

July 31, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Window Into St. Mark's

## New CDC Director

Last week Amy Francis resigned as director of the CDC. We wish Amy the best as she takes time to focus on her health. We are excited to announce that Kelly Melchor will be the school's new director. Ms. Kelly has been a teacher at St. Mark's for almost 11 years and has spent the past year working in the office. She is familiar with the school's program and philosophy and she already knows many of the CDC families. While we will certainly miss having Ms. Kelly in the classroom, we know that she will provide excellent leadership for the school. Please feel free to stop in the office to talk to her if you have any questions. *The CDC Advisory Board*

A note from the new director-

"I was really looking forward to returning to the classroom this year, but recent events have made me realize where I am truly needed. Over the years, I have seen changes to the CDC building, program, and staff. Some changes were bigger than others, some more difficult, but all were key to developing the school we know and love today. Having been a part of the CDC as it evolved, and as I developed personally from young adult to wife and mother, has prepared me for the job at hand. I am proud to lead this mission of the Church and will continue working to make St. Mark's CDC the best it can be for your children and mine. Thank you for your continued support."

Sincerely,

Kelly Melchor

## Houston Lay School

Houston Lay School of Theology

**"A Spirituality Fit for Winter"**

Frederick W. Schmidt

Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality

**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

### Pricing and Registration

Lunch is provided.

Advance registration \$49.

<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.)

## HIM Pantry by Diana VanDuzer



The Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry (HIM) opened on June 25th and after just 30 days, over 150 neighborhood families have been served with basic non-perishable canned goods, beans and rice as well as milk, eggs, meat, breads and produce. The Houston Food Bank members (HIM has joined) are allowed to purchase most foodstuffs at very reduced cost - usually \$.14 per pound, so the pantry has been stocked with purchased as well as donated items. Thanks to the 11th St. Kroger who supplied bakery items at no cost.



The kind folks of Zion, St. Mark's and Christ the King have brought many donations of foodstuffs as well as contributed dollar donations. Almost 50 volunteers, many from St. Mark's, readied the facility, and now pick-up bread and food weekly, come on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings to interview, prepare food bags and receive and serve our clients, demonstrating their faith put to work to help those in need.

Our community garden has produced bounty that helps make our grocery bags special.

The stories of our clients are varied: some folks are recently unemployed; some are chronically unemployed with mental health problems; many are undocumented and ineligible for any other programs that help low income folks; many are struggling with large

families and low wages are not enough; some are elderly and their small social security checks are not stretching to cover the high utility costs of summer. No matter their "story" we hope to lighten some burdens as well as witness that our Lord loves them and the neighborhood cares about them.

Please pray for these neighbors as well as the ministry volunteers who serve them. Come join us in this effort by dropping by on Thursdays between 5 and 7 or Saturdays 9 am to noon - there is much to do! Donations of canned goods or funds to purchase food are always welcome!



## From the Pastor

Summer is entering its last full month this weekend and will be remembered in Houston for its record breaking heat. June 2009 was the second warmest on record with eleven 100 degree days and a dozen 80 degree nights. The heat and lack of rain kept us outside in the heat, early in the morning or late at night, watering our gardens, new trees, and flower pots lest they wither and die. A pot of flowers well watered at 6 a.m. would appear limp and half dead after a few hours of sun and heat. Our faithful tenders of the Community Garden at St. Mark's have kept at it, hot morning after hot morning, and how grateful we've been for the occasional rain shower.

We don't assume that the worst of the heat is behind us, not with August and September before us; this is Texas, after all. But this is the time of year we find ourselves dreaming of October with its cool, dry days; this is the time we go north, or to the lake or the mountains, or to the movies or grocery store - wherever it is we go to escape the hot summer days and nights.

David, Lindsay and I went north the last 2 weeks of July. We found warm hearts and cool temps wherever we traveled: visits to my family in northeast Ohio, a reunion in central Illinois for David's scattered family, and 2 days lakeside in northern Michigan. It was refreshing to sit with Mom in the wicker chair on the patio outside their new apartment and drink coffee early in the morning, whispering so we wouldn't wake the neighbors. Several mornings last week David and I sat on a deck in Michigan drinking coffee, watching for the sun to rise over the lake. We are grateful for the time away, thankful for the ability to travel and visit friends and family along the way.

There are some times in our lives when longer periods of renewal are helpful. Because the people of the United Methodist Church understand this, they have made provision for pastors to take a period of time each year for spiritual renewal. One week every year and four weeks every four years are available to pastors serving fulltime appointments. Our Staff Parish Relations (SPR) ministry team and I have been working together for a year planning such a time of renewal for me, and I will be on spiritual renewal leave for four weeks during October this fall.

