

July 30, 2010

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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HIM Food Pantry Needs *by Dave Humphreys*

The summer is a difficult time for the Houston Food Bank (HFB) for receiving the large quantities of food donations which in turn it supplies to its member agencies like our Heights Interfaith Ministries (HIM), Grace UMC, and All Saints food pantries. This year appears as difficult if not more so than prior years. For our weekly pickup at the HFB this morning, the HIM food pantry received very little of its order; and the HIM food pantry is in need of food donations from other sources.

This low supply of food at the HFB may continue indefinitely, possibly into the autumn months. I urge every one of us to pull together to help the HIM and other area pantries through this problem. I humbly ask each of us to donate items to the pantries until each of us feel satisfied" that we have answered God's call. Please consider being faithful continuously week after week until this problem is resolved.

The list of items needed is below. If you donate non-perishable items, you may leave them at the churches or bring them to the pantry. The address and times of operations are:

HIM food pantry at 3523 Beauchamp is open Thursday evenings from 5 pm to 7 pm and Saturday mornings from 10 am to noon. If you donate a large quantity or perishable items (like milk), please call Alice Bongers at 713-447-7624 or me to arrange a time for delivery.

Grace UMC food pantry at 1245 Heights Blvd is open Thursday afternoons around 2 pm to 3 pm. If you donate a large quantity or perishable items (like milk), please call the church at 713-862-8883 for delivery.

All Saints food pantry at 201 E. 10th Street is open Monday through Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon. If you donate a large quantity or perishable items (like milk), please call the church at 713.864.2653 for delivery.

Also, you can eat out at specific restaurants to benefit the Houston Food Bank: if you eat dinner out between August 1 and August 21st -- just dine at over a hundred fine restaurants listed at <http://www.houstonrestaurantweek.com>.

Thanks to everyone who supports the mission of the food pantries making it a truly successful ministry in our community for our community!



The HIM Pantry is in Need of:

peanut butter
jelly
milk
can soup
can beans
spaghetti sauce
tomato sauce
diapers size 3 and 5
bath soap
shampoo
laundry soap

Houston Lay School of Theology



Perkins Houston Lay School of Theology

Saturday, August 14, 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

St. Paul's UMC, 5501 Main, Houston

Corky Fowler, 713-774-4262, dcfowler@sbcglobal.net.

Cost: \$49 register on-line: www.smu.edu/perkins/publicprograms ;

\$55 advance registration; \$65 at door; includes lunch and snacks.

Questions with on line registration: 214-768-8446.

Longing for Enough in a Culture of More

Paul Escamilla

Associate Director, Public Affairs

Adjunct Professor of Preaching

John Updike once observed that Americans have a difficult time achieving a sense of enough. How do we find our way to such a place of contentment? Not pointing a finger, but parting a curtain, we will explore the possibilities of living faithfully, joyfully, and sufficiently as God's people.

Suggested Reading: *Longing for Enough in a Culture of More* by Paul Escamilla.

Paul L. Escamilla is an ordained elder in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, and served churches in the Dallas area for over twenty years before being appointed to Perkins in the summer of 2008. He is a graduate of Candler School of Theology, Emory University. His most recent publication is *Longing for Enough in a Culture of More. True When Whispered; Hearing God's Voice in a Noisy World* is due for publication in 2010.



From the Pastor

Growing and Bearing Fruit

In the plantings on the west side of the parsonage, I notice 2 things this morning. The greenest, hardiest, most flourishing plant is one we did not put in. It appeared in early June, a few days after we planted a rare passion flower against the wood fence. We anticipated the sight of its lavender flowers blooming along the fence, perfuming the air, and bringing beauty to our back yard. Not so. The green, hardy, flourishing plant quickly overtook the delicate passion flower, and we haven't yet seen a purple flower. In fact, we've only seen one thin green vine struggling through the lush growth of this other plant that "grows like a weed," as my mother often quoted. It now covers 10 feet of fence and is taking over the trellis David created for the vining passion flowers.

