

June 11, 2010

Window Into St. Mark's



## St. Mark's 2010 Graduates *(continued from last issue)*

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Claire Nalley, daughter of Kevin and Mary Nalley graduated from Waltrip High School. She plays tennis and was active school plays, and hopes to continue doing theatre. Claire will be attending Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, majoring in physical therapy.



Andy Thomas, son of Neil and Kris Thomas graduated from St Pius X High School. He is an Eagle Scout, and played baseball and rugby at St. Pius. Andy will attend Trinity University in San Antonio.

## VBS Was a Blast!

### Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School

Another successful VBS closed with a re-cap in church and a final VBS session in children's church on Sunday, June 6. The theme was Galactic Blast and all of the kids had just that-a blast! There were 98 children registered by Friday, June 4. Each night we served approximately 150 people at dinner. There were lots of satisfied kids and parents each night. We reached out and really touched the community!

Many thanks go out to youth members Marc Humphreys, Aurel Ferguson, Caileigh Buchanan, John and Kevin Thomas for helping with kids every night. Thank you to Rami Rodriguez for handling the kindergartners. Thanks also to John Dupuy, Jeff Mollhagen, Patria Wortham, Patria's friend, and Dianne Lurix for stepping in and taking around groups of kids. Thanks also to Michelle Russell and Dee Scott in Crafts, Ben and Michael Brewer in Science, Danny Corman, Mike Palladino, and Natalie Birdwell in Recreation, Carole Fairfield and Janet Allen in Storytelling, Beth York and Pam Roche in Snacks, and Rose Brewer, Lisa Martinson, Jacque Corman and Amber Mollhagen in Pre-School. Many, many thanks to each person who cooked food, made desserts, served children and adults, and cleaned up afterwards. The food was great each night and everything came out without a hitch!

A special big thank you goes to Scarlett Lewis for playing the commander and to Ben Allen for being the puppet Galileo. They both did such a super job!

If we have forgotten anyone, please forgive us and know that you are thanked from the bottom of our hearts. We could not have done all of this without all of the financial help, physical help, and prayers.

Many Blessings to you all,

Leslie Ball and Patricia Dupuy



Special thanks to Ian Thomas for pictures during VBS and the presentation Sunday, June 6."

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Window Into St. Mark's



## From the Pastor - "Joy in July"

How about some Joy in July?

The people of St. Mark's are invited to set aside July, 2010, as a month for stepping out of our usual ministry roles and celebrating the joy we share as brothers and sisters in Christ. Leaders are encouraged to claim July as Sabbath time, a break from the usual monthly ministry meetings for the sake of coming together for special times of celebration and fellowship with members and friends of St. Mark's.

Recommended by Staff Parish Relations ministry and approved by Church Council, Joy in July begins Sunday, July 4th, immediately after worship with a Patriotic Pot Luck and Sing-a-Long in the fellowship hall. We will sing all our favorites that honor our country, remembering and giving thanks for our 1776 Declaration of Independence, and for those who have sacrificed their years, even their lives, for the freedom we enjoy. We will conclude our singing with "This Is My Song," sung to God of all the nations, God who desires that all may live in the peace that comes from living with justice and ENOUGH.

Sabbath time...what does it mean? And how will we know if/when we find it? Donna Schaper claims that we have lost the sense of Sabbath time in our need to do more and more, faster and faster, at home, at work, and yes, even at church. She claims, "When we lost Sabbath, we lost the sacredness of time." Eve-

rything becomes work and obligation, even family gatherings or ministry meetings. "Since Sabbath is no longer clearly defined by society's or religion's rules, Sabbath is a discipline we have to make and do ourselves." It helps to remember that Sabbath comes from the word "to separate," as in sabbatical where scholars still separate "teaching time" from "study time." (That is why last October was Spiritual Renewal Leave, not Sabbatical for our pastor, Marilyn.) As Sabbath is being redefined it is not easy to grasp its meaning. It means various things at various times. These suggestions may help:

- Sabbath is the separation of time into different parts, neither rest nor labor but the separation.
- Sabbath is a time to let go of the past, to receive a blessing, to be reminded that it is possible to go on.
- Sabbath is a time of being rather than doing.
- Sabbath is a time of turning not-enough-time into ENOUGH.

If Sabbath is often related to a time of decluttering, the people of St. Mark's are already on our way, led by the Trustees and other organizers who have cleaned out the attic, the area behind the stage, and countless other areas in our church facilities. We are thankful. Be looking for details of the other 3 weekly celebrations during Joy in July.

