from the gardens to the freshly opened HIM food pantry. We had okra, tomatoes, arugula, cucumbers, bell peppers, jalapeno peppers, a couple of kinds of egg plant, basil, fennel, and rosemary. All four plots delivered something. The habitat plot contributed herbs. The first time Sid Traylor saw the habitat plot his comment was 'Somebody needs to weed that mess'. The heat and dry are taking their toll on the plants and the workers. But we are rotating the watering duties and things are growing and producing. Now if we could just find a use for the beautiful Malabar spinach that is threatening to engulf the entire city block. Next time you wander by check out Sid's potato box. The plan is to fill the box with dirt up to the top of the 2x4's (as the plants grow, and adding more side boards to hold in the dirt of course). According to the directions we take the box apart at harvest time and separate 100 pounds of potatoes from the dirt. If it actually works I expect we will build several more for the winter potato season.

Yours in a hot, dry, produce'n fog,  
Vance

## 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:  
7/15 - Host: United Methodist Women  
7/22 - Host: United Methodist Men  
7/29 - Host: Open  
8/5 - Host: Church Council  
8/12 - Host: Missions Ministry Team  
8/19 - Host: Finance Ministry Team  
8/26 - Host: Adult Ministry Team

## Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

**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.

**XYZ Game Day:** Senior games are Tuesday, July 28 -10:00am.

**Our Thoughts and Prayers:** Are with the family and friends of Herbert Clinton Iden, who died July 3rd. A graveside service was held July 5th in East Texas.

**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.

**Food Pantry Needs:** The Heights Inter-faith Ministry food pantry is in need of boxes of cereal, empty egg cartons, paper and plastic bags. Please contribute in the box at the back entrance to our church. Thank you for your support.

**Duplicate Bridge Anyone?** The Houston Junior Forum Seniors Program is now using our facility for another one of its programs in addition to the weavers on the third floor. We now have a Duplicate Bridge group of seniors that play here on Thursday morning from 9:00 am—12:00 pm. Anyone that wants to join them is welcome.



**Family Game Night:** Friday, July 24 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.

## Attendance Record:

<i>Attendance for Sunday, June 28</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	77
8:30 Worship.....	23
10:50 Worship.....	87
Total Worship.....	110
<i>Attendance for Sunday, July 5</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	53
8:30 Worship.....	18
10:50 Worship.....	79
Total Worship.....	97

## Join Yahoo E-Mail group:

To add your e-mail address go to:  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/stmarksumchouston/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stmarksumchouston/)

## Prayer Needs

**Our president, leaders, and servicemen and women**  
**Dawn Avery** health and encouragement  
**Betty Barr** vision and retina problems  
**Gayle Birdwell** (Natalie Birdwell's mother) open heart surgery  
**Johnny Brown** (Anglin's grandmother) cancer  
**Leta Bush** recovering from broken hip and 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  
**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  
**Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons** in Paraguay with AMI-GOS de las Americas  
**Cathy Harris** (Glenda Owen's friend) cancer treatment  
**Eddie & Vivian Hubbell** in Belmont Village  
**Maye Humphrey** in Village on the Park  
**Ferne Lake** at the Forum in rehabilitation  
**Vernon Malone** (David Malone's father) recurrence of prostate cancer  
**Elouise Massey** recovering from surgery  
**Raymond & Martha McCallister** (Heather Easterly's parents) health and encouragement  
**Irma McGee** in West Janisch Health Care Center  
**Luciano Ouellet** (Elizabeth Pudwill's nephew's son) premature baby  
**Linda Pollard** injured ribs  
**Naomi Radford** eye surgery  
**Estella Schmidt** health and encouragement  
**Ruth Shuman** lung cancer  
**Dylan Smith** (Frances Graves' grandson) in Dominican Republic with Children of the Nations  
**Mary Weatherly** health and encouragement  
**Kathryn Weeks** health and encouragement

