

Volume 71
Issue 2
February 2024

St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
9999 Ferguson Road Dallas, TX 75238 214-321-6437
office@saintmarkchurch.org • www.saintmarkchurch.org



Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 4

Communion Sunday

FEBRUARY 10

Mini Workday

FEBRUARY 11

Pastor Commissioning Service
Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

FEBRUARY 14

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,

February ushers in a significant season of the church: Lent. Lent is related to the word lengthen, in reference to the lengthening of the days in this part of the year. Every day in the season of Lent offers more light than the last. Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is marked by reflection on one's sins, repentance (the desire to change), fasting (weaning ourselves from our dependence on the world), and progress in one's spiritual journey following Jesus.



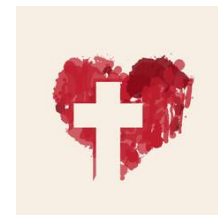
In January we focused on eight activities that will aid us individually and as a congregation to become overflowing cups of God's life: hearing, believing, learning, developing, giving, serving, engaging, and inviting. During Lent we will particularly work on learning the teachings of Jesus and developing a prayerful relationship with God. In his life, teachings, death, and resurrection Jesus shows us how to have a relationship with God the Father (his and ours, too!) and what that relationship looks like.

And what does that relationship look like? A cross. Not only does Jesus die on a cross, but he also gives us one of our own to bear. The cross is indispensable to our way to God. Through his death on the cross, Jesus opens the way to God through the forgiveness of our sins. Through forgiveness the way to God is open for all who choose to walk it...but walk it we must. Jesus not only makes the way, but he also shows us the way, and leads us on the way. Our Lenten sermon series will be called "The Way of the Cross".

I want to encourage you to not only attend all the services leading up to Easter, but to invite a friend to join you on this journey. There are six Sundays of Lent leading up to Easter. It begins on February 18th. Consider praying right now for God to show you whom you should invite to join you. Consider also offering to pick them up on Sundays. The Way of the Cross is no cakewalk, but the good news is that we do not have to walk it alone.

With much love,

Pastor Paul



Sunday Scriptures and Events

February 4th

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

"The Power to Serve"

Isaiah 40:21-31, Mark 1:29-39

February 11th

Transfiguration of the Lord

Pastor Commissioning Service

"Picking Up the Mantle"

2 Kings 2:1-12, Mark 9:2-9



Sermon Series for Lent

Through Easter: *"The Way of the Cross"*

February 18th

1st Sunday in Lent

"Jesus Paves the Way"

Mark 1:9-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22

February 25th

Second Sunday in Lent

"You Will Only Need One Piece of Luggage"

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38



Pastor Commissioning Service

The Session is pleased to invite St. Mark members, families, and friends to the Pastor Commissioning Service for Rev. Dr. Paul M. Burns. Pastor Paul has been leading our congregation in worship, providing pastoral care, and guiding us in achieving our mission and ministry objectives since August 1, 2023. We look forward to affirming our covenant with Pastor Paul during our worship service at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024. The Fellowship Committee is hosting a special fellowship reception in the Parlor following the service. Please make plans to attend and celebrate with Pastor Paul and all our church congregation!

God Bless You on Your Birthday

February 1

Kathleen Hale

Linda Marshall

Karen Oney

February 2

Rick Brooks

February 5

Hunter Swift

Preston Swift

February 8

Bar Tuinstra

February 12

Rose Marie Stone

February 16

Gary O'Neal

JoAnn Parsley

February 18

Colin Boring

February 19

Gerald Jones

February 23

Hannah Moore

February 25

Joshuah Brown

Lucy Moore



Ash Wednesday

February 14th

7:00 p.m. Worship
and Imposition of Ashes

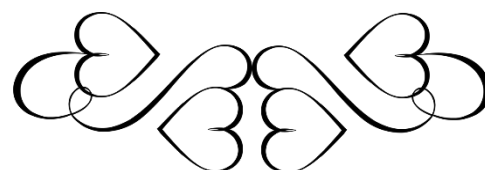
"...for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:19b



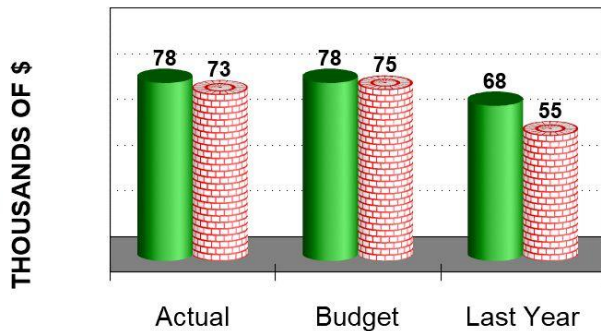
With Deepest Sympathy

Charter member and longtime dedicated St. Mark member, Kathy Moore, was promoted to glory on January 10th. A visitation and graveside service were held at Restland Funeral Home on January 23rd. Please keep Kathy's family and friends in your prayers as well as all those who knew and loved her.