In Joy,  
Kevin Dubose, Church Council Chair  
Janet Allen, Staff Parish Relations Chair  
Marilyn Meeker-Williams, Pastor

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, June 13

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 10:50 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm UMW Meeting
- 3:00 pm Club NBtween
- 4:00 pm Hospitality Team Meeting
- 4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 5:00 pm Companions in Christ
- Youth go to Lakeview Church Camp

### Tuesday, June 15

- 9:30 am Weaving Class
- 2:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 6:30 pm Care Team
- 6:30 pm Worship Team
- 7:30 pm CDC Board Meeting

### Wednesday, June 16

- 10:15 am CDC chapel
- 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live Supper
- 6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 am Church Council
- 7:00 pm Yoga Class
- 7:00 pm AA Meeting
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, June 18

- 6:30 pm Parent's Mixer at Pronto Cucinino

### Sunday, June 20—Father's Day

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 10:50 am Worship Service
- 5:00 pm Companions in Christ

### Monday, June 21—Newsletter Deadline

### Tuesday, June 22

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

### Wednesday, June 23

- 10:15 am CDC Chapel
- 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

### Saturday, June 26

- 12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting
- 4:30 pm Family Picnic

### Sunday, June 27

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 10:50 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm United Singles Pot Luck Luncheon
- 3:00 pm Club NBtween
- 5:00 pm Companions in Christ
- 5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

### Tuesday, June 29

- 9:30 am Weaving Class

### Wednesday, June 30

- 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

### Sunday, July 4—Peace with Justice Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 10:50 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm Patriotic Pot Luck Luncheon
- 5:00 pm Companions in Christ

### Monday, July 5—Newsletter Deadline

- Office Closed
- 6:30 pm Adult Ministry Team

St. Mark's Calendar  
Online at [smumc.org](http://smumc.org)

Upper Room Daily Devotional  
Online at [upperroom.org](http://upperroom.org)

## HIM Food Pantry News by Diana Van Duzer



Since the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry opened June 25th of last year through the end of May this year we have given out 2821 grocery orders, benefiting 11,173 men, women and children. It has taken many volunteers many hours to interview and fill orders, many others have provided generous donations, Kroger has given hundreds of pounds of breadstuffs and the St. Mark's garden has donated lots of great produce. St. Mark's has helped this ministry to become a special place of service and caring in our community, as we have all pulled together to become neighbors helping neighbors.

We look forward to a second year of ministry, as we expand our services now to a home delivery service to assist homebound elderly and disabled in the Heights. We are also partnered with the Houston Food Bank to provide food backpacks to low income students at Travis Elementary so the students will have extra food for the weekend.

Additionally, staff from the Food Bank have used are facility to help enroll eligible

clients for the Federal Food Stamp program. What a great first year! We encouraged our member congregations to assist in gathering canned goods at their Vacation Bible School programs, and St. Mark's made a most appreciated contribution.

Our first Rummage Sale is set for June 18th and 19th. Mark your calendars, clean out cupboards and closets and bring donations to the pantry on Thursdays 5-7 pm and Saturdays 10-12, then come join us to volunteer, shop, or both! The sale will be held from 9-2 pm on Friday the 18th and Saturday the 19th in the covered area of the parking lot, and we need any of you who can come help for whatever time you can give. Help us make this a really good fundraiser for the pantry. Jennifer Moffat is coordinating and organizing the sale.

We continue to look for volunteers with trucks for picking-up donations at the Food Bank and bread from Kroger's, so please spread the word and help the pantry to find more volunteers, especially for the summertime. You can reply to me or pass on my e-mail, or contact Jan Terry, Volunteer Coordinator at [jfterry4919@yahoo.com](mailto:jfterry4919@yahoo.com).



# Church News

**Parents Mixer :** June 18, 2010 • Friday • 6:30 – 9:00pm  
Ready for some uninterrupted conversation with other adults? Join us for dinner at Pronto Cucinino, 1401 Montrose, drop off your children for free child care at St. Mark's. Reservations required - call 713.861.3104 or email [office@smumc.org](mailto:office@smumc.org).

## Adult Sunday School Class - Boundaries With Kids, How Healthy Choices

**Grow Healthy Children:** Parents of Young Children Class • 9:40 – 10:30am • Room 108—Join this fun group as we explore, discuss and learn what it means to live as Christian family. Our study currently is "Boundaries with Kids, how healthy choices grow healthy children" the book by Dr. Henry Cloud & John Townsend. No preparation required.