We'll share more details during August and September, but be assured that another pastor will serve St. Mark's during these weeks of my leave, and SPR and I are working diligently to put in place the structure that will allow for smooth transitions as I leave the end of September and when I return November 1 for All Saints Sunday.

This is my third spiritual renewal leave in the 20 years I've served as fulltime pastor. It's always been a time of spiritual growth, clearer vision, and needed rest, for me and the members of the congregation. And I've always returned to the same appointed church when the leave ended.

I'm grateful that the people of St. Mark's are committed to the work of sharing God's love in the name of Christ. The strength of this church has just begun to be tapped; the grace which sustains us and leads us forward is the source of all we do and are. The presence of God's Spirit guides us into deeper commitment to the work of loving and serving.

In Peace and Joy,

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, August 2

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

### Monday, August 3

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

### Tuesday, August 4

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

### Wednesday, August 5

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

### Thursday, August 6

9:00 am Bridge Group

### Saturday, August 8

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

### Sunday, August 9

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

### Monday, August 10—Newsletter Deadline

4:15 pm CDC Board Meeting  
6:00 pm Women's Celebration Prayer Meeting  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, August 11

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

### Wednesday, August 12

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 Hospitality Team

### Thursday, August 13

9:00 am Bridge Group  
Youth Weekend

### Friday, August 14

Youth Weekend

### Saturday, August 15

Youth Weekend  
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting  
2:00 pm Care Team Communion (and ice cream social)

### Sunday, August 16

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

### Monday, August 17

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

### Tuesday, August 18

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

### Wednesday, August 19

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
6:15 pm Church Council  
7:00 pm AA Meeting  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

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

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

**Our New Doors Look Great:** The two newly refinished and repaired doors to the entrances to the church narthex look fantastic. Thanks go to Steve and Jane Ista and to Ista Construction for the excellent job they did to have them restored. Weather and bugs had gotten the best of the original doors and Ista Construction worked for months to get the doors fully restored and with the authentic look of the originals. Special thanks and appreciation also to the generous donors who made the door restoration possible.


**Our Thoughts and Prayers:** Are with the family and friends of John Rowe, Mark Rowe's father, who died recently (Mark Rowe is the son-in-law of Mary Iden), and with the family and friends of Karen Davis, Malcolm Davis' sister, who has also died.

 **Family Game Night:** Friday, August 28 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.

**Recent Memorials:**  
In Memory of Herbert Clinton Iden  
*Given by:*  
William Machemehl  
Morris & Judy Straughan  
Alphonse & Shirley Bilanoski

**Attendance Record:**  
*Attendance for Sunday, July 19*  
Sunday School Total.....85  
8:30 Worship.....23  
10:50 Worship.....107  
Total Worship.....130

*Attendance for Sunday, July 26*  
Sunday School Total.....70  
8:30 Worship.....22  
10:50 Worship.....98  
Total Worship.....120

 **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 (Marge 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  
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 now in Treemont  
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  
Estella Schmidt health and encouragement  
Ruth Shuman lung cancer  
Dylan Smith (Frances Graves' grandson) in Dominican Republic with Children of the Nations  
Thelma Vincent recovering- knee replacement surgery  
Mary Weatherly health and encouragement  
Kathryn Weeks health and encouragement

## August Birthdays

- 8/1 Dawn Avery
- 8/1 Rick Reeves
- 8/1 Hazel Smith
- 8/3 Charles Vasquez
- 8/4 Ginny Derby
- 8/4 Milton Waghalter
- 8/4 Suzanne Wales
- 8/5 Jessamine Sullivan
- 8/6 Dorothea Furstenfeld (92nd)
- 8/6 Bob Gaustad (91st)
- 8/6 David Gossett
- 8/9 Maye Humphrey (93rd)
- 8/9 Carole Martin
- 8/11 Leonard Mahaffey (85th)
- 8/13 Seeley Casey
- 8/13 Amy Stevens
- 8/13 Kevin Thomas
- 8/14 Madeline Markey
- 8/14 Paul Nalley
- 8/15 Pat Hammond
- 8/17 Janet Allen
- 8/17 Charlotte Campbell
- 8/18 Kyna Batterson
- 8/18 Patti Kiley
- 8/18 Katelyn Melcher
- 8/18 Chris Webb
- 8/19 Rose Brewer
- 8/19 Catherine Neathery
- 8/19 Karen Reeves
- 8/19 Albert Traylor
- 8/20 Susan Patterson
- 8/21 Ruth Froehner (94th)
- 8/22 Dorothy Evans
- 8/23 Louis Corman
- 8/23 Tom Tallman
- 8/23 Andy Thomas
- 8/24 Lauren Campbell
- 8/27 Mark Scheyer
- 8/28 Glenna Schmidt
- 8/30 Howard Bonning
- 8/30 Christa Traylor
- 8/31 Eleanor Kane