This plant we didn't plant is actually a tomato plant. We quickly recognized it as such and supposed it was a volunteer from some past year, although we don't remember planting tomatoes in that spot. Furthermore, it produces beautiful foliage but very few of the tiny tomatoes which are sweet and delicious. I stopped to check for tomatoes last evening after we returned from ten days away and that area by the fence still looked very green, healthy and bigger than ever. My brief examination revealed 2 tiny red tomatoes, an orange one, and half a dozen green ones. Judging by its size, there should have been dozens! It is beautiful, increases in size exponentially and is now threatening my David Austen rose bush, but it yields

very little fruit, which is its main function. It's difficult to think of chopping it out and digging up the roots. It is taking over the perennials and everything it comes near.

Now for the second thing I noticed this morning: There has been a patch of dirt close to the house on the west side that we haven't planted this year. It was a matter of time and energy and we chose to nurture the tiny starts from the plumeria that died after the hard freezes this past winter. I noticed some little plants beginning a few weeks ago and almost pulled them out before I recognized them as Vinca, that heat and drought tolerant flower that thrives when others wilt and die. This morning I see they have spread to nearly cover that open space, their pink flowers adding beautiful color amidst the green gardenia on one side and azaleas and healthy plumeria on the other. They beautifully fill in the spot where there was nothing but dirt.

We don't expect anything of them other than the beauty they provide. No fruit, no vining, nothing other than the simple, ubiquitous flower of the Vinca.

Joy in July is past. After rest from the usual meetings we begin again the work of ministry. We decide how we will live and work together as witnesses to God's love and grace through service and sacrifice, following the way of Jesus. How will we continue to live faithfully, bearing fruit as devoted disciples of Jesus Christ?

In Love and Service,
Marilyn



Partners In Mission trip to Nome Alaska

Ben and Rose Brewer and Methodist's from three states (New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado) went on a missions trip to Nome Alaska to work on a fish camp at Community UMC to paint, repair and rebuild the camp to be a place where local youth can pursue faith and cultural activities.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 1

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
3:00 pm Club NBetween
4:00 pm Youth Council Meeting
5:00 pm Companions in Christ
5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Monday, August 2

6:30 pm Adult Ministry Team

Tuesday, August 3

9:30 am Weaving Class
2:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, August 4

10:15 am CDC Chapel
6:30 pm Trustees
7:00 pm AA Meeting

Saturday, August 7

Tweens Mission Activity
10:00 am Travis Elementary PTA Board
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, August 8

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
3:00 pm Club NBetween
4:00 pm Hospitality Team Meeting
5:00 pm Companions in Christ
5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Monday, August 9 — Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, August 10

9:30 am Weaving Class
10:30 am XYZ Club
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:15 pm Children's Council
6:30 pm SPR Team Meeting

Wednesday, August 11

10:15 am CDC Chapel
6:30 pm Finance Team
7:00 pm AA Meeting

August 12—15th—Youth Mystery Trip

Saturday, August 14

12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, August 15

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
3:00 pm TLC Chamber Chorus Concert
3:00 pm Club NBetween
5:00 pm Companions in Christ
5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Tuesday, August 17

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, August 18

Youth Week
7:00 pm Yoga Class
7:00 pm AA Meeting

Friday, August 20

Youth Week

Saturday, August 21

Youth Week
12:00 pm Women's AA Meeting

Sunday, August 22—Youth Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service
9:40 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship Service
3:00 pm Club NBetween
5:00 pm Companions in Christ
5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Monday, August 23—1st day of school HISD

St. Mark's Calendar
Online at smumc.org

Upper Room Daily Devotional
Online at upperroom.org



Church News

611 Redan Property: At the August meeting the Board of Trustees will be making a decision on the future use of the 611 Redan property. We already have a request from the community garden team for more space to grow more food to feed the hungry. There has also been some discussion of creating a contemplative outdoor landscape area, something like a prayer labyrinth. And in fact those two proposals could be integrated together. We are also keeping in mind our intention to beautify the southern part of the church campus. If you have any input that you would like to share with the board feel free to contact any of the members by August 4th— Melissa Taylor, Mark Easterly, Doug Dreher, Andy Ista, Mary Beth Carnathan, Sharon Sawallisch, Mike Palladino, or me.

