

August 27, 2010

Window Into St. Mark's



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Window Into St. Mark's

## Fall 2010-An Opportunity to Share God's Blessings by Kevin Dubose

In a few weeks we will embark upon an exciting adventure in stewardship, as we move toward making possible three significant and long overdue upgrades to our campus: (1) renovations to our Children's Building; (2) modifications and improvements to our drainage system; and (3) redesign, resurfacing, and beautification of our parking lot. These goals are the product of years of study and assessment. In 2008, the trustees hired an engineering firm to perform a Property Condition Assessment to determine long and short term needs for repair and improvement. Then, a Task Force of the Church Council was asked to review the entire campus and identify and prioritize our needs. The Trustees reviewed the Task Force Report and obtained bids. The Finance Committee and Church Council

have approved bundling together these three urgent needs and going forward with a Capital Campaign. We have interviewed consultants and reached a strong consensus to hire Steve Spangler with Cargill Associates, one of the oldest, highest regarded, and most successful consulting firms for church capital campaigns. He has assured us that if we do this right, we can raise 2½ times our annual budget – which is more than we need for the projects we have targeted. So we can do this! But the task will require the leadership and participation of most of the congregation. Stand by for more information on how you can serve in this important effort to restore our campus for worship and witness for the renewal of all God's people.

## Greeter Team Members Needed

Hebrews 13.2: *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

First impressions are lasting ones. People make up their minds about our church within the first ten minutes of contact. Long before the preacher preaches, people most often will have decided if they plan to return. These ideas and definitions may help your church make a life-changing impression on those who are new to your congregation.

Greeters make every guest in God's house feel welcome and appreciated. They are the front line for welcoming God's guests. Please pick a service & a Sunday that you will commit to being a greeter. The first training will be offered 9/1/2010 at 6:30 in the Parlor, another training will be offered based on response. Please fill out the form below and leave in the office or register online at

[www.smumc.org/greeter](http://www.smumc.org/greeter)

Yes, I want to welcome people to God's house!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick the Worship Service:

First Service – 8:10 - 8:45 or

Second Service - 10:30 – 11:05

Please sign up for one Sunday a month:

First Sunday Team;  Second Sunday Team

Third Sunday Team;  Fourth Sunday Team

Fifth Sunday (about 4x year);

Use me as needed

## Disciple: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study

If you have never read the Bible but have felt a nudge to pick it up and read it, DISCIPLE is the course for you. DISCIPLE offers you enough broad knowledge of the Bible to whet your appetite to delve more deeply into God's Word. If you are looking for a way to learn how to respond to God's calling, but are not confident of your bible knowledge, this is the class for you!

Each participant (disciple) reads large portions of scripture each week and carefully studies in preparation for the weekly Disciple group session. During the course of thirty-four weeks, you will move through the biblical stories from Creation to Revelation. The principal Scripture for each session follows the chronological movement of the biblical story. Groups will be forming in the Fall for Disciple Bible Study. Please fill out the form below and leave in the office or email to: [office@smumc.org](mailto:office@smumc.org).

Yes, I am interested in Disciple Bible Study!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the times that work for your schedule:

Daytime (circle all that work for you)

9-11AM or 10-12AM M T W Th F

Sunday Evenings 5-7PM

(babysitting provided)

Wednesday Evenings 6:30-8:30PM

(babysitting provided)

Sunday Mornings 9:30 - 10:30

(would require 68 weeks)

Sunday Mornings 8:30 - 10:30

Sunday Mornings 9:30 - 11:30



## From the Pastor

On the first page of this newsletter Kevin Dubose introduces our fall stewardship emphasis which includes a Capital Campaign. As it unfolds in the coming weeks through the selection of leaders, calendaring of events and choosing a campaign name, we will be invited to “give ourselves away” in order to become a more effective center of loving and serving in the name of Jesus Christ.

It all begins with prayer. Growing spiritually is central to a Capital Campaign. We are invited to turn from our usual “dailiness” to focus more fully on growing in faith - both as persons committed to living the way of Jesus and as the community of the faithful at St. Mark’s UMC. We who are faithful in many acts of love and service are encouraged to grow beyond our current commitments to Christ and the church to new lives of faithfulness. All this flows from gratitude, from the alleluias we sing and live:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
(United Methodist Hymnal #94)*

Our Capital Campaign will call us to a new awareness of the ”alleluias“ of life. I’ve been reading *Uncommon Gratitude, Alleluia for All that Is \**, in which the authors find cause for alleluia, for praise and thanksgiving, in even some most unlikely situations:

*Faith is the certainty that God is working through others just as certainly as God is working through us for the good of all humankind. Alleluia!*

*Faith, real faith, real willingness to forgo our own need to either understand God’s ways with humankind or control them ourselves, is real reason for alleluia.*

*Faith is not about understanding at all. It is about awe in the face of the God of all, and it is awe that inspires an alleluia in the human soul.*

*The purpose of wealth is not security....it is reckless generosity,  
the kind that sings of the lavish love of God,  
the kind that rekindles hope on dark days,  
the kind that reminds us that God is with us always.  
It creates in the holy heart a freedom of spirit  
that takes a person light-footed through the world. Alleluia!*

