

August 28, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's

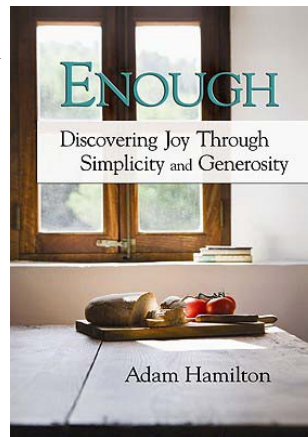


ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Window Into St. Mark's

2009 Stewardship Study "Enough" by Vance Neathery

This year we will be using "Enough, Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity" by Adam Hamilton as the basis for our stewardship study. The book focuses on simplifying our lives and freeing ourselves from stuff and financial concerns that burden us. The author sets the concepts within a biblical framework. We don't want to give away the ending, but the bottom line is – managing your finances for your own good leaves you in a better position to help others.



On August 30th after the 11 o'clock service we will have a catered luncheon to kick off our stewardship study. During lunch Rick Kiley will give a presentation on money management based on the theme of the book, Enough, Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity that we will be using during our study. Rick is a Certified Financial Planner who has been dedicated to helping individuals with all aspects of financial planning for over three decades.

The goal is to have everyone read the book, and be on the same page. To that end we will be supplying books to anyone who wants one. The book will provide an excellent resource for Sunday school classes and other small group discussions. There will be a group meeting in the fellowship hall on Sunday mornings between 9:30 and 10:30, starting on September 6th, for those of you who are not in a Sunday school group but want to participate in this enlightening study. We have also considered a Wednesday night group meeting at 6:30. If you are interested in that time slot let us know.

Vance Neathery and the Stewardship Ministry Team

ENOUGH: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Aug. 30 Kick off - "Faith in the Midst of Financial Crisis" 12:30- Luncheon and presentation

Sept. 6 Worship topic - "When Dreams Become Nightmares"

Sept. 13 Worship topic - "Wisdom and Finance"

Sept. 20 Worship topic - "Cultivating Contentment"

Sept. 27 Worship topic - "Defined by Generosity" -Consecration Sunday

Youth Make a Difference by Scarlett Fowler

Youth make a difference in the small town of Wharton, Texas.

On July 26th the youth of St. Marks Umc went on their yearly trip to UMARMY. This year they ventured out to Wharton, Texas. The week was filled with lots of hard work, friendship, worship, and most of all a connection that will last a lifetime. Most of you were at worship on August 16th and got to hear all the wonderful stories of UMARMY. I have never been more proud of the senior high youth at St. Marks. They all went to UMARMY expecting the same old same old, and came back with something they had no idea that they would find and that is love and connections that they will never forget. Some of the work they completed was wheel chair ramps, roof work, window frame work, painting entire houses, and they learned the importance of NOT hitting a sewage pipe! The stories each one of these youth have are so remarkable, and there are so many of them that I don't think there's enough room in the newsletter fit it all! So if you are in the mood for a good and uplifting story just find one of the youth and ask them about UMARMY. Those who attended are: David Reeves, Clare Coleman, John Thomas Jr., Cailleigh Buchanan, Lindsay Meeker-Williams, Anna Grace Martinson, Natalie Birdwell, and Scarlett Lewis-Fowler. When you see these youth please make sure you tell them how happy you are for them because I know I am.





From the Pastor

Enough

Discovering Joy Through
Simplicity and Generosity

Enough.

When we have enough, we'll be happy. Other people have enough; when will I be able to relax and enjoy life?

If we ever have enough, our lives will be less stressful.

A wealthy looking gentleman in a three piece suit is walking through the countryside one fine morning when he sees a fisherman lazily lying beside his boat.

*"Why aren't you fishing,"
he demands of the fisherman.
"Because I have caught
enough fish for today,"*

*"Why don't you catch some more?"
"What would I do with it?"*

*"You could earn more money" was the
reply. With that you could have a motor
fixed to your boat, go into deeper waters*

*and catch more fish.
"Why would I want to do that?"*

*"Then you would make enough to
buy nylon nets. These would bring
you more fish and more money.
Soon you would have enough money
to own two boats."*

"Why would I want to do that?"

*"With more boats, you could catch
even more fish.*

Then you could be rich like me."

"Why would I want to do that?"

"So you can relax and enjoy life"

*"What do you think
I'm doing right now?"*

-Anthony De Mello

Seeking Simplicity and Generosity
with You,

Marilyn

Ellen O'Neal Team for Candlelighters Fun Walk

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance is holding its annual Fun Walk at Terry Hershey Park, 15200 Memorial Drive, on Saturday, September 12, 2009.

Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. and the start time is 9:00 A.M. The route is 3 miles long. Ellen's parents, Joellen Snow and Stan O'Neal, are the captains of the Ellen O'Neal Team and would love for you to join them for the walk.

Contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated. Registration forms are available online at www.candle.org or from Joellen. Checks should be made payable to Candlelighters and are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please call Joellen at



713-861-2974,
jsnow@joellensnow.com, or
the Candlelighters Office at
713-270-4700,
www.candle.org.

With the funds raised at the Fun Walk last year, Candlelighters sent 45 families (236 campers) to our annual family camp at Camp for All near Brenham. We hope to send many families of children

with cancer to camp this year.

With your help, we know we will be successful!

Thank you so much.

Joellen & Stan

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 30

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
9:40 am New Member Class
10:50 am Worship Service
12:00 pm Stewardship Luncheon
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, August 31

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

Tuesday, September 1

9:30 am Weaving
12:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Trustees

Wednesday, September 2

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

Thursday, September 3

9:00 am Bridge Group

Saturday, September 5

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, September 6

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

Monday, September 7—Labor Day

Office Closed

6:00 pm Women's Celebration Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Music Ministry Party at David Sloat's
6:30 pm Adult Ministries Team
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, September 8—Newsletter Deadline

9:30 am Weaving Class
10:45 am XYZ Club meet to Carpool
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:30 pm SPR Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 9

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 Hospitality Team
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 10

9:00 am Bridge Group

Sunday, September 13

8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 am Stewardship Class
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
12:00 pm UMW Meeting with Sack Lunch
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 15

9:30 am Weaving
12:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Heights Interfaith Coalition
6:30 pm Care Team

Wednesday, September 16

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

Upper Room Daily Devotional
Online at upperroom.org



Church News

Conference's Participation in Nothing But Nets

Lauded by UN: The Texas Conference's November 2008 net distribution in Cote d'Ivoire remains the largest in Nothing But Nets history, and is featured in a recently-released report from the United Nations Foundation:



<http://www.txcumc.org/nbn08report>.

Your offerings helped make this happen — by providing money needed to purchase mosquito nets to help eliminate childhood deaths from Malaria in Cote'd Ivoire.

Did You Know? Every month we report to the Texas Conference the total number of people at St. Mark's that do hands on mission, (which is basically serving anyone who is in need.) In order to accurately reflect our faithfulness through missions service, email office@smumc.org each time you love and serve others through hands-on mission. If you or your group is or has been involved in mission work during any month in 2009, we need to know the total amount of people per month and what type of project it was.

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:

- 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

Greater Houston Leadership Education School 2009: Bishop Janice Riggle Huie will be the keynote speaker at GHLES to be held at First United Methodist Church in Conroe on September 19th. The event will run from 9:00 am to 2:20 pm. Online registration is now open at www.ghles.org. Class summaries and registration forms for mailing are also available on the website.

Are You on Facebook? St. Mark's is on Facebook! We have a group page and a fan page. If you sign up to be a fan, you will get St. Marks updates sent directly to your Facebook newsfeed.

UMW Meeting: The United Methodist Women are having a much needed business meeting!! Bring a brown bag lunch on Sunday, September 13 after late service and let us know what you want the UMW to be doing for the next year. We need your input!!! Ice Tea, Lemonade and Water will be provided, but we need your ideas to make this the best year possible for UMW.

Financial Report for July 09

Received in July \$39,766 (102.36%)
 Monthly Budget \$38,848
 Accum. Rcvd. to Date \$249,472 (91.74%)
 Accumulated Budget to Date \$271,933
 Designated Funds Received in July \$1,940
 Designated Funds Received YTD \$23,370

Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, August 16

Sunday School Total.....	99
8:30 Worship.....	27
10:50 Worship.....	120
Total Worship.....	147

Attendance for Sunday, August 23

Sunday School Total.....	92
8:30 Worship.....	24
10:50 Worship.....	121
Total Worship.....	145

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
- Gayle Birdwell (Natalie Birdwell's mother) recovering from 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
- Ken Cockrell (Kelley Slack's friend) cancer treatment
- Cooper Cody (Julie Cody's son) bone cancer treatment
- Carol Curlee (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart
- Ruth Easterly (Mark Easterly's grandmother) health
- Marion Freeman (Cindy Freeman's mother) health and encouragement
- 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 now in Treemont
- Ferne Lake at Heights Select Specialty Hospital
- Vernon Malone (David Malone's father) prostate cancer
- 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
- Leanne Smith (Patti Newby's mother) kidney surgery
- Dawn Thompson (friend of Glenda Owen) lung cancer
- Dixie Waters (friend of Glenda Owen) breast cancer
- Mary Weatherly health and encouragement
- Kathryn Weeks health and encouragement

