

September 25, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Window Into St. Mark's

United Methodist Women

Communicating with Compassion

Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Light lunch provided

Hosted by United Methodist Women
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
www.smumc.org

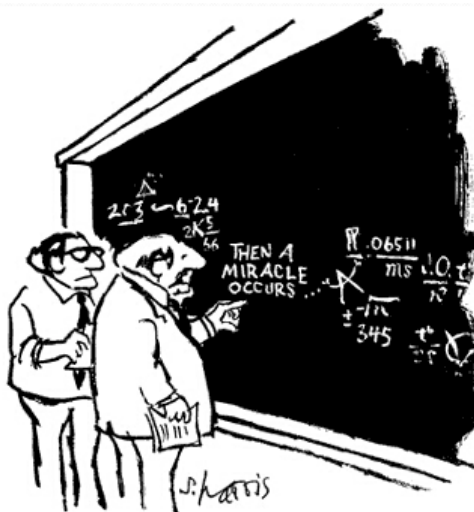
Bren Hardt, a long time member of the United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society, teacher and community advocate, will introduce Compassionate Communication, a way of building bridges through communication Sunday, October 4. Everyone is invited.



UMW News:

- The United Methodist Women will serve lunch and host Bren Hardt on Sunday, October 4th after the 10:50 service.
- The UMW will have a table to sell cold drinks at the Missions Fair/Bulb and Bake Sale on Saturday, October 24th.
- The UMW is saving Campbell Soup labels to give to Wesley House. Please bring your Campbell Soup Labels and leave them in the basket in the church office.

Fun Facts of Finance by Vance Neathery



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

This is not exactly how we plan a budget at St. Mark's. First we plan and execute a stewardship campaign. This year we have used the *Enough* book as our guideline. At the end of the campaign, in this case Sunday (9/27) we have an opportunity for folks to fill out and turn in a card with their estimate of giving for 2010. Then the financial secretary, Betty Green, totals things up and reports to the finance ministry team. We wait a couple of weeks to give people time to turn in cards, then Betty totals up and does another report. Then we send out thank you notes to folks who have turned in a card and a letter with another card to folks that have not responded. Then Betty totals up and does another report. Depending on how things are going, we may do another letter to folks that haven't responded. Then we sit down and try to figure out a budget for 2010. All we have to work with is the totals from the cards

and years of statistical data. So your responses are critical to making up a realistic budget. So please turn in a card. In these uncertain times "I don't know" is a valid response. At least we will know that you have responded, and we won't spend the time and money trying to bug you for a response. It is our goal to have a final draft budget to the Church Council by the end of October. So keep those cards and letters coming boys and girls. If you lose your card, you can email the information to Betty at financial@smumc.org.

Yours in a "talk to us" fog,

Vance



From the Pastor

Enough, Sabbath and Spiritual Renewal

Our focus in this month of September is *Enough, Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. The weekly studies have been amazing. The video clips used in worship have moved us out of our place of ministry and into a wider context. In worship we've focused on scripture and our life practices, and how God calls us to live with God's good creation and one another. We've been more attentive to the effects of our life decisions, understanding how we may bring life or suffering and even death to people much less privileged.

Who would have imagined that we are that powerful?

Three books have guided me as I prepare to make my commitments of praying for each of you and all of us together, that we will do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. I commit to be present in times of life and death, and at times when I hear I may be helpful. We are making new decisions in our spending patterns, tracking our expenditures more carefully, and devoting more of our pay checks to the churches we serve. We want to serve faithfully the churches to which we've been appointed, praying for grace and humility to be servant

leaders. This week as I fill in my commitment card to dedicate this Sunday, September 27, I do so with a sense of joy in God's goodness, and our abundance. Even my kitchen pantry may be seeing changes soon!

The *Enough* book is one which has guided us, not only in our finances but also in the Spiritual Renewal Leave I begin September 30, when I will be simplifying, coming back to my self.

Living without so much stuff to complicate our lives brings us hope. *Sabbath Keeping*, by Donna Schaper, reminds me of the rest and renewal necessary for living the life to which God calls me. Time away, taking time for Sabbath each week, is a challenge and Keri Wyatt Kent's *Rest, Living in Sabbath Simplicity* supports what I'm learning in *Enough*. Richard Rohr's *Everything Belongs, the Gift of Contemplative Prayer*, helps it all fit together.

May you know the joy of greater simplicity and generosity in the days ahead.

