

# Window into ST. MARK'S

THE MINISTRY OF ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Lent and Holy Week 2012

February 22, 7 am & 7 pm  
**Ash Wednesday**  
 Worship with Imposition of Ashes

February 29 – March 28, 7:00 am  
**Prayers During Lent**  
 Six Wednesday Mornings in Lent

February 29 – March 28, 6:30 pm  
**Lenten Study**  
 Wednesday Evenings, Room #211

## Worship for Holy Week and Easter

April 1, 8:30 & 10:50 am  
**Palm Passion Sunday**  
 Worship– Palm Procession

April 5, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 With Holy Communion and Foot Washing

April 6, 7:00 pm  
**Good Friday Service of Tenebrae**

April 7, 7:00 pm, gather on front porch  
**Service of Light**  
 Followed by Easter Vigil 8:30 pm – Sunrise

**April 8, Easter**  
 Sunrise Worship– 6:30 am  
 Breakfast – 7:30 am  
 Early Worship – 8:30 am  
 Easter Egg Hunt - During Sunday School 9:40 am  
 Easter Worship– 10:50 am

## New Member Classes

All who are interested in learning about church membership are invited to attend the New Member Classes from 9:40–10:30 am in Room #108 beginning this Sunday, February 19th through March 25th. We will welcome new members at Easter Sunrise Worship. Call the church office at 713-861-3104 for more information.

## Community Garden

We had a fine time today even if it was a little chilly. We harvested three bags of onions, one bag of chard, and a bag of carrots to feed hungry children. The sugar snap peas have started to develop. I handed out samples and they were well received but mostly the kids wanted to eat chard. Enzo was the exception. Enzo was stuffing peas into his mouth as fast as I could find them and pick them. At one point I held back so he could finish chewing what he had in his mouth. The boy does like those peas. Of course everyone wanted chard while we were harvesting it and of course the color of the stem was very important to the girls, especially Hazel and Abby. I have trouble figuring out which one is pink and which one is red, but they have very definitive opinions on the subject and are not shy about admonishing me when I am wrong, 'Not that one Mister Vance'. When we were harvesting the onions Max decided that he wanted to eat one. So I gave him some of the green top. He liked that and wanted more. So several others wanted to try that, and some wanted more. There were a half a dozen four year olds wandering about the garden munching happily on raw onion tops. But some spit it on the ground and took the rest to the compost bin. The kids all understand the compost bin, and even understand that they put stuff in the one with the 'in' sign on it. I am very impressed that they can read that sign and understand the concept at the age of four.



Yours in a pea pickin' and feedin' Enzo fog,

Mister Vance

## New Church Directory

March 27th -31st–Portrait Photo Days  
 Olan Mills is printing a new directory and we need to have your picture in it. It is free for you and you will even get a free \$25 portrait for showing up and having your portrait made. Stop by the table in the Narthex Sunday morning to set up a time. Any questions, contact Jody Miller at [jodymiller@yahoo.com](mailto:jodymiller@yahoo.com).



## Jesus Loves Me Day

Using Valentine’s Day as a jumping off point, CDC Chapel this morning is all about red hearts and a red cloth under the Christ candle. I’m glad to see some of the children still wearing their red and pink heart clothing from Valentine’s parties the day before. They enter quietly, sit down on the steps, and wait.

We begin with “Jesus Loves Me,” using some sign language as we sing. Even the younger ones are catching on to signing “Jesus” while the older children sign the entire line “Yes, Jesus loves me.” (BTW, that’s signing, and singing.) Then we talk about the times when Jesus loves us.

“Does Jesus love us all the time?” “Yes!” they shout.

“Does Jesus love us when we’re sad?” “Yes!”

“Does Jesus love us when we hurt somebody?” There is a slight pause, then “No!” from several children. I’m looking at 35 uncertain faces, eyes wide. “Yes, God does. God still loves us when we hurt somebody. God loves us when we get angry and say mean things. God even loves us when we forget to say I’m sorry. God may be sad, but God still loves us.”

### And the children look relieved.

We talk and sing about God loving all the children of the world, every color, every height. I ask, “Are you one of the children of the world?” “No,” they say loudly, and we talk about how we are part of God’s wonderful world and God’s wonderful people.

