

February 19, 2010

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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What Is Lent?

Lent has a longstanding tradition in the Church. It began very simply as a time of preparation for Easter. From the earliest times it was customary for Christians in most places to fast before Easter. At first this was a 2-day fast (Friday and Saturday). As time passed, this fast was extended here and there to a week (e.g., in Alexandria and perhaps Rome). By 350 A.D. the 40-day fast that we now have was already in vogue in most places. The earliest reference to a 40 day fast leading up to Easter is the Second Festal letter of Athanasius in 330 A.D. Today Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday.

We retain Lent to this day, because it is a discipline that gives Christians a wonderful opportunity for spiritual renewal. Our observance of Lent through our midweek study, Sunday services, and Lenten devotional materials, we come face to face with whatever sin may be hindering our walk with Christ. But most profoundly, we come face to face with the Gospel of Jesus which forgives and removes that sin and gives us the power to live anew.

Forty Days of Love

The Adult Ministry team during the 40 days of Lent, invite you to participate in the Forty Days of Love. This is an experiment which calls for adding a daily discipline to our Lenten journey. This experiment is an encounter with the possibility of Christians caring for the neediest of God's children.

There will be a Forty Days of Love guide in the narthex for you to follow along the daily discipline. Each day, we are asked to give a few coins as a sacrifice for some of the things we take for granted and how people all over the world live in poverty and suffering. ie: Give a nickel for every rug and carpet in your home, or give fifty cents for every television in your home.

Participating in this can do much to open our eyes to the plight of people in other parts of the world, and to strengthen our commitment to involve ourselves beyond the confines of our personal experience and enhance our spiritual journeys.

There will be a special jar kept in the narthex into which you can deposit the accumulated monies during Lent., Everything collected will be designated for HIM Food Pantry, our local mission project for the hungry of Houston Heights, and to Haiti relief — feeding, clothing, healing, giving shelter for neighbors far away.



LENT AND HOLY WEEK

PRAYERS DURING LENT

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

FEBRUARY 24 — MARCH 31, 7:00AM

LENTEN STUDY

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

FEBRUARY 24 — MARCH 31, 6:30PM

WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

PALM PASSION SUNDAY

MARCH 28—8:30 AND 10:50 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP - PALM PROCESSION

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 1, 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

APRIL 2, 7:00PM

SERVICE OF LIGHT

APRIL 3, 7:00PM

FOLLOWED BY

EASTER VIGIL 8:30PM —

EASTER SUNDAY — APRIL 4

SUNRISE SERVICE - 6:30 AM

BREAKFAST - 7:30 AM

EARLY SERVICE - 8:30 AM

EASTER EGG HUNT

DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:40 AM

TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE - 10:50 AM

New Class!

For Parents of Young Children

Starting February 21, 2010 • Sundays • 9:40 - 10:30am

Join this new group as we explore, discuss and learn what it means to live as Christian family. Rotating study materials. We will begin this new group with a study "40 Days of Love - We Were Made for Relationships" by pastor and bestselling author Rick Warren. He teaches us that LOVE is to be that priority - loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself. Focus on the spiritual truths of patience, kindness, truth, and forgiveness, you will learn to love like Jesus in 40 Days. The DVD session titles are: Love Matters Most, Love is Patient, Love is Kind, Love Speaks the Truth, Love is Forgiving, Love is not Selfish and The Habits of a Loving Heart. Each session will be a short DVD followed by discussion. No preparation required.



From the Pastor - "Recharging"

Since I began using a Blackberry Curve last November, I find it easier to stay in communication with the people in my life, including family, the people of St. Mark's and our Central South District, one of 9 districts in the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. A Blackberry is my connection to others through phone calls and texting, email, and internet. It assists me in scheduling and remembering appointments; it alerts me with various rings, buzzes, chirps and bells when I'm receiving a phone call or message or when I need to be somewhere, such as CDC Chapel each Wednesday morning at 10:15. It even has a calculator which I find myself using amazingly often.

The only time it lets me down is when I forget to plug it in to the wall or car, using a cable to connect it to its source of power. This must happen daily for it to function well, for it to do the things I ask it to do. Without that daily power charge, my Blackberry is just a black piece of plastic with keyboard and mysterious inner workings which I can neither describe nor understand. I do know that I need it to be "powered up" so it can do the tasks I ask it to do, tasks it promises to accomplish by its name which is well advertised. (You know where this is going.)