Yours in a decision making fog,
Vance

Wednesday Night Live:

WNL resumes on Wednesday, August 18 and will be hosted by the New Traditions class. Dinners are from 5:30—7:00 pm in the fellowship hall, all are invited.



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

Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

XYZ Club: The August XYZ meeting is on Tuesday, August 10th at 10:30 and will feature Candy Bingo. We'll play bingo with choice of candy for the winner. The centerpieces will also be used as prizes. The menu includes pizza and salad with ice cream for dessert.

XYZ Game Day: Senior games are Tuesday, August 24 –10:00am.

HIM Meal Delivery Ministry: This new ministry will deliver frozen meals to anyone in our area (regardless of income) who may be homebound, living alone with limited support or not able to cook well for themselves. We need volunteers to work in pairs to deliver at least twice a month to recipients with a TX driver's license, auto insurance and a commitment to serve others with consistency. If you are interested in this mission, even more importantly, if you or someone you know would like to receive these meals and the accompanying fellowship, please call Jennifer Moffet or Diana Van Duzer. A donation of \$2.00 per meal is requested, not required.

Thank You from Mary Weatherly: Dear St. Mark's family there are not words to express how much your love and prayers mean to me. You are truly a blessing. God loves you and I do to!

Honorariums and Memorials: A donation to the food pantry given by Mary Iden in honor of Estella Schmidt. A memorial to the choir fund given by David and Helen Elkins in memory of Ethel White.

Financial Report for June 10

Received in June \$28,738 (74.58%)
Monthly Budget \$38,533

Deficit for June (\$9,795)

Accum. Rcvd. to Date \$210,058 (90.86%)
Accumulated Budget to Date \$231,199

Deficit for 2010 (\$21,141)

Designated Funds Received in June \$1,391
Designated Funds Received YTD \$23,050

Attendance Record:

Attendance for Sunday, July 18

Sunday School Total.....	88
8:30 Worship.....	27
10:50 Worship.....	103
Total Worship.....	130

Attendance for Sunday, July 25

Sunday School Total.....	88
8:30 Worship.....	25
10:50 Worship.....	104
Total Worship.....	129

Join Yahoo E-Mail group:

To add your e-mail address go to:
groups.yahoo.com/group/stmarksumchouston/

Follow St Mark's on Twitter:
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
Avery Brown (Leslie Ball's niece) deploying to Iraq
Leta Bush recovering from broken hip and surgery
Frank Caraway health and encouragement
Ruby Chumchall health and encouragement
Scott & Julie Cody family 7 yr old son Cooper died of cancer
Carol Curlee (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart and health
Ruth Easterly (Mark Easterly's grandmother) health
Carolyn Fulbright (Pam Scheyer's mother) breast cancer and heart problems
Dorothea Furstenfeld health and encouragement
Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons In Nicaragua with AMIGOS de las Americas – 08/18
Earl Hammond (Pat Hammonds father) bladder cancer
Eddie Hubbell recovering from fall/hip replacement surgery
Fred Huebner cancer
Jessica Lacy (Mary Lacy's daughter) horse-riding accident
Martin Larsen health and encouragement
Evelyn Lewis health and encouragement
Raymond & Martha McCallister (Heather'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
David Newman kidney removal surgery, kidney cancer
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 at Heartland Rehabilitation