“Even when we mess up and make mistakes?”

They are like sponges, soaking it all up. “Yes,” they say. And through their voices I hear a boy in the back say, “Even though it makes God sad!”

We hope they never forget these truths:

God loves us all the time.

We are a part of the world’s children whom God loves.

When we act in unloving ways, God may be sad but God loves us still.

In the next few days we move into this year’s Lenten experience. I hope we do so with clarity about our identity as those whom God loves because that makes all the difference. It means we are intentional with our spiritual practices during Lent, not because we want to earn God’s love, but out of gratitude for the love which is ours already. We want to respond more fully to the Divine love, to live more nearly the lives God desires for us and the world’s people.

To the home of peace, to the field of love  
to the land where forgiveness and right relationship meet  
we look, O God...  
Open us to visions we have never known  
strengthen us for self-givings we have never made  
delight us with a oneness we could never have imagined  
that we may truly be born of You  
makers of peace.

(J Philip Newell, Praying with the Earth)

The Peace and Love of Christ be yours in this Lenten season,

Marilyn

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, February 19

*Transfiguration Sunday*

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 9:40 am New Member Class #108
- 10:50 am Worship
- 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl—A. Phillips home
- 3:30 pm Youth & Tweens #WS
- 5:30 pm Disciple Study #211

### Monday, February 20

*President’s Day*

### Tuesday, February 21

- 9:30 am Weaving #209
- 10:30 am XYZ Luncheon—Chatter’s

### Wednesday, February 22

*Ash Wednesday*

- 7:00 am Ash Wednesday Worship
- 10:30 am CDC Chapel
- 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live #FH
- 6:15 pm Bell Rehearsals
- 6:30 pm Communications #FH
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsals

### Sunday, February 26

*1st Sunday in Lent*

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 9:40 am New Member Class #108
- 10:50 am Worship
- 3:30 pm Youth & Tweens #WS
- 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl — Parlor

### Tuesday, February 28

- 9:30 am Weaving #209
- 10:00 am Senior Games #FH
- 6:30 pm Care Team #109
- 6:30 pm Church Council #WS
- 6:30 pm Missions #108

### Wednesday, February 29

- 7:00 am Prayers in the Courtyard
- 10:30 am CDC Chapel
- 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Live #FH
- 6:15 pm Bell Rehearsals
- 6:16 pm Wednesday Night Players #FH
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsals
- 6:30 pm Lenten Study #211

### Sunday, March 4

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:40 am Sunday School
- 9:40 am New Member Class #108
- 10:50 am Worship
- 3:30 pm Youth & Tweens #WS
- 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl—Parlor
- 5:30 pm Disciple Study #211

### Monday, March 5

- 6:30 pm Ministry Team—Parlor

### Tuesday, March 6

- 9:30 am Weaving #209
- 6:30 pm Worship Team—Parlor

FH=Fellowship Hall  
WS=Wacky Shack

### Save These Dates!!!

UMARMY—June 6-10  
Heifer Youth Trip July 6-9  
VBS July 31—August 3

## CHURCH NEWS

### Wednesday Night Players returns!!!

St. Mark's Elementary Children's drama class returns Wednesday evenings beginning February 29 on the Fellowship Hall Stage. This is an 8 week class held from 6:15 - 7:15 pm. For more information contact Carole Fairfield at [carolefairfield5@att.net](mailto:carolefairfield5@att.net).

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Youth, Tweens and Scouts led efforts to benefit the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry. The Youth/Tweens would like to thank the St. Mark's community for contributing to the 2012 Souper Bowl of Caring. In one worship service in one day \$288 was collected for the HIM Food Pantry.

The boys of both Troop 30 and Pack 30 joined their colleagues in Boy Scouts of America and gave up parts of two of their Saturdays to ask for and collect non-perishable food items for the pantry. Troop 30 counted cans and boxes: about 600 total collected. Fifteen of their younger brothers from the Pack counted their collections in bags filled: 10 overflowing bags.