In Joy,
Marilyn

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 27

8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 am Stewardship Class
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Lay Leadership Team
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, September 28

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

Tuesday, September 29

9:30 am Weaving
12:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 1

9:00 am Bridge Group

Saturday, October 3

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, October 4—World Communion

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
12:30 pm United Methodist Women Luncheon
4:00 pm Youth Council
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, October 5—Newsletter Deadline

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

Tuesday, October 6

9:30 am Weaving Class
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
3:30 pm Daisies
6:00 pm Brownies
6:30 pm Trustees

Wednesday, October 7

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

Thursday, October 8

9:00 am Bridge Group

Saturday, October 10

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, October 11

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

Monday, October 12

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

Tuesday, October 13

9:30 am Weaving
10:30 am XYZ Club
12:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, October 14

10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Children's Council
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Finance Team
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Hospitality Team
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

CDC Silent Auction by Teresa Montgomery

Ninth Annual Silent Auction and Dinner

The St. Mark's Children's Development Center is pleased to announce that its Ninth Annual Silent Auction and Dinner, a Mardi Gras celebration, will take place on **October 17, 2009 from 5:30-8:30 pm**. As always, there will be lots of great items up for bid, including gift certificates for local restaurants, tickets to sporting events, hotel stays, museum memberships, and great gifts.

Proceeds from the auction will be used to continue improvements to the children's building, provide scholarships for teacher education and training, and purchase supplies for the classrooms. A portion of the proceeds will also be used to fund the Ruby Clifton Memorial Scholarship, which helps CDC families with tuition and extra-curricular activities when they experience short-term financial hardship.

All are invited to attend, and tickets are available in the CDC office. Please contact

Teresa Montgomery if you have any questions.

The CDC needs help!

As the CDC's ninth annual silent auction approaches, we need your help. Having great items up for bid is what makes the auction successful. Please consider donating an item to help make the auction a great event for the school and the church. Do you sew? Donate a baby blanket. Have a favorite restaurant? Donate a gift certificate. Have season tickets to a sports team? Donate tickets to a game. Own a vacation home? Donate its use for a long weekend.

And, please come to the auction and bid! To make a donation, or if you have any questions, please contact Kelly in the CDC office or call Teresa Montgomery at 713-802-2552. Thank you for your continuing support.



St. Mark's Calendar
Online at smumc.org
Upper Room Daily Devotional
Online at upperroom.org



Church

Hurricane Ike Recovery:

The Missions Team is sponsoring a day trip to Galveston on Oct. 17th. There is still a great need for volunteers to assist with the on going cleanup and repairs following the devastation of Hurricane IKE. Call Penny Chappell at 713/686-0930 for more info.

Missions Fair: Oct 24 we will be hosting a sale in conjunction with the New Pilgrims annual Bulb and Bake Sale. Rent a table for \$25 to sell your gently used no longer needed items (no clothes please). This is a good opportunity for crafters and collectors to market their products. Proceeds from the table rental fees will go to mission projects. Contact the church office to reserve your space or see Penny Chappell. We have a limited number of tables so please act soon.

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:
9/30 - Host: Staff Parish Relations Team
10/7 - Host: Trustees
10/14 - Host: Worship Team
10/21 - Host: Chancel Choir
10/28 - Host: New Pilgrims Class

“Movie Night on the Lawn”

Reaches Out to Community: Movie Night on the Lawn returns on Friday, November 13th at Proctor Plaza Park. We have partnered with the park, located on the corner of Watson and West Temple. The park’s community center will be inviting families from the area to participate. This is a great outreach opportunity for St. Mark’s and we hope you will be a part of it.

Flu Shots: Zion Lutheran will be offering flu shots on Sunday, October 18. Sign up sheet outside of the church office.

Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

XYZ Club: Tuesday, October 13 at 10:30 am. The hosts will be Rose Brewer and Jennifer McClure.

XYZ Game Day: Senior games are Tuesday, October 27 –10:00am.



Charge/Church Conference

Sunday, November 15

3:00 pm

Our Thoughts and Prayers: Are with the family and friends of Ferne Lake who died Thurs., September 23. Ferne was a much-loved member of the church, a devoted servant of God and will be greatly missed by all. Services were held Sat., September 25th at Heights Funeral Home.



HIM Food Pantry Requests:

The Heights Interfaith Food Pantry, is low on several basic food items that we give out to our client families. We’d appreciate donations of pastas, spaghetti sauces, soups, cereals, canned vegetables, and rice. Thank you for your generosity.

New Pilgrims Invites All to Film Oc-

ttober 4th: The New Pilgrims Sunday School class is showing the film "For the Bible Tells Me So" beginning October 4th in the Fellowship Hall during the 9:45 am Sunday School hour. All in the congregation are invited to share in viewing this prize-winning documentary. Through the experiences of five very normal, Christian, American families - including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson - we discover how people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child or family member. It is an important film for all of us to see as it addresses Biblical scripture and what is a difficult topic with sensitivity and Grace. The film will be shown starting Oct. 4th over two Sunday School hours, finishing on Oct. 11th.

Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, September 13
Sunday School Total.....98
8:30 Worship.....37
10:50 Worship.....117
Total Worship.....154

Attendance for Sunday, September 20
Sunday School Total.....110
8:30 Worship.....22
10:50 Worship.....126
Total Worship.....148

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
Dawn Avery health and encouragement
Betty Barr vision and retina problems
Gayle Birdwell (Natalie Birdwell’s mother) 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
Carolyn Fulbright (Pam Scheyer’s mother) heart
Dorothea Furstenfeld health and encouragement
Irene Geenshor (Linda Pollard’s mother) health
Cathy Harris (Glenda Owen’s friend) cancer treatment
Nancy Holland (Rose Brewer’s friend) sinus cancer and hypothyroidism
Eddie & Vivian Hubbell in Belmont Village
Maye Humphrey now in Treemont
Raymond & Martha McCallister (Heather Easterly’s parents) health and encouragement
Irma McGee in West Janisch Health Care Center
Wendy Melchor (Kelly Melchor’s sister-in-law) uterine cancer
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

October Birthdays

- 10/2 John Sipes
- 10/3 Kevin Young
- 10/4 Mimie Taylor
- 10/5 Maurice Fore
- 10/5 Anna Martinson
- 10/5 Linda Rodriguez
- 10/6 James Chappell
- 10/6 Sylvia Juarez
- 10/6 David Newman
- 10/10 Rodger Standridge
- 10/11 Hunter Markey
- 10/12 Matt Hobson
- 10/12 Felipe Patterson
- 10/14 Patria Wortham Burks
- 10/15 Josephine Nunn
- 10/16 Gary Morris
- 10/16 Austin Thomas
- 10/17 Evelyn Lewis (96th)
- 10/17 Jackson Sweeney
- 10/17 Mike Terry
- 10/18 Melissa Moore
- 10/18 Sally Shirey
- 10/18 Jeff Thompson
- 10/19 Paige Davidson
- 10/19 Pat Grochmall
- 10/20 Rami Rodriguez
- 10/21 Kyle Biagioli
- 10/22 Bradley Batterson
- 10/22 Carol Munn
- 10/23 Evelyn Britt (86th)
- 10/24 Benjamin Richard
- 10/25 Rachel Sipes
- 10/26 Scott Cody
- 10/29 Patsy Delany
- 10/29 Meredith Sipes
- 10/30 Angela Miller
- 10/30 Jack Payne
- 10/31 David Drobniak

(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:

October 22 — Jeff & Amber Mollhagen
October 23 — Martin Murdock and Pat Hammond

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
William C. West

Administrative Assistant
K. Melody Olivares
office@smumc.org

Financial Secretary
Betty Green
financial@smumc.org

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries
Scarlett Fowler
youth@smumc.org

Director of Children's Development Center
Kelly Melchor
stmarksdc@smumc.org

Child Care Supervisor
Dolores Cruz

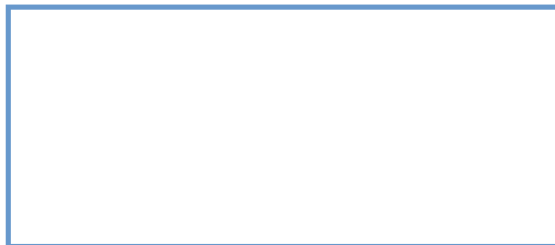
Non-Profit

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 91

Houston, TX



Sunday Worship Times:

8:30 am — Worship Service
9:30 am — Sunday School
10:50 am — Traditional Worship Service



A Message From Bishop Huie

The St. John's United Methodist Church in Texas City was destroyed by fire. Thanks be to God that no one was hurt. Evidence is pointing toward a lightning strike as the cause of the fire. First UMC, Texas City has generously offered their church facility as a temporary place of worship for their sister congregation.

St. John's congregation may be afflicted in every way, they are not crushed. They may be perplexed, but not driven to despair. The facility may be struck down, but the people are not destroyed." Indeed, their spirit is strong, and they have already begun conversations about their future. I would ask each of you to pray for the St. John's congregation and for their pastor, Reverend Tom Crowe.

Several congregations are collecting special offerings to show their support and to help St. John's with transitional expenses. In the short-term, the South District office will be receiving those funds.

I also invite prayers of celebration and thanksgiving for two other congregations. First UMC, Bridge City has relocated to a new site after it was destroyed by Rita four years ago. And Seabrook UMC will celebrate its first Sunday in its new sanctuary following the destruction of their old facility by Hurricane Ike. Like Bridge City, they have relocated their facility to better meet the needs of the mission field.

Thanks in advance for your hope, dreams, and prayers for these three congregations and their pastors.

Grace and peace,
Bishop Janice Riggle Huie



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.

Mission Forum by Lisa Martinson



"Who Is Our Neighbor?"

Sponsored by Partners In Mission with
Mission Excellence Leadership Team

The Mission Forum of 2009 will have a new and exciting look. In an atmosphere where information can be gathered through workshops, speakers and worship, persons interested in mission opportunities will find many creative avenues for personal involvement. The Conference will begin on Saturday mornings with registration at 8:30am followed by the Welcome. Each participant will attend exciting workshops from an impressive list of choices, have time in the Global Village and participate in the closing worship. During lunch you will be able to visit with other missionaries and find out how missions have impacted their lives. The Global Village will remain open until 2:30 p.m. with displays from a variety of mission opportunities offered through Partners in Mission as well as other mission connected organizations. The Mission Store will be open to offer interesting shopping opportunities for your family.

Conference: October 3—Lakewood UMC:
11330 Louetta Rd, Houston, TX 77070