TREASURER'S REPORT

6 MONTHS THROUGH 12-31-2023



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$1,000 better than budget, but \$5,000 below last year. YTD expenses are \$2,000 below budget, and \$19,000 above last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$5,000 positive YTD, which is \$2,000 better than budgeted.



Stated Meeting of the Session SESSION HIGHLIGHTS January 16, 2024

- Motion passed to elect Bill Grayson and Bill Oney as Commissioners to attend the Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery, Thursday, February 22, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth.
- Motion seconded and passed to allow Bill Oney to convene a guitar club at St. Mark in Princeton Hall in the last classroom on the right.

St. Mark Guitar Club



Bill Oney is starting a guitar club at St. Mark! The group will be open to anyone who plays guitar at any level. The plan is to meet in Princeton Hall in the last classroom on the right.

Plans are being finalized, so please watch, and listen for further information!



ST. MARK PRAYER CHAIN

We all know that St. Mark deeply values connecting to God through prayer. We are blessed to have the following options to submit our prayers of joy or concern so that our members, friends, and families can personally pray for us.

1. **Church Website** – We are excited to announce that St. Mark's Prayer Chain is now available on the church website! To submit a prayer of joy or concern:
 - a. Go to the church website (www.saintmarkchurch.org).
 - b. Hover over **Contact** in the upper right corner.
 - c. Select **Prayer Request** from the drop-down menu.
 - d. Complete the required fields on the form.
 - e. Click on the **Submit** button.

To view prayers posted on our **Prayer Wall**:

- a. Go to the church website (www.saintmarkchurch.org).
- b. Hover over **Contact** in the upper right corner.
- c. Select **Prayer Wall** from the drop-down menu.

OR

You can click on the **View Prayer Wall** button located on the **Prayer Request** page.

2. **Email** – Prayer Chain requests can be submitted by sending an email message to Diane Llywelyn at Rooster7656@gmail.com. These requests will be sent to St. Mark members, friends, and clergy/staff via email. Please specify if you also want the prayer posted to the website.
3. **Prayer Request Card** – Prayer requests can be submitted by completing a Prayer Request Card (located on the back of the pews) and placing the card in the offering plate.

We hope you find these tools helpful – we want to pray for you!



St. Mark Presbyterian Church
9999 Ferguson Road
Dallas, TX 75228
Non-Profit Organization

**FEBRUARY**



SOCK, HAT, AND GLOVE TREE

Once again, St. Mark's Sock, Hat, and Glove Drive was a big success! White Rock Center of Hope received 401 pairs of socks, 78 hats, and 134 pairs of gloves thanks to your generous donations. Thank you and blessings to everyone for your overflowing donations of love and support for families in need during the Christmas season!

Susie Miller – For the Mission and Membership Committee



REQUESTS FROM WHITE ROCK CENTER OF HOPE

Coat Drive – It's time to clean out your closets for our annual coat drive! We will be collecting new or gently used coats of all sizes for delivery to White Rock Center of Hope. Donations will be collected through February 2024.



Other Items – We have also been asked for donations of boxes of macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, and packages of underwear for adults and children.

Please place your donations in the large blue bins located in the Austin Hall hallway. Monetary donations are also welcomed! Thank you!



CHURCH PANTRY

The church pantry is in need of:



Hand sanitizer, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, box salads, bottled water, plastic tableware, tuna packets, and snack bars.









Thanks so much for your help!



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:45a Worship Service</p> <p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>9:45a Worship Service Communion</p> <p>4</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p> 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini Workday</p> 
<p>9:45a Worship Service Pastor Commissioning Service</p> <p>11</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>6:00p Admin & Personnel Com Mtg</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Educ Com Mtg</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Ash Wednesday Service 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>9:45a Worship Service</p> <p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30p Session Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>9:45a Worship Service</p> <p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00p Mission & Membership Com Mtg</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p> 	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>