August Birthdays

- 8/1** Dawn Avery
- 8/1** Rick Reeves
- 8/1** Hazel Smith
- 8/3** Charles Vasquez
- 8/4** Ginny Derby
- 8/4** Milton Waghalter
- 8/4** Suzanne Wales
- 8/5** Jessamine Sullivan
- 8/6** Dorothea Furstenfeld (93rd)
- 8/6** David Gossett
- 8/8** Mary Beth Carnathan
- 8/9** Maye Humphrey (94th)
- 8/9** Carole Martin
- 8/11** Leonard Mahaffey (86th)
- 8/13** Seeley Casey
- 8/13** Amy Stevens
- 8/13** Kevin Thomas
- 8/14** Madeline Markey
- 8/14** Paul Nalley
- 8/15** Pat Hammond
- 8/15** Charli Merchant
- 8/17** Janet Allen
- 8/17** Charlotte Campbell
- 8/18** Kyna Batterson
- 8/18** Patti Kiley
- 8/18** Katelyn Melcher
- 8/18** Chris Webb
- 8/19** Rose Brewer
- 8/19** Rita Ferguson
- 8/19** Catherine Neathery
- 8/19** Karen Reeves
- 8/19** Albert Traylor
- 8/20** Susan Patterson
- 8/21** Ruth Froehner (95th)
- 8/22** Dorothy Evans
- 8/22** Vee Noblitt
- 8/23** Louis Corman
- 8/23** Tom Tallman
- 8/23** Andy Thomas
- 8/24** Lauren Campbell
- 8/27** Mark Scheyer
- 8/28** Glenna Schmidt
- 8/30** Howard Bonning
- 8/30** Christa Traylor
- 8/31** Marcus Greenspan
- 8/31** Eleanor Kane

(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:

- August 2** — Gary & Mary Morris
- August 6** — Vance & Charlsie Neathery
- August 13** — Matt & Nicole Hobson
- August 22** — Aley & Kitty Newton (62nd)
- August 24** — David & Gail Newman

**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

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Child Care Supervisor

Dolores Cruz

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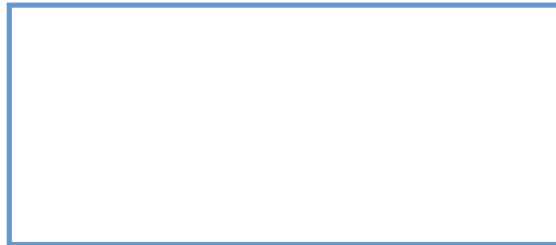
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Sunday Worship Times:

8:30 am — Worship Service

9:30 am — Sunday School

10:50 am — Traditional Worship Service



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry is pictured here, you can see a circle of shawls stretched out between us as we prayed for God's blessings for five shawls. Included are: Alice Phillips, Gerry Gossett, Jane Ista, Penny Chappell, and Juli Gossett. We have decided to skip the month of August and resume meeting in September. In the meantime, if anyone would like to get together to bless a shawl, or just knit for fellowship, please just let me know and we can have an impromptu meeting.— Juli Gossett



United Methodist Women



Our St. Mark's UMW is cooking up some great plans for the remainder of 2010!! We will take August off and in September will have Cooking Classes every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. Cindy Freeman is setting this up and will give out more information as it firms up. The cooking classes will cost \$20 per night, per person, with discounts for multiple people from the same family. All the money we raise will be given to the UMCOR fund for Haiti.

The same month, on September 8th, the UMW will be preparing the food for Wednesday Night Live, and will host a Panel discussion about "Who does what for whom in the Heights?". The hope is that we can bring in members of the community and our church to find out what organizations (like Heights Interfaith Ministries, Wesley Community Center, and others) are providing what services in the Heights greater area (near downtown). Who knows, you might find exactly the group you've been wanting to support!! The UMW will provide the food and any donations made that night for the dinner will go to the ministries that have come to provide the program. We need everyone in the Church to come, to invite guests, and to support our local ministries. So, come and join us.

Rose Brewer

Chamber Chorus Concert, August 15

Sunday, August 15—3:00 pm
the TLC Chamber Chorus presents

Shout Shout: A Tribute to America's Choral Composers

a concert highlighting great works by America's own composers.

The TLC Chamber Chorus is made up of 36 singers from various backgrounds, ages, and schools who have volunteered their time to make music while home for the summer. The concert showcases various works ranging from hymns, folk tunes, spirituals, as well as new works. Some of the composers to be highlighted are Moses Hogan, Morten Lauridsen, Craig Hella Johnson, Eric Whitacre, and several others.