

# Handley Happenings

July 10, 2017

**OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS**  
**The People of the United Methodist Church**

## Bruce's Bible Study

This week, as we continue our study of How We Got the Bible, we want to keep looking at *Mark*, which is probably the earliest gospel, for reasons I'll describe in a minute. The earliest tradition (which I mentioned last week) is that it is basically the preaching of Peter, with whom Mark traveled (look at the last verses of *I Peter*; there, Peter mentions Mark as being with him when the letter was composed). As long as Peter was alive (and this was true of the other apostles, too), there was no particular need of a written gospel, but when Peter died in the persecution under Nero, the Roman congregation(s) said, "We'd better write down what we heard Peter say, or we'll forget it," and Mark was the obvious choice, since he was a native of the land of Israel and knew a lot about the earlier events in the life of Jesus. Many scholars think that the Upper Room was located in the house of Mark's parents. He would probably have been a teenager at that time. As to the associations with Peter, we find some strong indications of Peter in Mark's gospel; in the feeding of the 5,000 (chapter 6), we find that it's Mark who records that the grass was green, which means it was spring of the year! Peter would have remembered that. Also, compare the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus in *Matthew* 17, *Mark* 9, and *Luke* 9; you'll see that Mark's account is much fuller and more vivid than the other two; well, Peter was one of the 3 disciples who saw it (James and John being the other two), and that could well account for its brilliance. Of the



## Our Gifts & Presence Sunday, July 9, 2017

Total Worship.....	26
Total Sunday School.....	8
Budget .....	\$1692

first three gospels (which we call the "Synoptics"), you'll find that Mark is the liveliest story-teller--and that could point to Peter's influence, too. As to *Mark* and its relation to *Matthew* and *Luke*, we'll deal with that in a future article.

As to reasons why many scholars (most, in fact) think that *Mark* was the earliest, here are some of the reasons: 1) his Greek (the language in which the New Testament is written) is much rougher than that of *Matthew* or *Luke*. Think back to your high school or college days: when you wrote a paper to hand in, which had smoother language, the early rough draft, or the final product? I hope it was the final product! *Matthew* and *Mark* polished up Mark's rough Greek.

2) There are some places that would not have bothered a Jewish audience, but would have ruffled some feathers in the Gentile (non-Jewish) world. In chapter 3, when Jesus was about to heal the man with the withered hand, he asked his opponents whether it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath, or to do evil (Jesus healed the man on the Jewish Sabbath, when they weren't supposed to work), to give life or to destroy it. When they wouldn't answer, Mark tells us that Jesus looked at them with anger. Now, that may be a shocker to you, as well. Did you grow up in a home where anger was always regarded as wrong? I did --but I found out that that's not always the case! I would hope that some things would

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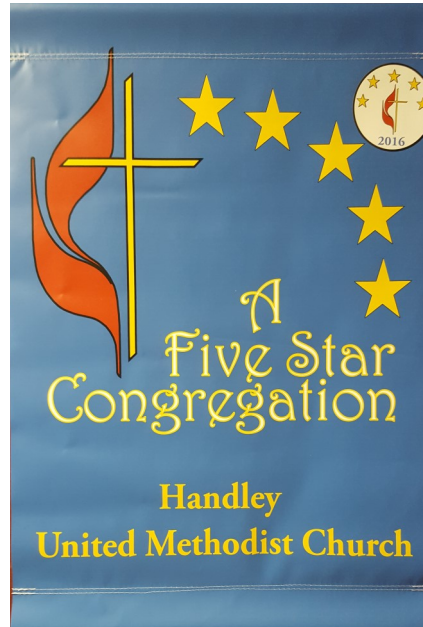
make us angry---such as child abuse, or serious mistreatment of animals, or the horrors of 9/11, for starters. The Jews did not regard anger as (necessarily) a sin. The problem comes when anger gets in the driver's seat, because then it can take over, and that's not good. Jewish thinking was that anger could be justified, but had to be kept on a close rein. But in the larger Gentile world, where Stoic philosophy and Platonism were both popular, anger (along with other passions) was regarded as a defect. *Matthew* and *Luke* were written with a larger audience in mind, and while they definitely made use of *Mark's* gospel, they both omitted those words "with anger" because of that audience (*Matthew* was written with some sort of Jewish audience in mind, but probably not in Jerusalem, so there would have been some exposure to the Gentile way of thinking). 3) *Mark* is the shortest of the gospels. Think back again to those days of term papers; which was longer, your rough draft or the final product? Almost certainly, it would have been the latter--and the majority of scholars believe that that is true with the gospels---*Mark*, because of its comparative brevity, is earlier than *Matthew* and *Luke* (and *John*, as well). I may have mentioned that *Mark* is my favorite gospel, largely because of the vivid writing that I've highlighted in the previous paragraph.

More next week!

