

October 9, 2009

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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.

Fun Facts of Finance

Our wonderful financial secretary, Betty Green, has reported that so far we have 59 estimate of giving card responses for a total of \$243, 414. That is fewer than last year at this point in the race but slightly ahead of the dollar total. At the end of the day last year we had 88 responses with \$392,373 pledged. This year we have been more proactive in explaining to people that a response card with no specific dollar amount is still good information for us. So we have had 9 returned blank. In these uncertain economic times that is understandable. Next week we will be mailing out thank you notes to those that have returned a card, and reminders to those that have not. Those letters will be from the 'Stewardship ministry team'. Betty is the only one that sees each card, so she is the one that figures out who gets which letter. If have lost your card, or prefer another form of communication, you can email your response to Betty at financial@smumc.org.

Yours in a keep those cards and letters coming boys and girls fog,

Vance



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.

Service of Remembrance and Hope



**Sunday, November 1
12:00—1:00 pm**

As November begins, our thoughts and hearts turn toward preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas, a time of joy and hope when families and friends gather to celebrate God's gifts of love. We look forward to the holiday meals and parties, exchanging gifts, attending worship services together and other beloved traditions.

When we are grieving, Christmas and other holidays are potent reminders of loved ones who are not present because of death, distance, illness or disability. After the 10:50 am worship service we invite you to stay for prayer, meditation, music and to light memory candles.

This special time is for you or anyone you know who has suffered loss and is grieving. We will have on hand a page of suggestions for getting through the holidays and allowing God and others to comfort us and walk with us through our grief.

In life, in death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(UMH #883)

State of the Church by Kevin Dubose, Church Council Chair

The last two weeks have been eventful at St. Mark's. In some of these events there is sadness and loss, but there are also opportunities for hope and fresh starts.

The stewardship campaign based on the book *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*, concluded with Consecration Sunday on September 27. The amount pledged on that day exceeded the amount pledged on Consecration Sunday last year, even though the number of pledges received was slightly down. We are still expecting more pledges over the next few weeks (and if you haven't turned yours in please do), but we are off to a good start.

Pastor Marilyn Meeker-Williams is taking a planned spiritual renewal leave during October. Although no one remembers a pastor at St. Mark's doing this before, the Methodist Book of Discipline recommends that pastors take a leave every few years, and Marilyn has been discussing and planning this with the SPR Committee for over a year. Last week our District Superintendent Lawrence Young led us in worship, and for the remainder of Marilyn's leave Rev. Charles Ruehl will be in our pulpit on Sunday mornings and available for pastoral care needs during the week. Marilyn will be back with us on All Saints Sunday, November 1.

Our recently hired Director of Music, David Sloat, decided that the job was not a good fit for him, recognizing that, it would be better for

him and the church to make a change now rather than become entrenched in a situation destined not to work out. Fortunately, Eric Esparza has agreed to serve as Director of Music at least through the end of the Christmas season. Most of our choir members and SPR members knew of Eric, and were delighted that he was available. David's last day was October 4; Eric began on October 7.

Finally, the St. Mark's family lost two faithful servants in the last couple of weeks. Ferne Lake, long-time member of Collins UMC and then St. Mark's UMC after those churches merged, and Mike Terry, who was with us a shorter period of time, yet both touched many members of our congregation, and will be greatly missed.

We hope that the Stewardship program gave people a new way to think about how simplifying our lives can enable us to discover the joy that comes from generosity. We hope that Marilyn's leave provides her an opportunity to rest and pray and study, and come back with a renewed spirit that she can share with us. We hope that David Sloat finds a church to serve that will be a better fit for him, and that Eric Esparza will be a gifted and inspiring leader in our music program. And we know that Ferne and Mike have been relieved from worldly suffering, and that they are in a place of peace and grace with our Lord. Praise be to God.

Mission Fair/Bulb & Bake Sale by Cindy Freeman & Penny Chappell

Our annual Missions Fair / Bulb and Bake Sale will take place on Saturday, October 24th from 9 am to 4 pm, on the front lawn. The event is sponsored by the Missions Team, the New Pilgrims class, and the United Methodist Women.



Pueblo with their beautiful handmade fair trade crafts. There will be a table representing Heifer Project for the gifts for those on your list who have everything. The youth will be selling popcorn, and the UMW

will sponsor liquid refreshments. You will also have another chance to get your Habitat cookbook or buy one for a friend. Several tables will feature antiques, handmade jewelry, and Christmas items. The New Pilgrims will gladly accept donations of pot plants for this event. Sale begins at 9:00 am bringing your shopping bags.

We will have lots of homemade goodies to eat, such as pumpkin apple bread, pecan pie and key lime pie filling, apricot-pepper jam, apple butter, and sweet and spicy peccans. Have a green thumb? You can buy bulbs for Fall planting. And you just might see a plant that suits your fancy. Proceeds will be donated to the food pantry, the UMW's Christmas "angel" project, and other missions.

In addition to all the yummy homemade jams, jellies, baked goods, and bulbs for fall planting we will again welcome Colours del

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.