September Birthdays

- 9/1 Marina Perez-Krause
- 9/4 Morris Valdez
- 9/4 Thane Wyman
- 9/5 Betty Gaustad (91st)
- 9/6 Tana Tamez
- 9/7 Kevin Dubose
- 9/7 Terry Watts
- 9/8 Lisa Campbell
- 9/11 Steve Tamez
- 9/12 Stuart Campbell
- 9/12 Hope Grochmall
- 9/12 Amber Mollhagen
- 9/13 Jennifer McClure
- 9/15 Joann Castaneda
- 9/15 Andrew Howarth
- 9/15 Melody Olivares
- 9/15 Annette Perez
- 9/17 Wiley Robertson
- 9/17 Sarah Traylor
- 9/18 Lindsay Meeker-Williams
- 9/19 Ilan Chavarria
- 9/19 Christie Fewless
- 9/19 Caden Vo
- 9/20 Cameron Cody
- 9/20 Nicole Wyman
- 9/21 Lysa Marcella
- 9/22 Samuel Montgomery
- 9/22 Samantha Pudwill
- 9/23 Garrett Blaylock
- 9/23 Isabella Dupuy
- 9/25 Dean Gilbert
- 9/25 Willie Marie Iden
- 9/25 Cyrus Mody
- 9/25 Neil Thomas
- 9/27 Dorothy Moffatt
- 9/27 Liz Morrison
- 9/27 Melissa Taylor
- 9/27 Katy Vittoria
- 9/28 Dave Humphreys
- 9/28 Caroline Richard
- 9/29 Jennifer Chin-Davis
- 9/30 Stan O'Neal
- 9/30 Roger Van Duzer

(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:

- September 3 — Sean & Christina Hattenbach
- September 4 — Mike & Jan Terry
- September 12 — Jerry & Charlotte Campbell (54th)
- September 22 — Donald & Patsy Delany (53rd)
- September 25 — Steve & Jane Ista
- September 29 — Daryl & Jill Wallace Buchanan

Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

XYZ Club: The XYZ meeting is Tuesday, September 8. We will be going to Teotihuacán Mexican Cafe for lunch. The restaurant is located at 1511 Airline Drive near the intersection with North Main. Meet at the church at 10:45 to carpool or meet at the restaurant at 11:00.

XYZ Game Day: Senior games are Tuesday, September 22 -10:00am.

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

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Dolores Cruz

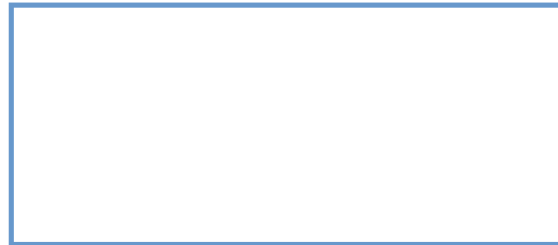
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Sunday Worship Times:

8:30 am — Worship Service

9:30 am — Sunday School

10:50 am — Traditional Worship Service



On That Note ... by David Sloat



There has been much talk this summer of hymns, not to mention more singing than I've heard in a church in a long time—which has blessed me tremendously! Choosing hymns for the weekly traditional worship service, in coordination with the pastor, is one of my favorite duties as your director of music. As a trained singer, I understand how personal and spiritual our relationship with music can be, so I take this charge seriously. Following is a brief insight into the process, which as a bit of a self-recognized control freak, I like to exercise three to six months in advance.

First, I read the lectionary and use a planner listing suggested hymns with texts appropriate to the assigned scriptures for the given Sunday. Musical style and tonality (major or minor key) are considered: is the hymn compatible with the liturgy, season and occasion? Then I look at the schedule of choir anthems to avoid duplication of a hymn text or tune within the same service. To say that

my personal preferences don't play a part would be naïve, but I do consider the congregation's familiarity, with the help of the pastor and David Hunter, who I refer and defer to as St. Mark's music historian. He has already made my job much easier many times!

Having served Presbyterian churches for many years, I learned one Calvinist tenet that is still dear to my heart: that the congregation is the church's choir. This informs our belief that, just like the singers in the loft, a congregation doesn't perform in worship—we participate. One Jewish friend, herself a magnificent singer, helped me to understand that in her faith—from which we Christians inherit many profoundly important ideals—song is the “gift wrap” in which we offer our corporate prayers to God. What a beautiful concept! Wesley's words on singing are also of note, and I plan to reflect on them in a future column.

Once again, thanks for your collective musical feedback this summer. I look forward to countless gifts we will lift up together with our voices.

Sometimes ... by Linda Laws

Sometimes when I'm talking with a person, I can feel God's presence and the Holy Spirit takes over and lets me know what to say and how to say it; however,

Sometimes the Holy Spirit begs me to be quiet and just listen...because

Sometimes God is talking to me through the person I'm talking with.

Linda is a member of the "9:40 in 109" Sunday School Class. This was inspired by the study "Discernment, Acting Wisely" lesson five - "Discerning God's Presence in Our Habit of Being."



Altar Flowers

Remember, you can give altar flowers in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Or celebrate an occasion like a birthday or anniversary! Call Melody in the church office to reserve your dates. We have openings for September, October, and November. Flower arrangements are \$35 for each side.