All agreed the best thing of all, as Cub Master Todd Guerra noted, was doing "a nice thing". And it was a very nice thing, indeed.



Mid Winter Youth Retreat at Smith Point

### Youth and Tweens

Meet every Sunday, 3:30–5:30 on the 2nd floor in the Wacky Shack. Come join the fun. If you would like to volunteer to work with youth, please contact Janet Allen at [janetdal@swbell.net](mailto:janetdal@swbell.net)

### Vacuum Needed

The church is in dire need of a vacuum. If you wish to donate a vacuum in good working condition, contact the church office at 713-861-3104.

### Our Thoughts and Prayers are with:

Family and friends of James Ownbey who died February 10, 2012. Marilyn officiated at James' memorial service which was held Tuesday, February 14 at the Chapel of Pat H. Foley & Co.

### Spend the Day with the Birds

Join us for an afternoon of bird watching lead by Pat Higgins on Sunday, February 26. We will meet at St. Mark's parking lot at 1:00 pm and carpool over to El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road (near I45 and South Beltway 8). Bring water, mosquito repellent, binoculars, and comfortable walking shoes. Call Pat Higgins 713-775-0077 or Sharon Sawallisch 281-450-6204 for details.

### Altar Flowers for 2012

Make reservations now for Sundays in 2012 to give altar flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones, birthdays, or anniversaries. Call the church office to reserve your dates.

### Prayer Needs

Our president, leaders, and servicemen and women

Janice Appel (Elizabeth Pudwill's friend) health

Leta Bush

Frank Caraway

Penny Chappell health

Opal Chesser (Margie Higgin's mother) health

Adair Coffman health

Blaine Corman (Danny Corman's father)

Carol Curlee (Charlotte Campbell's sister) health

Donnette Durst (Linda Pollard's daughter) health

Mark & Heather Easterly

DeMarcus Ferguson (nephew of Rita Ferguson)

Raye Fischl (Rose Brewer's sister) health

Marion Freeman (Cindy Freeman's mother) health

Iris Guidry (Malcolm Davis' friend)

Earl Hammond (Pat Hammonds father) health

Shea & Blake Hill (health of Shea's Aunt)

Andy Holder (Faye Miller's niece's husband) health

Vivian Hubbell grief

Rick & Patti Kiley (Rick's health)

Carrie Ledbetter (Rita Ferguson's friend)

Ray & Lois Mahaffey (Leonard's brother/sister in law)

Darrill Martin (Lisa Martinson's cousin)

Raymond & Martha McCallister (Heather Easterly's grandparents)

Elva McDermia

Wendy Melchor (Kelly Melchor's sister-in-law) health

Gail Muhl health

Georgie Nelson (Malcolm Davis' friend)

Alice Phillips

Becky Pope (Becky Burks' friend) health

Lulu Ramos (Bonnie Thomas' friend) health

Jerry Rogers (Faye Miller's sister in law) health

Michelle Russell grief

Oscar Saldivar

Joy Stapp (Joellen Snow's friend)

Scott & Amy Stevens

death of Scott's mother, Linda; father, Art Stevens, health

Jim Woodrick (Amy Steven's father) health

Tammy Zednik (Martin Larsen's friend)

### February Birthdays

(We want to make sure we include everyone's birthday. If for some reason your birthday is not here, please call the church office.)

|      |                    |      |                      |
|------|--------------------|------|----------------------|
| 2/1  | Janet Theck        | 2/20 | Ian Shepperd         |
| 2/1  | Allison Reeves     | 2/21 | Mable Emshoff        |
| 2/2  | Emily Runzo        | 2/22 | Barbara Humphreys    |
| 2/3  | Chris Mayeu        | 2/22 | Lisa Martinson       |
| 2/4  | Jim Hubbell Jr.    | 2/22 | Kathryn Richard      |
| 2/4  | Phillip Richardson | 2/23 | Linda Pollard        |
| 2/7  | Michael Brewer     | 2/23 | Al Baker             |
| 2/8  | Oscar Saldivar     | 2/23 | Abigail Naiser       |
| 2/9  | Sam Rodriguez      | 2/23 | Isabelle Naiser      |
| 2/9  | Gladys Coleman     | 2/24 | Amy Morris           |
| 2/10 | Drew Weaver        | 2/24 | Natasha Perez-Krause |
| 2/10 | Erin Traylor       | 2/25 | Trace Cannon III     |
| 2/10 | Jordan Traylor     | 2/26 | Charlisie Neathery   |
| 2/11 | Lydia Mollhagen    | 2/27 | Alyssa Holub         |
| 2/16 | Joellen Snow       | 2/28 | Frances Paggeot      |
| 2/19 | Kelley Slack       | 2/28 | Amy Trahan           |
| 2/20 | Glenda Owen        | 2/29 | Audrey Murdock       |