## Jim Wallis of Sojourners writes, "We Must Respond to the Needs of the Gulf Coast":

<http://blog.sojo.net/2010/06/10/we-must-respond-to-the-needs-of-the-gulf-coast/>

## Member Receives Hogg Mentor Award:

Hogg Middle School has recognized St. Mark's member Steve Phillips with an outstanding mentorship award for 2010 for his work in mentoring in the robotics department.



**Wednesday Night Live:** All are invited to Wednesday supper which will be served in the fellowship hall from 5:30 - 7:00pm:

- 6/16 - HOST: Parent's With Young Children Class
- 6/23 - HOST: Hospitality Ministry Team
- 6/30 - HOST: New Traditions Class

## Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

**XYZ Club:** XYZ will meet at the Olive Garden for lunch at 11:00 on Tuesday, July 13th. If you are driving yourself, the restaurant is located at 10830 Northwest Freeway. Take the Mangum/Dacoma exit from 290. Olive Garden is a half mile up on the right. If you would like to carpool meet at the church at 10:45.

**XYZ Game Day:** Senior games are Tuesday, June 22 and July 27 -10:00am.

**Fun family time! Family Picnic:** June 26, 2010 • Saturday • 4:30pm - dusk • St. Mark's—Saturday afternoon potluck, bring your lawn chairs and blankets, we will provide tea and lemonade. Bring a friend!

**US—United Singles,** are having a Potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 27th following the 10:50 service. All singles are welcome to attend.

**Note from Estella Schmidt:** Why would I think you would be interested in my condition? Because I know St. Mark's which has been my church home since 1943 where each member is "precious in His sight." My long-lasting, sedentary, inactive life has come to a halt. A tumor has to be removed surgically. My first impulse was to reject all treatment but the wonderful doctors who my son acquired for me said that is no option for me — the need to lessen the results is there. Any sympathy you have for me direct to Julie Cody's young son who is enduring a struggle at a fraction of my 97 year life span. Thank you for your continuing interest and friendship — Estella Schmidt.

**Evensong:** Thursday, June 17, 7 p.m., St. Paul's UMC, Sanctuary, 5501 Main at Binz/Bissonnet, Houston, 77004, Anna Teagarden, 713-446-3428; 713-528-0527, [anateagarden@msn.com](mailto:anateagarden@msn.com). The Royal School of Church Music-America (RSCM-A) Gulf Coast Course culminates the week-long course for girl vocalists.

## Attendance Record:

*Attendance for Sunday, May 30*

Sunday School Total.....	80
8:30 Worship.....	39
10:50 Worship.....	101
Total Worship.....	140

*Attendance for Sunday, June 6*

Sunday School Total.....	100
8:30 Worship.....	28
10:50 Worship.....	125
Total Worship.....	153

## Join Yahoo E-Mail group:

To add your e-mail address go to: [groups.yahoo.com/group/stmarksumchouston/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stmarksumchouston/)

 **Follow St Mark's on Twitter:**  
[http://twitter.com/SMUMC\\_Houston](http://twitter.com/SMUMC_Houston)

## Prayer Needs

- Our president, leaders, and servicemen and women**  
**Stacy Alexander** (friend of Glenda Owen) breast cancer  
**Jenna Binger** (Jamie Block's niece) father died  
**Jacque Bommer** (Charlotte Campbell's friend) pancreatic cancer  
**Avery Brown** (Leslie Ball's niece) deploying to Iraq  
**Leta Bush** recovering from broken hip and surgery  
**Frank Caraway** health and encouragement  
**Lydia Chavarria** home hospice care  
**Ruby Chumchall** health and encouragement  
**Cooper Cody** (Julie Cody's 7 year old son) in hospice care for spreading lung tumor  
**Carol Curlee** (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart and health  
**Ruth Easterly** (Mark Easterly's grandmother) health  
**Steve Fairfield** recovering from colon cancer surgery  
**Carolyn Fulbright** (Pam Scheyer's mother) breast cancer and heart problems  
**Dorothea Furstenfeld** health and encouragement  
**Ruth Gilpin** in rehab hospital - Healthsouth  
**Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons** in Nicaragua with AMIGOS de las Americas - 08/18  
**Eddie Hubbell** in St. Luke's hospital, recovering from fall/hip replacement surgery  
**Rick Kiley** back problems  
**Jessica Lacy** (Mary Lacy's daughter) horse-riding accident /hand reattachment  
**Evelyn Lewis** health and encouragement  
**Raymond & Martha McCallister** (Heather Easterly's parents) health  
**Elva McDermia** health and encouragement  
**Irma McGee** health and encouragement  
**Wendy Melchor** (Kelly Melchor's sister-in-law) cancer  
**Dr. Lacoste Munn** (Carol Munn's father) blocked artery  
**Becky Pope** (Becky Burks' friend) recurrence of ovarian cancer.  
**Estella Schmidt** home recovering from gastric surgery  
**Peter Sefeldt** (Carol Munn's nephew) recovering from brain injury suffered in Iraq  
**Ruth Shuman** lung cancer  
**Andrew Sisler** (Natalie Birdwell's boyfriend) deployed to Afghanistan - Air Force  
**Art Stevens** (Scott Steven's father) cancer  
**David & Dixie Waters** (friends of Glenda Owen) health and encouragement  
**Mary Weatherly** recovering from infection