I look at my Blackberry this morning and see only a dark screen. No light, no sound, no sign of activity because I left the cable for charging at the church yesterday. I have another charger which plugs into my car but my Toyota Rav 4 is a 2001 model, the last year Rav 4s were made with charging capacity limited to when the car is running. I would need to drive for an hour or more with the Blackberry plugged into the car outlet for it to fully charge and be ready to do the tasks for which it was created.

Something like this is true of faith. We may possess bibles, books on prayer and spirituality,

a space with a chair and a candle designated for prayer, but if we forget to pray or meditate every 24 hours or so we may find ourselves without the power to speak and act in Christ-like ways. We may intend to take 15 minutes each day to connect with God, but when we forget or don't take that time, we may find we are not available to live the love of Christ as faithful followers. We may intend, each Saturday evening, to attend worship the next morning; we may look forward to meeting with others in our class who support us in our daily activity of loving and serving with compassion as Jesus did. When we forget to set our alarms Saturday night, or we let Sunday morning dwindle away, we may find ourselves without the desire or zest to be a healing presence in our hurting world.

Our Blackberries and i-phones and other mobile devices cannot do for us what they promise without daily connection to their sources of power, and neither can we. Lent is the season of the Christian year when we are careful to attend to the spiritual disciplines that keep us connected to our source, Jesus Christ. We pray more regularly, including each Wednesday morning at 7:00 (not 6:30 as advertised!) when we gather in the courtyard for 30 minutes. Most of our praying is silent while we listen for signs of God's presence and peace. We pass the peace before we depart for home, work and school, taking with us a sense of the powerful presence of God at work in the world and God's call to be about the work of God's reign.

As we begin this journey through the season of Lent, my prayer is that we will remain connected to each other and to God, the One who calls us, graciously waits for us to respond, and empowers us for the work of ministry.

Traveling with you throughout these 40 days, Marilyn

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 21
8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
9:40 am New Member Class
10:50 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Companions in Christ
5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Tuesday, February 23
10:00 am Bob Gaustad's Funeral
10:00 am XYZ Senior Games Day
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Missions Team

Wednesday, February 24
7:00 am Lenten Morning Prayers
10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live Supper
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Church Council
6:30 pm Lenten Study
6:30 pm Communications Team
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 26
6:30 pm Family Game Night

Sunday, February 28
8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am New Member Class
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship
5:00 pm Companions in Christ

Monday, March 1—Newsletter Deadline
6:30 pm Adult Ministry Team
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, March 2
9:30 am Weaving Class
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
3:30 pm Daisies

Wednesday, March 3
7:00 am Lenten Morning Prayers
10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live Supper
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Lenten Study
6:30 pm Outreach Team
7:00 pm Trustees
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:00 pm AA Meeting

Saturday, March 6
11:00 am Youngdahl/Citti Wedding

Sunday, March 7
8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
9:40 am New Member Class
10:50 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Youth Council
5:00 pm Companions in Christ
5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Tuesday, March 9
11:00 am XYZ Club Lunch at Tony's Mexican
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:30 pm SPR Team

Wednesday, March 10
7:00 am Lenten Morning Prayers
10:15 am CDC Chapel
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live Supper
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15 pm Children's Council
6:30 pm Lenten Study
6:30 pm Finance Team
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:00 pm AA Meeting
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Day Light Savings Time Begins
SUNDAY, MARCH 14



Interfaith Youth Dialogue Dinner by Scarlett Lewis

Two of our youth, Erica Peterson and John Thomas, attended the Interfaith Youth Dialogue Dinner last Thursday night, February 11. Each went in with much hesitation and nervousness. As their youth director, I am proud to say that they showed maturity and faith by attending, and each one came out with a new idea of what faith is and how they can live it in everyday situations. Below is a short example of the life changing event Erica experienced last week:

Walking into the interfaith youth dialogue dinner was incredibly intimidating. You are randomly assigned a classroom with complete strangers all of different faiths, and asked to discuss the most inner ideas and

beliefs of your religion and hear others discuss theirs. Although skeptical, I decided to go in with a positive attitude. When I entered the classroom, I introduced myself to the other girls, who were a mix of Muslim, Catholic, & Unitarian. We immediately had a connection with compassion and understanding in mind. All the controversy and prejudice that divides our faith outside of that room were instantly shot down. Throughout the discussion my faith was just reinforced because I knew by being sympathetic and kind I was also being Christ like, and walked out with more friends and better inner peace than I had come there with.