*But that is the glorious burden of real Christianity:  
To follow the one who talked to Samaritan women and Roman soldiers,  
All the time allowing them to be who they were...  
Differences were made to be respected, to be honored, to be cherished.  
Alleluia!*

To all of these and more, we sing our baptismal response:

*You have put on Christ, in Christ you have been baptized.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
UMH #609*

With Alleluias,  
Marilyn

*\*Uncommon Gratitude, Alleluia for All that Is*, by  
Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, and Joan Chittister, OSB.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, August 29

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:40 am Sunday School  
10:50 am Worship Service  
12:00 pm 5th Sunday Luncheon  
3:00 pm Club NBetween  
5:00 pm Companions in Christ  
5:00 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship

### Tuesday, August 31

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

### Wednesday, September 1

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Trustees  
7:00 pm AA Meeting  
7:00 pm Yoga Classes  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Saturday, September 4

12:00 pm Women’s AA Meeting

### Sunday, September 5

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, September 6— Office Closed

### Tuesday, September 7

9:30 am Weaving Class  
2:00 pm Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Capital Campaign Meeting

### Wednesday, September 8

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
*Serving the Community Event*  
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Finance Team  
7:00 pm AA Meeting  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, September 9

6:30 pm UMW Cooking Class

### Saturday, September 11

12:00 pm Women’s AA Meeting  
3:30 pm Care Team Communion and Ice Cream Social

### Sunday, September 12

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

### Tuesday, September 14

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

### Wednesday, September 15

10:15 am CDC Chapel  
5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live  
6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Church Council  
7:00 pm AA Meeting  
7:00 pm Yoga Classes  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, September 16

6:30 pm UMW Cooking Class

### Saturday, September 18

Greater Houston Leadership Education School  
12:00 pm Women’s AA Meeting

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

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



# Church News

## Serving the Community:

Wednesday, September 8, Dinner 5:30 – 6:30 pm – Discussion 6:30 – 8:00 pm— Panel Guests: Heights Interfaith Ministry, Wesley Community Center, San Jose Clinic, All Saints Third Age Learning Center. (Sponsored by UMW) Learn about ways to help others within the Houston Heights area from a panel of community organization reps.

## Cooking Classes Set for September:

The response to the UMW cooking classes has been great, and all of the classes are full. However we're taking names for possible Monday evening classes at a future time tbd.

## Class on Simplicity and Generosity:

Sunday, September 12, 9:40 In Fellowship Hall please join us for a 4-week small group study Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity. We will look at some of the financial challenges facing us as a nation and examine our own spending, saving, and giving habits. We will explore biblical principles of financial management, and learn ways to develop a financial plan that will allow us to experience the true joy that comes through simplicity and generosity. For info call Clark Martinson, 713-686-5162.

## Food Pantry Training:

Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry will be training volunteers for the new food delivery component on Saturday, September 18th at 1 pm. Volunteers are needed to deliver frozen meals, weekly, or every other week, to homebound in the Heights. Training will take place at the Food Pantry, 3523 Beauchamp, across from Zion Lutheran at 1 pm. Call Jennifer Moffatt 281-935-0102 or Diana Van Duzer 713-298-9301 for more info or to sign-up for this ministry.

**Wednesday Night Live:** WNL Dinners are from 5:30—7:00 pm in the fellowship hall, all are invited.

## Senior Moments

(for anyone over 50 to enjoy)

**XYZ Club:** The September XYZ meeting is on Tuesday, September 14 at Chili's restaurant by Target @I-10. Meet at the church at 10:45 am if you want to carpool, or meet at the restaurant at 11:00 am.

**XYZ Game Day:** Senior games are Tuesday, September 28 –10:00am.

**Greater Houston Leadership Education School:** Saturday, September 18, 2010 at Chapelwood UMC—*Drink Deeply Share Generously* -- For Church Leaders and Lay Volunteers— Brochures available in the office. For info visit [www.ghles.org](http://www.ghles.org)

**Teachers Still Needed!** We're looking for several teachers for the Children's Sunday School classes to begin this September. We have three levels of classes including 1) preschool, 2) kindergarten - 1st grade, and 3) 2nd grade - 5th grade. Pplease contact Amber Mollhagen at 713/410-3945 or [amollhagen@hotmail.com](mailto:amollhagen@hotmail.com)

## Need Housing for Reagan Intern:

The Spanish Department at Reagan High School is looking for a small apartment or room to rent for a young woman, a recent University graduate, who will be interning at Reagan under a special US/Spanish grant. Housing that is a walk or bike ride from the High School would be most desirable. The intern will be able to pay modest rent and both landlord and tenant will benefit from the "exchange," as the VanDuzers, who provided housing the past two years can testify. Please call Mindy Zapata, head teacher of Reagan's Spanish Department, at (713)861-5694 if you are able to offer housing by October 1<sup>st</sup> for the remainder of the school year.

