

March 12, 2010

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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New -Parents Class

A few years ago, a summer Sunday school class for "Parents of Young Children" was formed at St. Mark's. The class was a success, and most of the members of the class have remained close friends, so with the addition of several families since then, it seemed the time was right for another such class. This time the goal is more ambitious because, in addition to Sunday school



meetings, the Parents of Young Children are beginning to expand the scope of their involvement in building a community of families within the larger organization of the St. Mark's.

The class provides a forum to discuss issues common to young children and their needs, wants, attitudes and opinions – along with the similarities and differences among our children. The group also provides an atmosphere of love, support, and understanding to discuss our successes, challenges, hopes and fears as parents and our unique insights into the ways our young children influence other aspects of our lives, and the challenges we face as persons in the context of caring for our families.

In addition, the group is taking active steps to move beyond discussion, learning, and support in order to build a real sense of community among the parents, the children, and ultimately the families as a group, by planning such activities as parent mixers, camping trips, and picnics. If you are interested in the class or in any or all of these activities, please come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 Sunday morning.

Parents Mixer

Parent's with Young Children Mixer

March 26 - 6:30 - 8:30 PM
(change due to spring break)

This is an event where you can drop your child for babysitting at church (free) and join the group at different places. This month Chicago's Pizza, 1777 Airline Drive, Houston, TX 77009-3683 (713) 863-9915. Reservations required by 3/25 noon by emailing church office at office@smumc.org or calling 713.861-3104.



LENT AND HOLY WEEK

PRAYERS DURING LENT

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 31, 7:00AM

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

Kid's Point of View!

My parents went to the "Parents with young Children Mixer" last month and we had a great time too! Pizza, cookies, reading, playing dress up, all the fun toys, games and I got to play with Ms. Sharon. If you want to come to the next Parents Mixer let Melody know in the Church office before March 25 at noon so we can have enough babysitters. Babysitting is free, but parents have to pay for their meal at Chicago's Pizza, 1777 Airline Drive.





From the Pastor

In this time of Lent, we are preparing ourselves for Holy Week which begins March 28 with Palm/Passion Sunday.

We gather more often for worship in these days when Lent unfolds into the Passion of Jesus which means his death... dying becomes not the end but the beginning. The dying is real, along with the physical suffering, the betrayal, the denials by those closest to Jesus.

We walk this way with Jesus as he approaches Jerusalem. With the first disciples we wonder about his latest teachings: the greatest is the one who serves? what suffering? what dying to self? How far do we follow this Jesus?

Together we make this year's journey through the events of Holy Week, gathering for worship at 7pm Thursday, April 1, Friday, April 2 and Saturday, April 3. We share food around the table as Jesus shared a last meal with his friends. In washing each other's feet we re-enact Jesus' self-giving act. We remember in word and song and prayer the last words of Jesus before his death. And as we process into the sanctuary with the new paschal candle Saturday evening to begin the Easter Vigil we dare to believe again this paschal mystery of life, death, and resurrection.

We use the word "passion" in two ways when we speak of Jesus' last week. Jesus' passion was for the reign (or kingdom) of God. It was not about preserving his own life, whatever the cost, but of fully living his passion for the things of God, and inviting others to live God's reign. This passion led to his final Passion of suffering love and death. The powers of that day were as the powers of our day: threatened by this One who saw power not as something to be seized and exploited but to be exercised in loving service that all may live in peace and harmony, i.e. God's reign.

We follow Jesus in these last days of Lent. We decide what our passion is about, how we will use our power and our means. We follow Jesus the Christ who chose the way of suffering love and through whom we experience resurrection.

Alleluia!

Marilyn

Missional Excellence Report *by Cynthia Harve*

(from letter dated 2-18-10 from Cynthia Harve, Director of Missional Excellence, Texas Annual Conference)

I want to thank you for completing the 2009 Missional Excellence Report. I know there are many forms, numbers and information that are required in the year-end reporting process and your extra attention to this report is very much appreciated. It is important to us to collect this information about the work of missional excellence in the Annual Conference. We will tabulate the numbers and create a complete report but more importantly we will review all of the information you have sent about how you individually are making church happen through missions in your community and far away. We celebrate the work you are doing!