### Anniversaries

|      |                                 |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 2/9  | Katie & Pete Coleman            |
| 2/14 | Ben & Rose Brewer               |
| 2/14 | Dean & Lisa Dixon Gilbert       |
| 2/14 | Sylvia Juarez & Melissa Moore   |
| 2/16 | Stan & Joellen Snow             |
| 2/17 | Judy Graves & Orell Fitzsimmons |
| 2/18 | Bill & Ginny Derby              |
| 2/19 | Jeff & Jennifer Copeland        |
| 2/25 | Gail & Paul Muhl                |



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Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 am–5:00 pm  
Phone: 713-861-3104 / Fax: 713-861-2948

Sunday Schedule  
8:30 am Worship  
9:30 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:50 am Traditional Worship

Pastor: Reverend Marilyn Meeker-Williams  
pastor@smumc.org

Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Eric P. Esparza  
ericpeche@gmail.com

Organist: William C. West

Administrative Assistant: Shelley Flowers  
office@smumc.org


Financial Secretary: Betty Green  
financial@smumc.org

Intern: Gary Brewton  
intern@smumc.org

Director of Christian Education: Lisa Martinson  
lisam@euclidstudio.com

Child Care Supervisor: Tracy Smith  
tracyksmith@gmail.com

Children's Development Center  
Phone: 713-861-4443  
Director: Kelly Melchor  
stmarkscdc@smumc.org

 **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 Facebook**  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/73191611496/>

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

**Wednesday Night Live**

WNL Dinners are 5:30-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited.  
2/22 - Host – Church Council  
2/29 - Host – Finance  
3/7–Host–Choirs (Bell & Adult)  
3/14–Host–Lay Leadership

**Did you get your last newsletter?**

We are always working on our mailing lists and email lists. If you have not received a newsletter by mail or email, contact Shelley Flowers at 713-861-3104 or [office@smumc.org](mailto:office@smumc.org).

**Senior Moments**

The next XYZ meeting is Tuesday, February 21 at 11:15 at Chatter's. The next Senior Games event is Tuesday, February 28th from 10:00 - 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

**Youth Trip to Heifer Ranch July 6-9, 2012**

Heifer International offers a powerful global education experience at its **Learning Center at Heifer Ranch**, located in Perryville, Arkansas (45 miles Northwest of Little Rock). Experiential, hands-on, interactive and fun, Heifer Ranch is also a farm complete with gardens and animals including water buffalo, camels and traditional farm animals such as pigs, goats and more. The program introduces participants to the idea that one person can make a difference in ending hunger and poverty. Youth participants will experience the daily struggles people in poverty face everyday to simply feed their family a meager meal. Participants are given little – just some rice, vegetables and eggs – and before they can eat, they must find a way to build a fire and cook their meal. The challenge continues on into the night as they sleep in simple housing, such as a bamboo Thailand home or Zambian hut. By living the lessons of poverty first-hand, participants will better understand the complications of hunger and poverty and see they can create change that brings possibility and hope to millions around the world.

**Do you want to go?** You must be in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade - college to participate in the program. During the summer, you must have completed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or be 12 years old. A deposit of \$100 is due 2/26, total cost of the trip is estimated at \$300, scholarships are available. If you are interested in joining us, contact Sara Youngdahl at [syoungdahl@youngdahl.com](mailto:syoungdahl@youngdahl.com) or Lisa Martinson at 713-686-5170 or [lisam@euclidstudio.com](mailto:lisam@euclidstudio.com),