Erica Petersen 9th grade Daughter of Frances Paggeot



Church News

Wednesday Morning Prayers During Lent:

We will meet at 7:00 a.m. (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE) for 30 minutes of prayer and reflection Wednesday mornings during Lent, beginning February 24 and ending April 1, during Holy Week. Sitting in the courtyard around a lighted candle, we will listen quietly to the sounds of the new morning and give thanks to God for another day of living; we will listen for God's call to follow more closely, love more generously, and live more fully the Reign of Christ. Come one Wednesday or come all.

Wednesday Night Live: All are invited to Wednesday supper which will be served in the fellowship hall from 5:30 - 7:30pm:
2/24 - Host: Communications Team
3/3 - Host: Finance Team

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: Those interested in participating in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please attend a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 4pm in the parlor. If you are currently working on a project, feel free to bring it along. We will discuss our focus, the best days/time for us to meet, and share our handcraft stories. For questions or additional information, please contact Juli Gossett julianne.kelley@gmail.com 281-687-6250 or Alice Phillips akphil@att.net; 281-435-8263.

Our thoughts and Prayers: Are with the family and friends of Robert (Bob) Gaus-tad who died last week. Services will be held Tuesday, February 23 at 10:00 am at Earthman Resthaven Chapel 13102 N. Freeway with interment following at Veteran's Memorial Cemetery at 12:00 pm. Bob was a member of St. Mark's for over 60 years, a member of the choir for about 40 years, president of Friendship class and leader in many different areas. In lieu of flowers donations can be given to the Christopher Scott Buchanan Scholarship Fund at Greenhill School 4141 Spring Valley Rd., Addison, Texas 75001.

Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)
XYZ Game Day: Senior games are Tuesday, February 23 -10:00am.
XYZ Club: Tuesday, March 9. We are lunching at Tony's Mexican Restaurant on Ella. We'll meet at church at 10:45 for those who wish to carpool and at the restaurant at 11:00 for those who drive there directly.




Family Game Night: Join Us for Game Night Friday, February 26 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

We will provide pizza, tea and lemonade. Bring your favorite game or use one of the games we have in fellowship hall.

In Appreciation: To the family at St. Mark's UMC, I would like to offer my thanks for all that you did for my family and me during our time of sorrow and grief at the lost of my mother. You went above and beyond what was called for. My family and I will never forget what you did for us. *Charles Vasquez and Family.*

How to Send Announcement on the Yahoo Group: If you are a member of the Yahoo E-Mail group and want to make an announcement for your class, group, WNL Menu or anything like that, it is as easy as sending an email. All you have to do is type your announcement and email it to: stmarksumchouston@yahoo.com. It's that simple. The announcements don't need to be emailed to the church office first, you just email it directly yourself. Anyone that is a member and receives emails from the yahoo group can also send them. If you are NOT a member of the Yahoo E-Mail Group and want to join, here are the instructions:

 **Join Yahoo E-Mail group:**
To add your e-mail address go to:
groups.yahoo.com/group/stmarksumchouston/

Attendance Record:

<i>Attendance for Sunday, February 7</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	90
8:30 Worship.....	32
10:50 Worship.....	121
Total Worship.....	153
<i>Attendance for Sunday, February 14</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	120
8:30 Worship.....	27
10:50 Worship.....	188
Total Worship.....	215

Altar Flowers for 2010:

Make reservations now for Sundays in 2010 to give altar flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones, birthdays, or anniversaries.

Call the church office to reserve the dates you want. Prices are \$70 for both sides and \$35 for one side.



Prayer Needs

- Our president, leaders, and servicemen and women**
Dawn Avery health and encouragement
Gayle Birdwell (Natalie Birdwell's mother) heart
Avery Brown (Leslie Ball's niece) deploying to Iraq
Leta Bush recovering from broken hip and surgery
Lydia Chavarria home hospice care
Opal Chesser (Margie Higgins mother) healing successfully from brain tumor!
Ruby Chumchall health and encouragement
Cooper Cody (Julie Cody's 6 year old son) bone cancer
Carol Curlee (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart
Ruth Easterly (Mark Easterly's grandmother) health
Mabel Emshoff recovering from shoulder replacement
Marion Freeman (Cindy Freeman's mother) health
Carolyn Fulbright (Pam Scheyer's mother) breast cancer and heart problems
Dorothea Furstenfeld health and encouragement
Frances Graves skin cancer treatment
Bobbie Harville (Faye Miller and Thelma Vincent's sister) lung cancer
Eddie & Vivian Hubbell in Belmont Village
Maye Humphrey now in Treemont
Jessica Lacy (Mary Lacy's daughter) horse-riding accident /hand reattachment
Martin Larsen cornea replacement surgery
Evelyn Lewis health and encouragement
Dan Louis recovering from knee replacement
Raymond & Martha McCallister (Heather Easterly's parents) health and encouragement
Elva McDermia health and encouragement
Irma McGee in hospital
Wendy Melchor (Kelly Melchor's sister-in-law) cancer
David Schmidt (Glenna Schmidt's son) stroke
Estella Schmidt health and encouragement
Ruth Shuman lung cancer
Dan Smith (Doug Dreher's partner) heart attack - in St. Luke's
Art Stevens (Scott Steven's father) cancer
Thelma Vincent sciatic nerve problem
Dixie Waters (friend of Glenda Owen) breast cancer
Mary Weatherly health and encouragement
Kathryn Weeks health and encouragement