We will compile this information during the next few weeks and then report back to you, your districts and to the Annual Conference. Our office will also e-mail a new monthly tool for you to use to help keep track of your missions throughout the year and to make reporting easier at year's end. Thank you again for your willingness to take the extra steps to complete this report. Most importantly for you and your members, be sure to celebrate and congratulate yourselves on work well done.

In Christ,

Cynthia Fierro Harve
Director of Missional Excellence

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 14—Daylight Savings Time!

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 9:40 am New Member Class
- 10:50 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm United Methodist Women Meeting
- 5:00 pm Companions in Christ
- 5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Tuesday, March 16

- 6:30 pm Care Team

Wednesday, March 17

- 7:00 am Lenten Morning Prayers
- 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live Supper
- 6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Church Council
- 7:00 pm Yoga Class
- 7:00 pm AA Meeting
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 21

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:40 am New Member Class Church Tour
- 9:40 am Sunday School—Native American
- 10:50 am Worship Service
- 5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship
- 5:00 pm Companions in Christ

Monday, March 22—Newsletter Deadline

- 7:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, March 23

- 9:30 am Weaving Class
- 10:00 am Senior Games
- 2:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 3:30 pm Daisies
- 6:30 pm Missions Team
- 6:30 pm Worship Team

Wednesday, March 24

- 7:00 am Lenten Morning Prayers
- 10:15 am CDC Chapel
- 11:30 am Wacky Wednesday Hogg Mentoring
- 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live Supper
- 6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Communications Team
- 7:00 pm Yoga Class
- 7:00 pm AA Meeting
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 26

- 6:30 pm Family Game Night
- 6:30 pm Parent's Mixer @ Chicago Pizza

Sunday, March 28 -Palm/Passion Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 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 30

- 2:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 31

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

Thursday, April 1—Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 2—Good Friday

- 7:00 pm Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 3—Holy Saturday

- 7:00 pm Service of Light followed by Prayer Vigil

Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday

- 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service
- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 9:40 am Easter Egg Hunt
- 10:50 am Worship Service

St. Mark's Calendar
Online at smumc.org

Upper Room Daily Devotional
Online at upperroom.org



Church News

Don't Forget About US:

We are forming a new group for singles (divorced, widowed, unmarried, unpartnered). The purpose of United Singles (US) is to promote greater participation of singles in our church activities. Fellowship opportunities may include social outings, Sunday school, and Bible study groups. Contact persons are: Melinda Boon 469.766.6281 melindaboon@att.net Deidre "Dee" Scott 713.835.4834 We welcome the ideas, suggestions, and assistance of anyone who is interested.

Church-Wide Sunday School Class on Native Americans: March 21 - Sunday School- Church wide Sunday school with Native American Methodist Minister from Oklahoma. Class will attend in Fellowship Hall, however no 40 days of Love Sunday School.

Easter Egg Hunt: Attention Children!! Join St Mark's for an Easter Egg Hunt April 4. Activities begin in the fellowship hall at 9:30 am with age-appropriate crafts and 10:00 am for the hunt. There will be an area for little ones to hunt in and an area for children up to 5th grade. Children's Council and Youth are accepting donations of candy and stickers to put in the plastic eggs. Contact Leslie Ball at LBallRDH@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday Night Live: All are invited to Wednesday supper which will be served in the fellowship hall from 5:30 - 7:30pm:
3/17 - Host: Lay Leadership Team
3/24 - Host: Children's Council
3/31 - Host: No WNL—Easter Week

Camping at Jellystone Park! May 7 - 9th -Camping at Jellystone Park (tell them you are with Jacque & Danny Corman Group) Come for a the day or weekend, it is Mothers Day weekend, so no moms will cook. :) Make your own reservations, Jacque will have more info coming.

<http://www.campjellystone.com/camp-resorts-detail.php?campgroundID=76>

Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

XYZ Game Day: Senior games are Tuesday, March 23 -10:00am.

XYZ Club: Tuesday, April 13 at 10:30 am at the parsonage. Host is Marilyn Meeker-Williams.