## July Birthdays

7/1	Cathy Courtney
7/1	Christopher Lurix
7/1	Elijah Nunn
7/1	Nell Wooten
7/2	Kathy Holdridge
7/2	Clayton Nalley
7/2	Bill West
7/4	Jayna Ketner
7/5	Ben Allen
7/5	Hannah McClure
7/6	Andrew Ista
7/7	Sydney Neal
7/8	Gavin Nalley
7/8	Michael Patterson
7/11	Alex Ball
7/11	Kelly McKinney
7/12	Raymond Blackstone
7/13	Zach Piccolo
7/13	Klaylea Zwiebel
7/14	Jim Moffatt
7/14	Steve Phillips
7/15	Jeff Mollhagen
7/15	David Sipes
7/17	Brin Graham
7/17	Pat Higgins
7/17	Sandy Sweeney
7/19	Mark Donnelly
7/20	Julie Cody
7/20	Malcolm Davis
7/20	Scott Neal
7/20	Estella Schmidt (96th)
7/22	Jeremy Holub
7/24	Susan Krause
7/26	Mary Lacy
7/27	Todd Harrison
7/27	Martin Murdock
7/30	Thomas Batterson

## Anniversaries:

**July 05** — Leander & Josephine Pflughaupt (67th)  
**July 09** — Stephen & Tonya Kane  
**July 10** — Scott & Julie Cody  
**July 15** — James & Penny Chappell  
**July 20** — Scott & Laura Neal  
**July 20** — Alex & Melissa Taylor  
**July 22** — Larry & Betty Green  
**July 23** — Sam & Linda Rodriguez  
**July 25** — Joe & Neva Dupuis  
**July 25** — Robin & Chris Webb

# 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

**Director of Music Ministries**  
David Sloat

**Organist**  
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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



## Joys & Blessings

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

We celebrate the joy that Naomi Radford's eye surgery went well and that she is recovering nicely.

We celebrate the blessing that Ferne Lake is doing better and is now in The Forum in rehabilitation.

We celebrate the blessing of the 96th birthday of Estella Schmidt on July 20th!

Opal Chesser (Margie Higgins' mother) had a successful "Gamma knife" procedure for a non-malignant brain tumor. She will continue to have follow-up MRIs. Thank you for your prayers.

## On That Note ... by David Sloat, Director of Music Ministries



Holy scripture tells us to give thanks in all things. Since my first Sunday at St. Mark's, sitting in the pew on June 21st, my cup has run over with things for which to be grateful. Consider this column a public thank you note!

To the pastor, staff, bell choir, sanctuary choir, and congregation, I offer deeply heartfelt thanks for making me feel so welcome and already appreciated. It feels wonderful to be exercising God-given gifts that have been resting for some months, and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve our creator and fellow believers in this place.

I also want to give special thanks to Karen Reeves and Bill West for their work in the months since Jon Miller's departure. Their leadership and talent have served well to preserve the musical integrity developed by Jon, a longtime buddy from Houston Grand Opera chorus, and those who also seek to serve this congregation with their musical gifts. So often a New Kid on the Block must spend a lot of time fixing what fell into disrepair, and I am blessed by a vibrant program into which I merely step and start leading.

Since I'm somewhat a frustrated writer at heart—the ringers and singers already know how much I love words!—I'm quite pleased to be asked to submit a bit for each newsletter. In the coming weeks and months I'll try to give some insight into what goes on behind the scenes in planning worship and music at St. Mark's. Hopefully, it will be interesting and at times, inspiring. We in music truly enjoy what we do, and I'm especially grateful for the offerings our able volunteers bring to God and friends through their labor of love.

Peace, David

### UPCOMING MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

- ◇ July 12 – Choir's last Sunday before summer break
- ◇ July 19 – Men's Sunday to sing
- ◇ July 26 – Women's Sunday to sing
- ◇ August 2 – Handbells ring for worship (10:50)
- ◇ August 9 – Reeves Family special music
- ◇ August 16 – Youth Sunday
- ◇ August 23 – Choir returns from break