(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:

- August 2 — Gary & Mary Morris
- August 6 — Vance & Charlsie Neathery
- August 8 — Jeff & Meredith Sipes
- August 13 — Matt & Nicole Hobson
- August 22 — Aalsey & Kitty Newton (61st)
- August 24 — David & Gail Newman



**United Methodist Women:**  
The next meeting of the United Methodist Women will be Sunday, August 9th in the Fellowship Hall after worship service. A light lunch will be served.

Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams will have the program on "Companions in Christ." We will have our business meeting after the program. Hope to see you all there. At our last meeting, we discussed several mission projects we are interested in supporting this year, including: our new food pantry, the UMW through the Texas Conference, Native American Ministries, and Wesley House. I want to thank all of the UMW ladies who were able to come help with Wednesday night Live supper on July 15. *Ruth Gilpin, secretary*

## 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:
- 8/5 - Host: Church Council
  - 8/12 - Host: Missions Ministry Team
  - 8/19 - Host: Finance Ministry Team
  - 8/26 - Host: Adult Ministry Team
  - 9/2 - Host: Lay Leadership Team
  - 9/9 - Host: Children's Council
  - 9/16 - Host: Communications Team
  - 9/23 - Host: Outreach Team
  - 9/30 - Host: Staff Parish Relations Team

## Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

**XYZ Club:** The XYZ meeting is Tuesday, August 11 at 10:30 am. We will be playing Bingo and having a great meal.

**XYZ Game Day:** Senior games are Tuesday, August 25 -10:00am.

# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

600 Pecore  
Houston, Texas 77009  
Office Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 am–4:00 pm

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**Pastor**  
Reverend Marilyn Meeker-Williams  
pastor@smumc.org

**Director of Music Ministries**  
David Sloat

**Organist**  
William C. West

**Administrative Assistant**  
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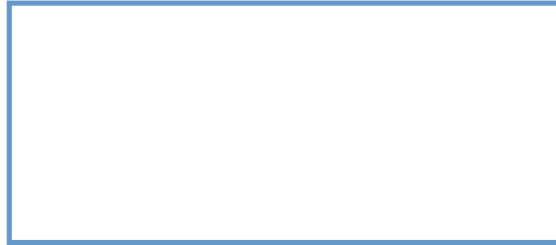
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**Child Care Supervisor**  
Dolores Cruz

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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 of officially welcoming David Sloat to St. Mark's on Sunday, August 23, as he begins serving as Director of Music Ministries. The choir will also be back for their summer respite. David has substituted in various music ministry roles during the summer.

We celebrate the joy of working together to serve nearly 900 people through the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry which opened June 25. See page 1.

We celebrate the work of our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, Scarlett Lewis Fowler, and our Youth Intern, Anna Martinson, and their commitment to involve our youth mission work through Big House for middle school youth and U.M.A.R.M.Y. for high school youth. Ask our youth about their summer mission trips!

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



"But it's a dry heat!" This I heard about a hundred times before leaving Houston on July 12<sup>th</sup>, bound for the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers' national seminar in lovely Tucson, Arizona. Indeed the temperatures in the Sonoran Desert were just a tad higher than home, which was unusually hot at the time, but it was strangely and wonderfully more comfortable.

The four-day jam-packed convention schedule was a one-stop shop for handbell enthusiasts; I chose a "ringing track" for beginning directors and ringers, five sequential sessions with the same participants and director—ours was the affable and effective Nancy Jessup from Concordia College in Irvine, California. Among many others, I also attended workshops on the care and maintenance of Schulmerich bells and chimes (the type we have at St. Mark's), the creative use of handbells in worship, and a lecture on the history of handbells. It was a helpful brainwashing—I mean immersion!—into the world of handbells.

To round out the experience, there were reading sessions, concerts, and more than one social gathering around a table of food. The wonderful people I met and the resources to which I was exposed will serve our handbell choir, their director, and the congregation well.

### UPCOMING MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

August 2 – Handbells ring for 10:50 a.m. worship

August 9 – Reeves Family special music

August 16 – Youth Sunday

**August 19 – Choir rehearsal resumes 7:30 p.m.**

August 23 – Choir back in loft