Methodist Night at the Astros:

Looking for a good time for your whole family? Then bring them to United Methodist Night at Minute Maid Park April 23rd to watch the Astros take on the Pirates. We will have a table set up this Sunday and the next to take orders. Ages 1 - 99 are welcome! This would be a great way to show your St. Mark's pride!! Tickets are \$22.00 for field box seats. This will be an exciting game between the Astros and Pirates, plus our own Bishop Janice Riggle Huie will be throwing out the first pitch.

Church Tour The new member class will be given a tour of the church on Sunday, March 21 during the Sunday school hour beginning at 9:40 in the parlor. Anyone else who wants to go along are invited to come.



Family Game Night:

Join Us for Game Night Friday, March 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.



VBS—Save the Date!

Mark you calendar for a Galactic Blast-Off! Vacation Bible School will be June 1-4 from 6-8 pm. A family dinner will be from 5:30 to 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall each evening. Please contact Patricia Dupuy at pfdupuy@gmail.com or Leslie Ball at LBallRDH@gmail.com for volunteer opportunities.



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 28</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	98
8:30 Worship.....	38
10:50 Worship.....	94
Total Worship.....	132

<i>Attendance for Sunday, March 7</i>	
Sunday School Total.....	141
8:30 Worship.....	27
10:50 Worship.....	144
Total Worship.....	171

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
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
Marion Freeman (Cindy Freeman's mother) health
Carolyn Fulbright (Pam Scheyer's mother) breast cancer and heart problems
Dorothea Furstenfeld health and encouragement
Betty Gaustad will be moving to Marble Falls at the end of March
Frances Graves skin cancer treatment
Bobbie Harvill (Faye Miller and Thelma Vincent's sister) lung cancer
Eddie & Vivian Hubbell health and encouragement
Rick Kiley back problems and testing
Jessica Lacy (Mary Lacy's daughter) horse-riding accident /hand reattachment
Evelyn Lewis health and encouragement
Raymond & Martha McCallister (Heather Easterly's parents) health and encouragement
Elva McDermia health and encouragement
Irma McGee health and encouragement
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
Art Stevens (Scott Steven's father) cancer
Thelma Vincent healing
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
Methodist Church
600 Pecore
Houston, Texas 77009**

Phone: 713-861-3104

Fax: 713-861-2948

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

www.smumc.org

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

Pastor

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pastor@smumc.org

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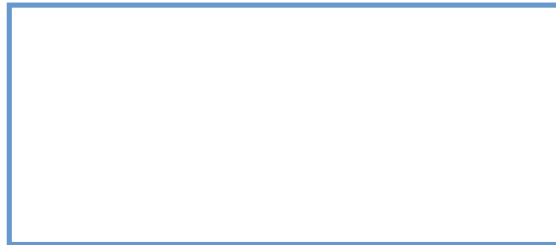
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Child Care Supervisor
Dolores Cruz

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Sunday Worship Times:

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



Children's Council

My name is Leslie Ball and I organize the Children's Council. We meet the second Tuesday of each month to plan and discuss children's activities, children's Sunday school, and the St Mark's (CDC) Children's Development Center. The big events that come from Children's Council are the Easter Egg Hunt, with the youth of St Mark's helping with the eggs, and Vacation Bible School.

We are also planning some NEW events. Those include a camping trip in May and a picnic in the summer. We are including ALL of the church in these events. Members of the Children's Council are Amber Mollhagen, Patricia Dupuy, Carole Fairfield, Jacque Corman, Mandy Thomas, Scarlett Lewis, and Dianne Lurix. I don't stop there, though. I consider ALL families with young children to be part of the Children's Council. I encourage all of you to attend a meeting or contact any Children's Council member or me if you have an idea for an activity or a path for the children of St Mark's to take. I can be reached at LBallRDH@gmail.com or 281-660-1038.



Easter Lily Order Form

Its time once again for the St. Mark's tradition to place Easter Lilies in the altar area in honor or in memory of loved ones. The lilies are \$10 per plant and will be in place for the Easter services.

There is no limit to the amount you can order. Please fill out this form, attach your payment and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. The last day to order is March 28.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

I wish to order _____ # of Lilies @ \$10.00 each. Amount enclosed \$: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____