## Financial Report for July 2010

Received in July \$52,077 (135.15%)  
Monthly Budget \$38533  
Overage for July \$13,544  
Accum. Rcvd. to Date \$262,135 (97.18%)  
Accumulated Budget to Date \$269,732  
**Deficit for 2010 (\$7,597)**  
Designated Funds Received in July \$2,635  
Designated Funds Received YTD \$25,685

## Attendance Record:

*Attendance for Sunday, August 15*  
Sunday School Total.....86  
8:30 Worship.....29  
10:50 Worship.....108  
Total Worship.....137

*Attendance for Sunday, August 22*  
Sunday School Total.....107  
8:30 Worship.....25  
10:50 Worship.....121  
Total Worship.....146

## 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  
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  
Carol Curlee (Charlotte Campbell's sister) heart and health  
Ruth Easterly (Mark Easterly's grandmother) health  
Dorothea Furstenfeld health and encouragement  
Earl Hammond (Pat Hammonds father) bladder cancer, health/encouragement  
Eddie Hubbell recovering from fall/hip replacement surgery  
Fred Huebner cancer  
Jessica Lacy (Mary Lacy's daughter) horse-riding accident /hand reattachment  
Martin Larsen home from hospital and recovering  
Evelyn Lewis health and encouragement  
Raymond & Martha McCallister (Heather 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) in Afghanistan  
Scott Spiller (Bretty Green's friend) cancer from asbestos  
Art Stevens (Scott Steven's father) cancer  
Rachel Sublette (Sue Thompson's cousin) in coma -car wreck  
Thelma Vincent home recovering from hospital visit/illness  
David & Dixie Waters (friends of Glenda Owen) health  
Mary Weatherly now at the Terrace— at Champions  
John & Gerry Williams (Marilyn's parents) moved to assisted living

## September Birthdays

- 9/1 Marina Perez-Krause
- 9/4 Thane Wyman
- 9/5 Betty Gaustad (92nd)
- 9/6 Tana Tamez
- 9/7 Kevin Dubose
- 9/7 Terry Watts
- 9/8 Lisa Campbell
- 9/11 Steve Tamez
- 9/12 Stuart Campbell
- 9/12 Hope Grochmall
- 9/12 Amber Mollhagen
- 9/13 Jennifer McClure
- 9/15 Joann Castaneda
- 9/15 Andrew Howarth
- 9/15 Melody Olivares
- 9/15 Annette Perez
- 9/17 Wiley Robertson
- 9/17 Sarah Traylor
- 9/18 Lindsay Meeker-Williams
- 9/19 Ilan Chavarria
- 9/19 Christie Fewless
- 9/19 Caden Vo
- 9/20 Cameron Cody
- 9/20 Nicole Wyman
- 9/21 Lysa Marcella
- 9/22 Samantha Pudwill
- 9/23 Garrett Blaylock
- 9/23 Isabella Dupuy
- 9/25 Willie Marie Iden (85th)
- 9/25 Cyrus Mody
- 9/25 Neil Thomas
- 9/27 Dorothy Moffatt
- 9/27 Liz Morrison
- 9/27 Melissa Taylor
- 9/27 Katy Vittoria
- 9/28 Dave Humphreys
- 9/28 Caroline Richard
- 9/29 Jennifer Chin-Davis
- 9/30 Stan O'Neal
- 9/30 Roger Van Duzer

(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:

- September 3 — Sean & Christina Hattenbach
- September 12 — Jerry & Charlotte Campbell (55th)
- September 22 — Donald & Patsy Delany (54th)
- September 25 — Steve & Jane Ista
- September 29 — Daryl & Jill Wallace Buchanan

**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

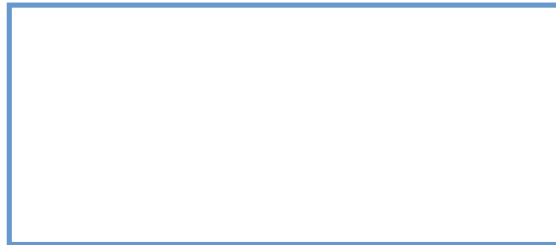
**Director of Children's and Youth Ministries**  
Scarlett Lewis  
youth@smumc.org

**Director of Children's Development Center**  
Kelly Melchor  
stmarkscdc@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



**Youth Mystery Trip**

The youth have had an exciting last 2 weeks of summer. We headed out to Austin, Texas for our Mystery trip 2010. We visited the Stevie Ray Vaughn Statue, the Museum of the weird, Barton Springs Pool, and The Austin Steam Train. We would like thank Trinity United Methodist Church in Austin for allowing us to take over their facility for the weekend.



Scarlett Lewis  
Youth and Children's Director  
St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
600 Pecore Ave.  
Houston, Texas 77009  
Office: 713-861-3104 Ext. 13  
Cell: 281-515-3989



**Youth Week**

The weekend before school started we had Youth Week. We were blessed to have the band One Way Home lead worship for us every night. Each night was filled with worship, games, and fellowship. We ended the week with a huge lock in with St. Johns UMC of Baytown, Texas, and Aldersgate UMC of Santa Fe, Texas. We had close to 40 people all together. We went and played Broomball, had a midnight concert with One Way Home, and played many games throughout the night. Also I want to say thank you to Travis Acree our summer intern. He did an amazing job, and he will be missed.