Upcoming Events

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

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

Thursday, October 15
9:00 am Bridge Group

Saturday, October 17
Mission Trip to Galveston
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, October 18
8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, October 19—Newsletter Deadline
6:00 pm Women's Celebration Prayer Meeting
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, October 20
9:30 am Weaving Class
6:00 pm Brownies
6:00 pm UMW Cooking

Wednesday, October 21
10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Church Council
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 22
9:00 am Bridge Group

Saturday, October 24
9:00 am Bulb & Bake Sale/Mission Fair
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, October 25
8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:00 am Bulb & Bake Sale
10:50 am Worship Service
5:00 pm UMYF

Monday, October 26
6:00 pm Women's Celebration Prayer Meeting
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, October 27
9:30 am Weaving
10:00 am XYZ Senior Games Day
6:00 pm UMW Cooking
6:30 pm Missions Team

Wednesday, October 28
10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Communications Team
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

St. Mark's Calendar
Online at smumc.org

Upper Room Daily Devotional
Online at upperroom.org



Church News

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



Heights Interfaith Ministries: Food Pantry Open House November 10, 2009 4 pm to 7 pm. We are having an open house to showcase the capabilities we offer to our Greater Heights community. We are inviting church, fraternal, and civic organizations to become members by asking them to see the facility, to meet the volunteers, to hear our vision, and check out how they can join us. If you would like to help at the open house, please call Diana Van Duzer or Dave Humphreys at 832.443.3341.



Wednesday Night Live:

All are invited to Wednesday Night Live supper which will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 - 7:30pm:
10/14 - Host: Worship Team
10/21 - Host: Chancel Choir
10/28 - Host: New Pilgrims Class
11/4 - Host: Men's Sunday School Class
11/11 - Host: open
11/18 - Host: Handbell Choir



Charge/Church Conference

Sunday, November 15
3:00 pm

Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

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

XYZ Club: Tuesday, November 10 at 10:30 am. We will address Christmas cards. Everyone bring their favorite Thanksgiving side dish or \$5. Roast turkey with gravy and desserts will be provided.

Our Thoughts and Prayers: are with Jan Terry whose husband Mike died Tuesday evening September 29th. His memorial service was held October 4th at St. Mark's. He will be missed by many.



UMW News: St. Mark's United Methodist Women cook at least twice per year to put nutritious, delicious meals in the freezer to be taken to members of the congregation. Any member who is visiting homebound or grieving members may take these with them. For me, it's easy to visit or it's easy to make extra food to share, but hard to get both together at the same time. We are meeting to cook at 6 pm in the kitchen on Tuesday, October 20th. Any UMW member who would like to help cook, call Jacque Corman @ 713-942-0131 or Rose Brewer @ 713-880-3845. Also, if we each bring a finger food to share we won't eat all of the food before it gets to the freezer. Also, 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.

"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.

Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, September 27
Sunday School Total.....110
8:30 Worship.....27
10:50 Worship.....110
Total Worship.....137

Attendance for Sunday, October 4
Sunday School Total.....98
8:30 Worship.....25
10:50 Worship.....111
Total Worship.....136

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
- 10/18 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
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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

Interim Choir Director
Eric Esparza

Organist
William C. West

Administrative Assistant
K. Melody Olivares
office@smumc.org

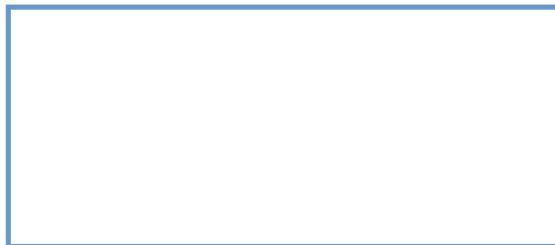
Financial Secretary
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Director of Children's Development Center
Kelly Melchor
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Child Care Supervisor
Dolores Cruz

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Sunday Worship Times:

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



Heights Fires Updates from Heights



Dear Heights Citizens,
Several members of the Houston Heights Association's Board of Directors met

with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. The purpose of the meeting was to review the activities surrounding the Heights arsonist. We understand the level of concern is great since there have now been thirteen fires with the most recent occurring in an inhabited property.

The best news we can give you is that the investigation remains at the highest level of priority and will remain so until the individual/s are caught. Present at the meeting were our District H Councilman, Ed Gonzalez and staff members, representatives from State Representative Jessica Farrar's office, members of HPD, HFD and ATF. All of the law enforcement agencies present assured us of their utmost commitment to this investigation. In addition, a \$5,000 reward has been posted by

CrimeStoppers. The Houston Fire Department is asking all citizens to do the following:

- * Remain vigilant.
- * Report all unusual circumstances or activity.
- * Keep your home secure.
- * Leave lights on around your home.
- * Communicate with your neighbors.
- * Write down license plates of suspicious vehicles.
- * Write down descriptions of any individuals not common to the area.
- * If interviewed by any member of law enforcement, be cooperative. They are merely trying to secure necessary information.

Report all non-emergency activity to the Houston Fire & Arson Division at 713 865 9000. Call 713 222 TIPS or CrimeStoppers.

Any emergency must be reported to 911.
Sincerely,
Chris Silkwood
HHA President

New Interim Choir Director

We are pleased to announce that Eric Esparza has agreed to serve St. Mark's as interim Music Director at least through the Christmas season. Eric and St. Mark's will be mutually evaluating the possibility of a permanent position after the first of the year.

Eric's appointment follows the resignation of former Music Director David Sloat, who resigned as of October 4. After a few months on the job, David decided that St. Mark's was not a good fit for him and made the difficult professional decision to move on.

Glenda Owen
SPR Chair



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 October, and November. Flower arrangements are \$35 for each side.