March Birthdays

- 3/2 Vance Neathery
- 3/3 Aaron Corman
- 3/5 Krystle Castaneda
- 3/5 Mike Holdridge
- 3/6 Shelley Naiser
- 3/6 Alice Phillips
- 3/7 Camille Boon
- 3/7 Karen Cruse
- 3/7 Travis Dubose
- 3/11 Rachel Donnelly
- 3/12 Robert Graham
- 3/12 Michele Russell
- 3/12 Scott Stevens
- 3/13 Josephine Pflughaupt (85th)
- 3/15 Mark Easterly
- 3/15 Charles Maddux
- 3/15 Joseph Maddux
- 3/16 Lynn Pflughaupt
- 3/16 Patrick Quarles
- 3/17 Faye Miller (86th)
- 3/18 Tanya Kane
- 3/18 Marc Humphreys
- 3/18 Mary Iden (91st)
- 3/19 Ben Brewer
- 3/19 Patti Newby
- 3/19 Thelma Vincent
- 3/20 Natalie Birdwell
- 3/20 Taran "Ty" Copeland
- 3/20 Laura Houser
- 3/22 Douglas Dreher
- 3/23 Steve Ista
- 3/25 Frances Graves
- 3/27 Becky Burks
- 3/28 Heather Easterly
- 3/30 Natalie Birdwell
- 3/31 Mark Rowe

(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:

- March 9** - Ken & Suzanne Wales
- March 21** - Rick & Karen Reeves
- March 21** - Mark & Pamela Scheyer
- March 29** - Maurice & Esther Fore

**St. Mark's United
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Houston, Texas 77009**

Phone: 713-861-3104

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Children's Dev. Ctr. 713-861-4443

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Office Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 am–4:00 pm

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

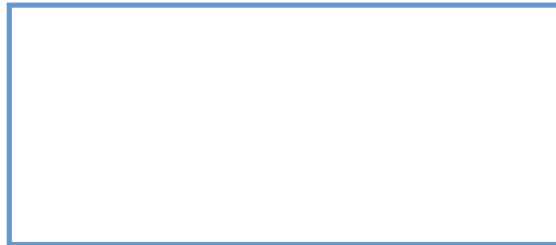
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Sunday Worship Times:

8:30 am — Worship Service

9:30 am — Sunday School

10:50 am — Traditional Worship Service



Fun Facts of Finance

Fun Facts About Finance

The figures are in for the first month of January and the news is mostly good. We received almost \$38,000 in gifts, and only spent a little over \$36,000, so we plunge into February about \$1,850 in the black. You probably don't have to be a CPA to understand that when it comes to accounting, black is a much preferable color over red. On the other hand, our giving also was almost \$600 less than where it needs to be each month if we are going to end up where we need to be at the end of the year – the only reason we are in the black is that we held expenses under what they were projected to be. That's good news on the expense side, but not something we can always count on, especially during the summer months when expenses increase with the temperature. So just as smart squirrels put nuts away to prepare for the winter, let's see if we can get a head start on our giving to prepare for the summer. Please give what you can to support the important ministries of our blessed little church. And then see if you can give a little bit more. You'll feel good about it, and God, who loves us anyway no matter what, will be a little extra tickled.

- Kevin Dubose, Church Council Chair

Choir Valentine's Banquet recap: *by Cathy Courtney*

The Choir's Annual Valentine's Banquet and Silent Auction was successful all around! Over 120 tickets were sold beforehand, and a good time was had by all. Many area businesses and church members contributed to a successful silent auction by donating gift certificates, services and products. Queen Eloise Massey & King Frank Caraway were crowned for their constancy of support to the choirs music fund. Ben Brewer videotaped the entire show for historic record and later transfer to a CD. And the best news of all is that over \$10,000.00 was raised to secure the future of the Lucille Leifeste Scholarship student singers program at St. Mark's.