*Bruce*

**Our Gifts & Presence  
Sunday, July 2, 2017**

Total Worship.....	28
Total Sunday School.....	11
Budget .....	\$4960



**We are a Five Star Congregation !!!**

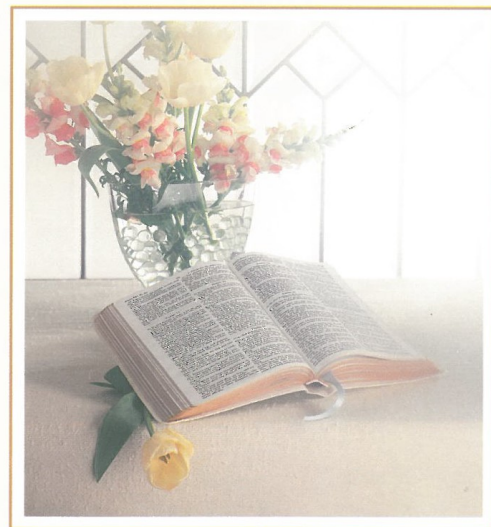
We qualified by:

- 1 Apportionments
- 2 Special offerings
- 3 Mission Programs
- 4 Missionary Support
- 5 UMCOR Advance Special

**Way to go Handley UMC !!!**  
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Please continue to bring pantry, diapers, and hygiene items for Eastside Ministries. Thank you!!!

*May God  
Be with You*



*In Loving Memory of  
Joan & Charles David Whittle  
Rosemary Mitchell & Family*

# Handley UMC Events for 2017

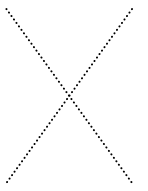
25 <u>9:30 AM Small Group Gatherings</u> <u>10:45 AM Traditional Worship Service</u>	26	27 <u>12:00 PM Mail out Newsletter</u>	28 <u>10:30 AM Games</u> <u>11:45 AM Lunch</u> <u>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</u>	29	30	July 1
2 <u>Communion Set-up by Friendship Class</u> <u>9:30 AM Small Group Gatherings</u> <u>10:45 AM Traditional Worship Service</u>	3 <u>Office Closed</u>	4  <u>Office Closed</u>	5 <u>10:30 AM Games</u> <u>11:45 AM Lunch</u> <u>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</u>	6	7	8
9 <u>9:30 AM Small Group Gatherings</u> <u>10:45 AM Traditional Worship Service</u> <u>Rev. Dr. Chavez preaches today!</u>	10 <u>6:30 PM Handley Neighborhood Assn</u>	11 <u>12:00 PM Mail out Newsletter</u>	12 <u>10:30 AM Games</u> <u>11:45 AM Lunch</u> <u>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</u>	13 <u>All Day LifeLine Screening in Fellowship Hall</u>	14	15
16 <u>9:30 AM Small Group Gatherings</u> <u>10:45 AM Traditional Worship Service</u>	17	18	19 <u>10:30 AM Games</u> <u>11:45 AM Lunch</u> <u>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</u>	20	21	22
23 <u>9:30 AM Small Group Gatherings</u> <u>10:45 AM Traditional Worship Service</u>	24	25 <u>12:00 PM Mail out Newsletter &amp; Calendar</u>	26 <u>10:30 AM Games</u> <u>11:45 AM Lunch</u> <u>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</u>	27	28	29
30 <u>9:30 AM Small Group Gatherings</u> <u>10:45 AM Traditional Worship Service</u> <u>12:00 PM 5th Sunday Lunch Fundraiser</u> <u>Admin Council</u> <u>Returning Pastor Recognition</u>	31	August 1	2 <u>10:30 AM Games</u> <u>11:45 AM Lunch</u> <u>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</u>	3	4	5

August 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# Handley Happenings

July 10, 2017

2929 Forest Ave  
Ft. Worth, Texas 76112



Address Service Requested

Church Office: 817-451-4321  
Church Fax: 817-446-4013

## Handley United Methodist Church

### Meetings & Events Schedule



**July 11**  
Mail Out Newsletter

**July 12**  
Wonderful Wednesday

**July 13**  
Lifeline Screening  
(all day—Fellowship Hall)  
(must register 48hrs ahead)

**July 19**  
Wonderful Wednesday

**July 25**  
Mail Out Newsletter & Calendar

**July 26**  
Wonderful Wednesday

**July 30**  
5th Sunday Lunch  
& Admin Council  
Returning Pastor Celebration  
for Rev. Fleming



**August 2**  
Wonderful Wednesday

**August 6**  
Communion set-up by  
New Horizons Class

**August 8**  
Mail Out Newsletter

**August 9**  
Wonderful Wednesday

### Usher Schedule

07/16—Bill Mann's Group  
07/23—Glenn Estes' Group

[www.handleyumc.org](http://www.handleyumc.org)  
[handleyumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:handleyumc@sbcglobal.net)

### Sunday's Service:

**"Which Soil Are You?"**  
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

*But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit...*

Matthew 13:23, NRSV