## June Birthdays

- 6/4 Mark Suhler
- 6/6 Camden Graham
- 6/7 Abigail Harrison
- 6/8 Jane Ista
- 6/8 Rachel Zwiebel
- 6/9 Scarlett Lewis
- 6/11 James Ownbey
- 6/12 Marilyn Meeker-Williams
- 6/14 John Boon
- 6/14 Ancel Nunn
- 6/14 George Russell
- 6/15 Hayes Batterson
- 6/15 John Casey
- 6/15 Steve Trahan
- 6/16 Jimmie Louise Decker (86th)
- 6/16 Olivia Youngdahl
- 6/19 Patrick Humphreys
- 6/20 Christina Hattenbach
- 6/20 Sean Hattenbach
- 6/22 Katie Coleman
- 6/22 John Thomas
- 6/24 Vivian Hubbell (89th)
- 6/24 Caine Taylor
- 6/24 Sid Traylor
- 6/26 Patria Burks
- 6/28 Robert Morris
- 6/28 Naomi Radford
- 6/29 Heather Greenspan
- 6/30 Clare Coleman

(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:

- June 01 — Jim & Dorothy Moffatt
- June 12 — Thane & Nicole Wyman
- June 21 — Pat & Margie Higgins
- June 22 — Malcolm & Jennifer Davis
- June 22 — Robert & Amy Morris
- June 22 — Roger & Diana Van Duzer
- June 24 — John & Patricia Dupuy
- June 26 — Kevin Dubose & Glenda Owen

**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**

Reverend Marilyn Meeker-Williams  
pastor@smumc.org

**Director of Music Ministries**  
Eric Esparza

**Organist**  
William C. West

**Administrative Assistant**  
K. Melody Olivares  
office@smumc.org

**Financial Secretary**  
Betty Green  
financial@smumc.org

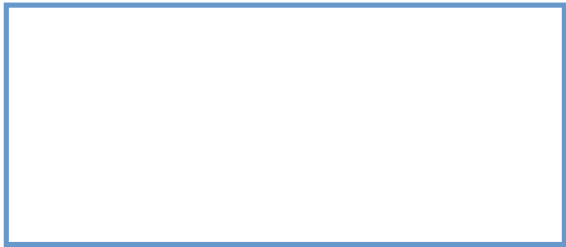
**Director of Children's and Youth Ministries**  
Scarlett Lewis  
youth@smumc.org

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

**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



**Patriotic Pot Luck  
And Sing Along  
Sunday, July 4th  
Around Noon  
(after the late service)**

**Bring enough of your favorite summertime dish to share and help celebrate**

**July 4th with a Sing Along of favorite tunes. Hospitality will provide Tea and Lemonade.**

**Church Security**

**Lock-em up Danno,**

It is time once again for the periodic reminder about locking up the church when you leave. We have had some incidents recently that are making the staff quite nervous.



The ideas are pretty simple. If you unlocked the door, lock it back when you are done. If you are the last to leave, make sure the doors are locked and that the a/c's are turned off. The execution is the hard part. You have to remember the simple ideas and just do it. Don't assume someone else will do it.

Picture in your mind Melody (or insert your favorite staff member's name) in the building all alone when some vagrant or criminal element wanders in through an unlocked side door that you forgot to lock when you left. That should inspire you to lock-em up.

Yours in a lock-em up fog,

Vance

**Entry Form: July Annual Hymn-Fest**

The church choir goes on summer vacation soon and we will be singing your favorite hymns during Worship in the month of July. Please complete the form below and bring it or mail it to the church. Each person can choose one hymn, so list your favorite!

List a Hymn title, first line, or verse of the chorus (what ever you can remember):

Hymn : \_\_\_\_\_

My name: \_\_\_\_\_